

WARRUMBUNGLE SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WARRUMBUNGLE SHIRE COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT
THE FIRE CONTROL CENTRE, COONABARABRAN ON THURSDAY, 15 APRIL 2010
COMMENCING AT 11.00AM PAGE 13

1.7 ROADS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Council at its ordinary December meeting 2009 considered a notice of motion from Cr Todd concerning the Coonabarabran to Mungindi Road. The notice of motion effectively sought Council commitment to the upgrade of this road to an all weather sealed road.

The resolution of that meeting sought a report on the ramifications and various issues related to the Council's agreement or otherwise to this proposal. The December resolution is:

A motion was moved by Councillor Todd seconded by Councillor Powell that Council investigate the upgrade of the road between Coonabarabran and Mungindi as a road of significance and pursue funding opportunities for it's upgrade, in conjunction with the Narrabri and Walgett Shires from the Federal and State Government.

198 An amendment was moved by Councillor Sullivan seconded by Councillor Campbell that a review be undertaken of all roads of significance and a report submitted to the January meeting.

The amendment was put and carried.

The amendment became the substantive motion and was put and carried.

The required report was prepared and submitted to the January 2010 Council meeting. The report highlighted that there were three roads that had the potential to be regionally significant to Council. They were the Coonabarabran to Mungindi Road, the Wellington Boggabri Road and the Coonamble to Mendooran Road.

From that meeting the following resolution was passed:

A motion was moved by Councillor Todd seconded by Councillor Campbell that Council support all three road proposals being the Wellington to Boggabri Road, Mendooran – Tooraweenah to Coonamble Road and Coonabarabran to Mungindi.

*237 An amendment was moved by Councillor Sullivan seconded by Councillor Schmidt that Council undertake discussions with adjoining councils regarding the roads of regional significance to ascertain their commitment to the upgrade works and following those discussions the matter be referred back to Council for further consideration and **FURTHER** that the upgrading of the Cobbora to Mendooran Road, Merrygoen to Binnaway Road and Beni Crossing Road be referred for budget consideration.*

The amendment was put and carried.

The amendment became the substantive motion and was put and carried.

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From the January resolution a letter was sent to each of the affected Councils seeking their commitment or otherwise to the Regional Road of Significance that passed through their Shire. All but Gilgandra Shire have to date submitted the matter to a meeting with the resultant responses. The responses are listed in order of each road.

A. Coonabarabran – Mungindi Road

Walgett Shire – they support a joint approach and are willing to be the lead Council in the project. They are also prepared to contribute towards the cost of a report on “the Upgrade and Seal” of the road on the basis of benefit to be derived from the upgrade. Finally they will budget up to \$600,000 per annum to the project on a one third or 50% contribution basis.

Narrabri Shire – they support a joint approach and would assist Walgett Shire to project manage the proposed project. They would contribute on an equal basis towards the upgrade and sealing report (that is a one third each basis).

B. Wellington – Boggabri Road

Wellington Shire – they continue to support the project and are prepared to continue as the lead Council on the project. They would undertake the updating of the 2006 “Plan for Upgrading and Sealing” for use to lobby both Federal and State Governments. Further they have organised a meeting with the Shadow Minister for Roads to take place during the Shire Conference at the end of May 2010, as well as seeking meetings with the Federal Minister at a suitable time in the near future.

Gunnedah Shire – they support a joint approach and have this road as their number one priority for bitumen sealing.

C. Coonamble – Mendooran Road

Coonamble Shire – they support a joint approach and are willing to be the lead Council in this project. They are prepared to contribute equally to the preparation of an “upgrade and sealing” report.

Gilgandra Shire – at this stage a report is being submitted to the Council’s April meeting. However the Council’s number one priority is another road traversing the western side of the Shire.

With these responses now to hand it is appropriate for Council to now determine its position on each road. In a very general sense and relative to all the other participants, Warrumbungle Shire’s contribution would be minor.

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On the Coonabarabran to Mungindi Road there is approximately 25km of shoulder widening required. A similar length of should widening is required on the Wellington to Boggabri Road within the Warrumbungle Shire boundary. Both these roads are regional roads.

The Mendooran to Coonamble Road requires the realignment and construction of approximately 6km of road within the Warrumbungle Shire. This road is a local road.

The Coonamble to Mendooran Road would be of the greatest financial benefit, if successful, to Council. But it does rely on a significant length of construction and seal within Gilgandra Shire to link up with sealed accesses to the Warrumbungle National Park.

The Wellington section of the Wellington to Boggabri has the greatest potential to deliver significant number of travellers into the Shire. MR55 within Warrumbungle Shire is presently receiving REPAIR funds on an alternate year basis currently.

The Coonabarabran to Mungindi Road is currently all sealed within the Warrumbungle Shire area and received some Regional Roads block grant funds to widen the existing carriage way. But it will rely on the Narrabri section of this road (26km approximately) to be constructed and sealed before this road would be attractive to travellers.

RECOMMENDATION

For Council's determination.

1.8 BUSHFIRE EQUIPMENT

At the ordinary meeting of Council in April 2009 Council reluctantly accepted the advice of the Rural Fire Service to dispose of 7 tanker appliances by way of public tender and also to dispose of 31 tankers in situ. This disposal was in accordance with the Disposal of Council Assets Policy 1.16.

The Rural Fire Service has again written to Council advising of the decommissioning of 5 tanker trailers. The trailers have either failed roadworthy inspection or were not presented at the 2009 inspections. The tanker trailers are as follows:

| BF No. | Owner of last known location | Ex Brigade |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8633 | Unknown location | Marran |
| 7301 | H Powell | Weetaliba |
| 8616G | Morris | Goolhi |
| 8613 | Unknown location | Goolhi |
| 1492S | Goddard | Coolah Creek |