

PRESENT: Cr Jason Newton (Chair), Cr Denis Todd, Cr Dale Hogden (*left the meeting at 8.00pm*), Ms Debra Bell (*left the meeting at 8.00pm*), Mr Elliott Shannon, Mr Greg Piper, Mr Mark Prugger, Mr Stewart Rodgers and Mr Mal Unicomb (Local State Member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Roger Bailey (General Manager), Mr Gary Murphy (Director Technical Services) and Mrs Kylie Kerr (Manager Road Operations).

Cr Newton welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the emergency evacuation procedure and the location of the toilets and kitchen. Introductions were held around the table.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Mr Mark Prugger declared a pecuniary interest due to business interests.

APOLOGIES: Mr Stewart Rodgers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/2223 RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Warrumbungle Road Network Advisory Group meeting held in Coonabarabran on 17 January 2023 be confirmed.

Newton/Prugger

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Question raised regarding the amount of information recorded in the minutes.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) Policy Review – Upgrading of Roads Not Constructed or Maintained by Council

This Policy covers public roads that are vested in Council, but not constructed or maintained by Council. Council calls them unformed roads but they may also be known as paper roads.

The NSW Roads Act 1993 states that *‘A roads authority may carry out road work on any public roads for which it is the roads authority and on any land under its control.’* There is no legal requirement for Council to maintain a road.

The group discussed how the road hierarchy has been determined and why some roads are maintained and others aren't.

Suggested Policy Changes:

- Need to send to Council for approval – suggest that this only occurs if the applicant's proposal is outside the parameters of this Policy.
- Add in a new section for really low volume, as per the draft conditions.
- Request for Council to maintain the road will need to be a separate request that is considered by Council.
- Need to add in the other conditions as outlined that manage risk eg. insurances.
- Include statement about the option to request to purchase or lease / licence the road.
- Include option for utilising Council for traffic control under private works.

2/2223 RECOMMENDED that:

1. The 'Upgrading of Roads Not Constructed or Maintained by Council' Policy is updated as discussed at the meeting.
2. Once updated the draft Policy be distributed to Group members for their information before sending to Council for consideration to put out on public display for comment.

Unanimous

b) Natural Disaster Recovery

The Manager Road Operations explained the natural disaster recovery process and how submissions are made.

A demonstration of Recover and how each defect is logged was provided. There are currently 1,773 defects logged for the November 2021 Natural Disaster and 41 defects for the September 2022 Natural Disaster. The August 2022 Natural Disaster will only be a claim for emergent works.

Discussed the map showing all the defects which provides a visual overview of the extent of the damage across the Shire.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The following items were discussed:

- Communication – consultation with Council and road users – Community Engagement Plan.
- Discussion about grids and the Policy.

3/2223 RECOMMENDED that the Grid Policy is discussed at the next meeting.

Unanimous

- Guinema Road – the AMP 2019 does not have Guinema Road noted as a bus route.

4/2223 RECOMMENDED that the bus route status of Guinema Road be clarified.

Unanimous

- The group discussed ways to improve consultation with residents about planned works on their road.

5/2223 RECOMMENDED that Council conducts a trial for consultation with residents on rural roads by:

- Selecting 2 roads to trial the consultation method.
- Inviting residents on the selected roads to participate in the trial by sending them a letter before work commences on their road informing them of the proposed start date of the works and type of work to be completed.
- Residents would be required to consult between themselves and submit a plan as a group to Council before work commences.
- Council staff to consider the requested works from the residents.
- The trial would be monitored and evaluated by the:
 - Response level from residents

- Expectation from plan submitted vs actual work
- Time taken to deliver this approach
- Resources required to deliver this approach into the future
- Impact on the budget.

Unanimous

- Mr Greg Piper raised concerns about Council's submission regarding the VPA for wind farms and Moorefield Road. Mr Piper has suggested to Council on numerous occasions to make it a through road. Mr Piper believes it as a golden opportunity for Moorefield Road but is disappointed with Council's response.

The Director Technical Services commented that Council's concern is what is the liability for Council after the development is finished and can Council support it into the future and it is unlikely.

NOTED that VPA, wind and solar farm developments are outside the scope of this Committee.

- Issue regarding maintenance levels and staff are saying that they are getting taken away from jobs before the works are completed to what they would like to do.

NOTED that staffing levels are an operational matter and outside the scope of this Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The next meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, Coolah on Tuesday 9 May 2023 commencing at 5.30pm.

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CHAIRPERSON