

PRESENT: Cr Jason Newton (Chair), Cr Denis Todd, Cr Dale Hogden (*joined the meeting at 5.54pm and left the meeting at 6.36pm), Mr Greg Piper, Mr Stewart Rodgers and Mr Mal Unicomb (Local State Member).

*Attendance via Zoom Video Link

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services)

Cr Newton welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the emergency evacuation procedure and the location of the toilets and kitchen.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Greg Piper declared a conflict of interest due to owning grids (less than significant).

APOLOGIES: Mr Elliot Shannon and Ms Debra Bell.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Warrumbungle Road Network Advisory Group meeting held in Coonabarabran on 6 December 2023 were confirmed

MOVED: Cr Newton

SECONDED: Mr S Rodgers

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

AGENDA ITEMS

a) Updated draft Gates and Grids on Public Roads Policy

- Grading the 20m either side of the ramp was discussed at length with regards to who should be responsible for this task. DTS read the Road Regulation out to the Group and it was agreed that the Clause would stay as it was written with the option for land owners to seek Council complete the works under a Private Works Agreement.
- "notice period" on page 3 to be clarified in the context of minor/major works
- On page 5 change aluminium to galvanised and check all items in the specifications against legislation to ensure they are up to date.

b) Road widths

DTS read out the widths. WSC currently designed to Local Road: 6.0m sealed width (3m per lane), 1.0m shoulder (one side), 8.0m total formation width. Regional Road: 7.0m sealed width (3.5m per lane), 1.25m shoulder (one side), 9.5m total formation width.

c) Natural Disaster Response and Recovery Update

DTS provided an update on the progress of works as written in the Natural Disaster Response and Recovery Report in the February Business Paper. A discussion around resourcing and Council's ability to deliver the works was held. The issue of deferring current programmed maintenance works to future years was raised in the context of creating a backlog of works to be dealt with once the natural disaster works were complete. It was noted that other Councils are in the same situation and that attracting resources is one of the biggest challenges to delivering works in the timeframes allocated by the government.

d) Unsealed Roads Maintenance training

DTS outlined the training to be rolled out to roads maintenance crews. Several staff operating graders, rollers and water carts are to take place in the training aimed at arming them with skills and knowledge specific to maintaining WSC unsealed roads. Council will receive improvement action plans, standard procedure templates and procedures. A report benchmarking operational and management techniques with the National Database and Industry Best Practice will also be received along with the trainers WSC specific recommended actions and their cost benefits.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Overhanging branches on roads in the carriage way were discussed.
- It was stated that the amount of gravel that had been pushed up was not enough for the flood damage works that had been planned.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.01pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Coolah Council Chambers on Tuesday 9 April 2024 commencing at 5.30pm.

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CHAIRPERSON