



MINUTES

11 February 2022 – Bingara (Gwydir Shire Council)

Venue:	Gwydir Shire Council The Living Classroom 1A Narrabri Road, Bingara	Date:	Friday, 11 February 2022
Chair:	Cr Kate Dight – Inverell Shire Council	Time:	11.00 am
Attendees:	Cr Andrew Gale	Southern Downs Regional Council	
	Cr Richard Lomman Digby Whyte	Balonne Shire Council	
	Cr Rob Mackenzie	Goondiwindi Regional Council	
	Cr John Coulton Cr Chris Matthews Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council	
	Cr Donna Hobbs	Bulloo Shire Council	
	Cr Brownwyn Petrie	Tenterfield Shire Council	
	Cr Lisa Orchin Angus Witherby	Moree Plains Shire Council	
	Michael Urquhart	Walgett Shire Council	
	Cr Suzette Beresford	Paroo Shire Council	
	Sharon Stafford	Inverell Shire Council	
Also in Attendance:			
	James McTavish	NSW Cross Border Commissioner	
	Nathan Axelsson	Regional Development Australia Northern Inland	
	Jenny Rix	Regional Development Australia Darling Downs & South West	
	Sean Rice	Proterra Group	
	Andrew Langford	QLD Dept Agriculture & Fisheries	
	Ann Leahy MP	Member for Warrego, Shadow Minister for Local Government	
	Damon Meadows Kaitlyn Burey Helen Chan	Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning	
	Jo Tait	ARTC	
	Katie Williams	QLD Dept Premier & Cabinet	
	Janelle Saffin MP	Member for Lismore	
	Angela Doering	Dept Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications	

File Ref:	
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1.	Meeting Open:	
2.	Apologies	
	Cr Casey White	Paroo Shire Council
	Cr Samantha O'Toole Matthew Magin	Balonne Shire Council
	Cr Lawrence Springborg AM	Goondiwindi Regional Council
	Cr Peter Petty Daryl Buckingham Christie Fitzpatrick	Tenterfield Shire Council
	Cr Susannah Pearse Cr Mark Johnson Lester Rogers Ross Earle	Moree Plains Shire Council
	Russell Stewart	Regional Development Australia, Northern Inland
	Moved: GOONDIWINDI that the apologies be accepted. Seconded: BALONNE	
	CARRIED	
3.	Minutes of Meeting – 19 November 2021	
3.1	Handover of BROOC Administration & Finance to Inverell Shire Council	
3.2	Change of bank signatories to new Chair, Deputy Chair & Secretary	
3.3	Cross Border Commissioner for QLD – Balonne Shire Council	
3.4	Cross border tourism promotion collaboration	
	Moved: SOUTHERN DOWNS that the Minutes be accepted. Seconded: GOONDIWINDI	
	CARRIED	
4.	Correspondence	
4.1	Inwards:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Statement - National Australia Bank • Fixed Term Certificate – Warwick Credit Union & National Australia Bank 	
4.2	Matters arising from Correspondence	
	Nil	
	Moved: GOONDIWINDI that the Inwards Correspondence be accepted. Seconded: GWYDIR	
	CARRIED	
5.	Financial Report as at 11 January 2022	
5.1	<u>National Australia Bank – 69-022-2187</u>	
	Opening Balance as at 12 October 2021	\$16,234.84

Interest	0.40
Cheque No.000046 (Renewal of Website Domain)	- 207.63
Cheque No.000047 (Audit of Financial Report)	- 247.50
Balance as at 11 January 2022	\$15,780.11

National Australia Bank – Term Deposit 42-388-8697

Lodged 27 December 2021 for 12 months @ 0.45%	\$10,536.57
Maturity Date – 27 December 2022	

Warwick Credit Union – Fixed Term Deposit 100005924

Opening Balance as at 22 July 2021	\$ 11,401.10
Interest Paid 0.6%	\$ 11.49
Reinvested 22 January 2022 @ 0.4%	\$ 11,412.59
Maturity Date – 22 April 2022	

Moved: GWYDIR that the Correspondence and Financial Report be accepted.
Seconded: GOONDIWINDI

CARRIED

5.2 **Matters arising from Financial Report**

6. Guest Speakers

1. Dr Chris Matthews, Gwydir Shire Councillor and residing Doctor

Dr Chris Matthews has been a rural GP for 48 years working in rural and remote general practices in SA, NSW, Qld and NT. He has also had 9 years in Saudi Arabia as a consultant family physician. He has a Masters Degree in Clinical Education and Family Medicine. He moved to Bingara to retire but was pulled back into the practice to serve the community. He presented on the state of physical and mental wellbeing in the bush, largely the domain of the primary health network.

“Society can’t aim for perfect health and there are significant societal factors that will prevent this. The level of rurality has a huge impact that needs to be considered in our policy formulation. The standard of remoteness is defined by population density and age group demographics. Regional populations are younger with only 50% completing Yr 12 level of education. The consequence of this is societal disadvantage the more remote our communities while needing higher level health care and resources. Domestic violence is 24% higher with increased smoking and alcohol consumption and chronic disease, diabetes, dialysis, suicide are ensuing. Staffing, training and connectivity are the obvious challenges for rural GP practices but telehealth has improved significantly (Doctors can now bill for telehealth which is the game changer). The role Councils can play is in preventative health which is the primary health network, ie anti-smoking campaigns, anti-domestic violence etc. There is also social housing to consider and Councils can provide invaluable community services via these channels.”

2. Mr James McTavish, NSW Cross Border Commissioner

The State Department of Regional NSW, under Minister O'Toole, has released the Strategic Business Plans for the Regions with 4 key areas of focus; remove regulatory burdens, connecting communities, border resilience and training. We are experiencing a period of change and this funding will cease at the end of this financial year. While the role of Border Commissioner is secure, as to who funds this area is in question. There is still the resolve to lobby for a Qld Border Commissioner and this is ongoing with a meeting in Brisbane next month regarding this matter. The \$10M Border Infrastructure Communities Grant Fund has been very well applied in the order of \$33M worth of projects. Projects which are unsuccessful, will be directed to other funding sources. The 2022 budget will allow for additional funding sources as well. James is a strong supporter of BROCC and will look to attend in person for the next few meetings

3. Mr Sean Rice, Owner Director, Proterra

Sean Rice is the owner and director of Proterra, a project management organisation based in Goondiwindi and who has provided project consulting for flood damage work from this recent weather event. He has also acted as a CEO for GRC so has extensive experience in the civil engineering space and roads infrastructure.

Originally from Bourke. he has acted for 45 different councils in both NSW & Qld. In managing this current event he recommends prioritising local roads first and to secure resources for restoration collaboratively. The current price tag for GRC flood damage is \$60M. However, in restoring the road asset the upside is that the infrastructure will be restored to a better state than it was before the damaging event. Projects need to be shovel ready for grant applications such as; The Betterment Fund; Resilience Fund (don't need an active event), the National Resilience Fund, Remote Roads Upgrade Pilots Program to name a few. Procurement practices are such that you need to pre-plan for events with data collation and active asset management. You need to get the evidence and have training completed for staff. The RDA can provide the profile data as can other road user groups. The recommendation is not for combined procurement contracts but for shared resources across Councils. The strong recommendation was to actively source the funding arrangements from both State and Federal bodies in order to manage this current event.

4. Mr Nathan Axelsson, RDA

The RDA reported that it is all about migration and addressing the skilled and unskilled work force for NSW & QLD. There are currently 1200-1300 jobs available and the solar renewable energy project developments are suffering from the shortage. Adding to this is that only half the staff vacancies are purported to be advertised and this situation is considerably worse. Councils can assist with housing initiatives because this issue is a major impediment to attracting a workforce. There is a current real risk of contracts being broken which is very concerning.

5. Mrs Angela Doering, Dept Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications

The inland rail is continuing in its construction and the line from Narrabri to the

	<p>Qld border is progressing well and on track. There is huge collaboration in place with the Dept of Regional Affairs, ARTC and contractors and the most recent contractor for the northern section has just been announced; Freight Connect. The Qld Inland Rail EIS study across the Condamine has just been commissioned to be completed by Feb 2023 and while this major infrastructure project is touted to be completed by 2027, there continues to be considerable discussions and indecision as to the final destinations for the Inland Rail.</p>
7.	General Business
	<p><u>Water Forum</u> Update on the water forum idea mentioned a few meetings ago to be provided by Balonne at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u> Items listed to be listed for consideration at next meeting.</p> <p><u>BROC Strategic Planning Exercise</u></p> <p>As this is the first meeting of this new term of BROC, the Chairperson thought it prudent to have a think about the BROC strategic direction for the next few years. Cr Dight highlighted that the key focus areas in the Statement of Principles and Priorities for Cross Border Collaboration include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Economic Development 2. Aligning our services and sharing information 3. Collaborating on Local transport network issues and 4. Investigating any other issues that BROC Councils might find to be of a national significance. <p>In the past, this has led to investigations into bus and taxi services, delivering effective educational training, joint advocacy for major infrastructure, the protection of children through information sharing, effective integration of health systems, to name just a few. With these suggestions in mind, the Chairperson asks all Councils to come back to the next meeting with some ideas explaining what your own Council's issues and priorities are and might also be relevant to this group of Councils. It can be a list of dot points or it can be a page of suggestions but we would really like to hear from each Council individually and hear what your issues are and how this collective group could help you advocate for those issues.</p> <p><u>Bursary Suggestion</u> Noting the comment in the Chairperson's report for the AGM, more information was requested on the concept of providing a BROC Bursary. Details including; What should it be for? How much will it be for? Who can apply? How will be successful candidate be chosen? etc. Tenterfield Council committed to providing this information for the next meeting.</p> <p><u>QLD Cross Border Commissioner</u> Copy of letter from Balonne Shire Council to Damien Walker, Director General, QLD Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government & Planning QLD requesting reconsideration of decision to not support creation of QLD Cross Border Commissioner role to support border communities to be</p>

	<p>tabled at next BROC meeting. A copy also to be forwarded to James McTavish, NSW Cross Border Commissioner.</p> <p><u>Guest Speaker Next Meeting</u> Digby Whyte to arrange guest speaker for the next meeting, Philippe Benoliel from Field Solutions Group a challenger Telecommunications Carrier, whose mission it is to deliver connection to Rural, Regional and Remote Australia re: the Regional Connectivity Project with Moree.</p>
9.	Next Meeting – Ordinary Meeting - Friday, 6 May 2022 at Moree.
10.	Meeting Closed at 12.25pm.