

BROC

Border Regional Organisation of Councils



MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 December 2022 – Goondiwindi (Goondiwindi Shire Council)

Venue:	Goondiwindi Shire Council 4 McLean Street Goondiwindi	Date:	Thursday, 1 December 2022
Chair:	Cr Kate Dight – Inverell Shire Council	Time:	1.00pm
Attendees:			
	Cr Andrew Gale		Southern Downs Regional Council
	Cr Richard Lomman Matt Magin		Balonne Shire Council
	Cr Rob Mackenzie		Goondiwindi Regional Council
	Donna Hobbs		Bulloo Shire Council
	Cr Lisa Orchin		Moree Plains Shire Council
	Sharon Stafford		Inverell Shire Council
	Cr Brownwyn Petrie Daryl Buckingham (Teams)		Tenterfield Shire Council
	Cr Suzette Beresford (Teams)		Paroo Shire Council
	Michael Urquhart (Teams)		Walgett Shire Council
	Cr Barry Holman (Observer) (Teams)		Bourke Shire Council
	Cr Vivian Slack Smith David Kirby (Observers) (Teams)		Brewarrina Shire Council
Also in Attendance:	James McTavish (Teams)		NSW Cross Border Commissioner
	Chris Mitchell		QLD Police
	Jerome Leray		InFarm (Guest Speaker)
	Eddie Billing		Invited Guest
	Michael Peat		Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
	Peter Caddey		Inverell Shire Council
	Grant Higgs (Teams)		NBN
	Jo Tait (Teams)		ARTC
	Bill Lansbury (Teams)		Dept Transport & Main Roads QLD
	Les Dunn (Teams)		Project Director (Inland Freight Route Investment Strategy)

1.	Meeting Open
2.	Acknowledgement of Country
	Cr Rob Mackenzie acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of this land and paid respect to the Elders past, present and emerging.

3.	Apologies	
	Cr Jane Keir	Walgett Shire Council
	Cr Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council
	Cr John Ferguson	Bulloo Shire Council
	Cr Mark Johnson Nick Tobin	Moree Plains Shire Council
	Cr John Coulton Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council
	Cr Vic Pennisi	Southern Downs Regional Council
	Ann Leahy MP	Member for Warrego, Shadow Minister for Local Government
	Angela Doering	Dept Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications
	Janelle Saffin MP	Member for Lismore
	Damon Meadows	Dept State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
	Nikki Seymour	Dept Agriculture & Fisheries
	Bernadette Plummer	Dept Local Government Racing & Multicultural Affairs
	Moved: GOONDIWINDI that the apologies be accepted. Seconded: MOREE	
		CARRIED
4.	Minutes of Meeting – Annual General Meeting – 11 February 2022	
4.1	Matters Arising from the Minutes Nil	
	Moved: GOONDIWINDI that the Minutes be accepted. Seconded: MOREE	
		CARRIED
5.	Chairperson's Report	
5.1	Cr Kate Dight presented the Chairperson's Report: <i>'It has been a great year for BROC and I believe we have had a flying start in 2022 following the previous couple of years of cancelled and disjointed zoom meetings. It is my sincere hope that we continue with this emphasis going forward and that member councils gain knowledge and expertise from their involvement in BROC.</i> <i>We began the year at Bingara with the AGM & quarterly meeting and were fortunate to hear from both Dr Chris Matthews on the state of the embattled NSW health system and Mr Sean Rice on the flooding impact on our road network. What incredible times we have witnessed in 2022 with the wettest year in living memory and the road networks across both our states being severely degraded. So many of our member Councils have experienced 4+ major flood events in 2022. The impact of this is still being assessed and will be unknown for some time. I am pleased to report that the NSW State Government Minister for Roads, Mr Sam Farraway, has announced a \$50million Pot Holes Fund which is currently open and continued advocacy in this area appears to being heard in the corridors of State Parliament.</i>	

In May we held our quarterly meeting in Moree and heard from Mr Philippe Benoliel, Field Solutions Group on regional connectivity and Snr Sgt Chris Mitchell on Cross Border Disaster Management. Again disaster management has taken new meaning this year and we welcome the advocacy Sgt Mitchell is doing for this issue. The Disaster Management forum intended for this month is an excellent initiative and we welcome this being re-scheduled for July 2023 when hopefully there will be fewer disasters monopolising the calendar. Another significant presentation was from Tammy Elborne on Moree Tourism drawing on their memorandum of understanding with Balonne Shire. This initiated the Border Tourist Trail project which we are currently progressing.

Our August meeting was at Thargomindah and was particularly memorable thanks to the excellent hospitality from our Bulloo Councillors. Aside from receiving the complete outback Council experience and understanding the integral role Council has in the Bulloo Shire, we managed to agree on providing detail to the Constitutional Objectives for this organisation. We are adding 6 main areas of interest and commonality for the projects for which we advocate which gives us clarity and direction in moving forward. I commend us all in reaching this conclusion.

As well as our specialist speakers, we are fortunate to regularly hear from our agency representatives;

*Regional Development Australia, Qld & NSW; Ms Jenny Rix & Mr Russell Stewart
Inland Rail; Angela Doering & ARTC; Jo Tait
NSW Cross Border Commissioner; Mr James McTavish
Commonwealth Environmental Water Office; Ms Jane Humphries
State Local Members of Parliament, Qld & NSW; Mr Adam Marshall & Ms Ann Leahy
State Development Infrastructure Local Government Planning; Damon Meadows & Bernadette Plummer
Water Alliance Groups*

I would like to thank these representatives most sincerely for your contribution to this group. We value your updates and it enables collaboration of the highest order amongst our member Councils.

Finally, I would like to recognise and thank my Vice-Chair person, Deputy Mayor Rob McKenzie from Goondiwindi Regional Council who is particularly easy to work with and gets things to happen. And I am sure you would all agree that Ms Sharon Stafford from Inverell Shire Council does a superb job in coordinating these meetings and I am very grateful for her support.

Going forward, I would like to recognise that we represent a unique group of Councils and membership extends most of the way along our State border courtesy of the inclusion of Bulloo and Paroo Shires in the past few years and further noting the invitation that has been extended to our peers at Bourke and Brewarrina Councils to come onboard. Covid highlighted the critical reality of our State border which reinforces the opportunity this group has to collaborate and resolve border issues. We are progressing some exciting projects from which I sincerely hope all member Councils can benefit. We rotate the locations of our meetings to give Councils the opportunity to promote their commerce and industry and while sometimes Zoom is the only alternative, I am grateful for attendance in person where possible and appreciate the effort you all make to meet this obligation. I welcome your willingness to share issues and allow BROCC to collectively advocate and provide the critical flow of information.

*Cr Kate Dight
Chairperson'*

Moved: INVERELL that the Chairman's Report be accepted as tabled.

Seconded: GOONDIWINDI

CARRIED

6.	Audited Financial Report as at 30 September 2022
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of Income & Expenditure for the Period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 • Statement of Assets & Equity as at 30 September 2022 <p>Moved: SOUTHERN DOWNS that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the meeting notes that the Constitution adopted on 12 February 2021 requires the financial report to be distributed 21 days before the Annual General Meeting and that this was circulated on 11 November 2022; and b) the Audited Financial Statements be accepted. <p>Seconded: BALONNE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
7.	Items Listed
7.1	<p>Election of Office Bearers</p> <p>Cr Dight vacated the Chair. Matthew Magin acted as Returning Officer.</p> <p>Nominations were called for the election of Chair. Cr Orchin nominated Cr Kate Dight (Inverell Shire Council) – nomination accepted. There being no further nominations, Cr Dight was declared elected as Chair.</p> <p>Nominations were called for the election of Deputy Chair. Cr Dight nominated Cr Rob Mackenzie (Goondiwindi Council) – nomination accepted. There being no further nominations, Cr Mackenzie was declared elected as Deputy Chair.</p> <p>Nominations were called for the election of Secretary/Treasurer. Cr Mackenzie nominated Sharon Stafford (Inverell Shire Council) – nomination accepted. There being no further nominations, Sharon Stafford was declared elected.</p> <p>Cr Dight resumed the Chair.</p>
7.2	<p>Setting of Annual Membership Fee (currently \$500 pa)</p> <p>Moved: GOONDIWINDI that the fees remain at \$500 per member Council per year. Seconded: BALONNE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
7.3	<p>Meeting Dates & Times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Dates for 2023 – fourth Thursday every 3 months (1.00 pm local time) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walgett Shire Council (Walgett) – 23 February 2023 ○ Balonne Shire Council (St George) – 25 May 2023 ○ Paroo Shire Council – (Cunnamulla) – 24 August 2023 ○ Tenterfield Shire Council (Tenterfield) – 23 November 2023* (AGM & Ordinary) • Meeting Dates for 2024 – fourth Thursday every 3 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 22 February 2024 (Brewarrina Shire Council) ○ 23 May 2024 (Southern Downs Shire Council) ○ 22 August 2024 (Inverell Shire Council) ○ 28 November 2024 (Goondiwindi Shire Council)* (AGM & Ordinary) <p>Moved: GOONDIWINDI that the meeting dates for 2023 and 2024 be accepted. Seconded: BALONNE</p>

	CARRIED
8.	General Business
	<p><u>Invitation to Join BROC</u></p> <p>Moved: GOONDIWINDI that invitations be re-extended to Brewarrina & Bourke Shires to join BROC.</p> <p>Seconded: BALONNE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
9.	Next Annual General Meeting – 23 November 2023 at Tenterfield Shire Council.
10.	Meeting Closed at 1.37pm.