



# MINUTES

## 1 December 2022 – Goondiwindi (Goondiwindi Shire Council)

<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Goondiwindi Shire Council 4 McLean Street Goondiwindi</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>1 December, 2022</b>
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Cr Kate Dight, - Inverell Shire Council</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>1.40pm</b>
<b>Invitees:</b>	Jerome Leray, InFarm		
<b>Attendees:</b>	Cr Andrew Gale	Southern Downs Regional Council	
	Cr Richard Lomman Matt Magin	Balonne Shire Council	
	Cr Rob Mackenzie Cr Lawrence Springborg	Goondiwindi Regional Council	
	Donna Hobbs	Bulloo Shire Council	
	Cr Lisa Orchin	Moree Plains Shire Council	
	Sharon Stafford	Inverell Shire Council	
	Cr Bronwyn 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	
<b>Also in Attendance:</b>	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)		

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

<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	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
	<b>Moved: Goondiwindi                      Seconded: Balonne</b>	
	That the apologies be accepted.	
		<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of Meeting – 12 August 2022</b>	
3.1	<b>Moved: Moree                                      Seconded: Paroo</b>	
	That the Minutes be accepted noting the following amendments:	
	9.4 Carbon Farming – third sentence, remove the words 'problems for both flora and fauna' and replace with 'socio-economic impact'. Fifth sentence, remove '20-30 years' and replace with '25 – 100 years'.	
	9.2 List of Priorities from individual Councils – Balonne – remove 'health' and replace with 'housing'.	
		<b>CARRIED</b>
	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>	
	Nil.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
4.1	<b>Inwards:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bank Statements and Fixed Term Certificate – National Australia Bank &amp; Credit Union</li> <li>• Response from the Hon Sam Faraway re: Reclassification of the Bruxner Way as a State Road.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Moved: Balonne                                      Seconded: Moree</b>	
	That the correspondence be received and noted.	
		<b>CARRIED</b>
4.2	<b>Outwards:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque made payable to REP Merchandise Solutions representing BROCC contribution towards Disaster Management Conference</li> </ul>	



6.	<p><b>Guest Speaker</b></p>
	<p>At this juncture, the time being 1.49pm, the Chairperson invited Jerome Leray, InFarm to speak to the group.</p> <p><b>Jerome Leray, InFarm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerome has developed his business to use digital tools to unlock financial and ecological sustainability for global agriculture.</li> <li>• Jerome has a mineral exploration and geoscience background and originally established an aerial surveying business with remote sensing.</li> <li>• He is recognised as an industry leader with several awards and accolades and his business is now partnered with several global technology firms, namely Dell &amp; Microsoft.</li> <li>• His business platform is based on how to digitise knowledge or utilise artificial intelligence. It is highly domain specific whereby he programs the questions to determine the responses. His business is based on the collection of data, and then the storing, processing, and the implementation of that data.</li> <li>• The practical application of this is getting a boom spray to detect the appropriate weeds. It is very easy to program data to memorize the image of the weed in a pasture which then allows the mechanical operations to turn on and off at the appropriate time and thus make the process more efficient. It improves productivity because there is no wastage of chemical and the long-term sustainability is improved. There are many other practical applications with kangaroo detection and other broad scale farming operations that can benefit from this interactive artificial intelligence technological application.</li> </ul> <p>Cr Dight thanked Jerome for presenting to the group.</p> <p><b>Copy of InFarm presentation kindly provided and will be circulated with the minutes.</b></p> <p>At 1.58pm Cr Suzette Beresford left the meeting.</p>
	<p>At 2.05pm the Chairperson invited Peter Caddey (Manager Tourism, Inverell Shire Council) &amp; Megan Boyd (Manager Tourism, Goondiwindi Regional Council) to update the group on their investigations to date regarding the possible creation of a Border Tourism Trail.</p> <p><b>Peter Caddey – Inverell Visitor Information Centre</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On behalf of the Tourist Managers for most of the Councils. Peter Caddey presented the idea of a Border Tourist Trail, an initiative that has come out of a previous BROCC meeting.</li> <li>• Peter used the New England High Country Tourist Trail as an example of what could be achieved. This is a tourist map where each Council area has its own brochure face to promote their items of interest. The project doesn't need its own web site necessarily but the locations for each Council need to be targeted and specific. Peter recommended the Trail to have a cultural / arts / heritage theme and a trail that capitalises on the popularity of experience-based tourism. HEMA maps could be quite cost effective, from \$15L - \$30K as a ballpark estimation and they could be promoted by all Councils as well as at the annual Caravan &amp; Trade Show Events.</li> <li>• Peter put to the group that each Council would need to commit to the project and that he would need a contact for each Council to drive this further.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairperson thanked the visitor information centres for their input to date, with a special mention for Peter and Megan for presenting their findings to date at today's meeting.</p>



	<p>the location of these gauges is appropriate, the dissemination of the data from these gauges needs to be overhauled and managed better.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There needs to be trigger points set i.e. 100,000mgs=9.1m over the spillway at Boggabilla. The gauges jam up and they need to be serviced regularly to ensure they are operating. There are 3 gauges at Gundy while there only needs to be 1 and all the gauges need to be calibrated to be in sync.</li> <li>• The scope of the independent flood enquiry needs to include management of the flood gauge network so that there is a management tool, i.e. green/ amber / red totem system.</li> </ul> <p>Cr Suzette Beresford returned to the meeting at 3.09pm.</p> <p><b>Moved: Moree                      Seconded: Goondiwindi</b></p> <p>That an invitation be extended to Superintendent Mitch Parker, Commander New England &amp; North West I DZC Western Zone, NSW State Emergency Service to address BROC on the subject of flood gauges and the dissemination of flood data.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
	<p><b>Michael Peat, Director, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The improved metering of water has allowed the Commonwealth Water Office to gain water supplies and this office has recently been in the water trading market both buying and selling temporary water supplies.</li> <li>• Healthy breeding seasons for both fish and birds are making stocks explode and the emphasis is on trying to get the connectivity to the upper reaches to assess this with greater clarity.</li> <li>• There are extensive evaluation programs to measure the ecological response which is great for further water reform.</li> <li>• They are trying to remove structures that impede the flow of water and gain further water quantities for the environment.</li> <li>• The issue of cold dam water was raised, and the request was to ensure the releases were done at opportune times to not affect fish spawning periods.</li> </ul> <p>Copy of CEWO presentation kindly provided and will be circulated with the minutes.</p>
	<p><b>Grant Higgs NBN (capabilities of NBN and potential assistance they could provide in disaster times.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NBN is the backbone of telecommunications for Australia and disaster preparedness is paramount to their management.</li> <li>• Skymuster satellite is offered to those locations outside the fibre network. They have recently upgraded the speeds for data transmission to build this service and network better.</li> <li>• The loss of power is the biggest impediment to loss of telecommunications in times of disaster. Once power is restored they have Road Muster Truck units which can come in and get telecommunication services operating again.</li> </ul> <p>Copy of NBN presentation kindly provided and will be circulated with the minutes.</p>
	<p><b>ARTC – Jo Tait</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent flooding events have badly impacted the rail network in western NSW with de-railments and broken line. The track at Broken Hill continues to be under water and hence freight is being re-directed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Moree to Narrabri line was impacted but they managed to restore the line to allow the flow of grain out of the region with harvest.</li> <li>• The Inland Rail Review into the line north of North Star is currently in motion headed by Kerry Schott. This is expected to be a quick and effective investigation into the cost of the project with delivery in early 2023. The route is under review and announcement of the end destination from Toowoomba is the anticipated outcome.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Bill Lansbury – Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads &amp; Patrick Dennehy (filling in for Les Dunn) Inland Freight Route</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Inland Freight Route, “The Inland Bruce”, is the priority for the Qld Dept of Main Roads. They are committed to upgrading the highway from Charters Towers with a view to diverting transport inland towards Mungindi. There is less flood risk with this route.</li> <li>• Bridge load capacity, road roughness, pavement widening &amp; strengthening, improved connectivity and safety seals are all priority issues for this road network development.</li> <li>• Connecting with NSW is a major priority and Bill asked the BROC members for contacts with NSW Transport to progress this matter further.</li> </ul> <p><b>Moved: Balonne Secoded: Moree</b></p> <p>That the Cross Border Commissioner be requested to provide contact information of the most appropriate person within Transport for NSW so that the Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads can progress this matter further.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Items Listed</b>
8.1	<p><b>Queensland Funding for Preschools and/or Kindergartens (Goondiwindi Regional Council)</b></p> <p>It was noted that in Qld, from 2023 the funding model is changing for preschools. As a result, preschools including the one at Mungindi, will struggle to stay open as a majority of children that attend come from NSW.</p> <p><b>Moved: Balonne Secoded: Moree</b></p> <p>That BROC write to the Qld Minister for Education, the Hon Grace Grace MP detailing concerns for the future of border preschools and urge that border preschools remain open as a result of the changed funding model.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
8.2	<p><b>Flood Gauges, Access to State Asset Flood Cameras, Standardising Gauges and Reporting (Goondiwindi Regional Council)</b></p> <p>The information be received and noted.</p>
8.3	<p><b>Inland Freight Route (The Inland Bruce) (Balonne Shire Council)</b></p> <p>Frustration was expressed with the process and \$1B cost involved with duplicating the Bruce Highway particularly given that funds are not available to maintain the existing road network. The lack of connectivity with the Inland Rail and concern over how the route will connect into the NSW road network was also noted.</p>
8.4	<p><b>Cross Border Commissioner Grants (Balonne Shire Council)</b></p> <p>The information be received and noted.</p>

8.5	<p><b>BROC Constitution / Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>To give BROC more time to dedicate to its strategic priorities, it was agreed that the agenda would be reworked as follows – BROC Strategic Priorities, Cross Border and Disaster Management and Qld/NSW Transport Briefings, Guest Speaker, written agency updates to be distributed with business paper.</p> <p><b>Moved:            Moree            Seconded:        Balonne</b></p> <p>That:</p> <p>a) The ‘Objectives’ in the BROC Constitution be amended as follows:</p> <p>‘Objectives</p> <p>2.    The objectives of the Organisation are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i.     Provide a forum for member councils to consider and discuss matters affecting the region</li> <li>ii.    Advocate for the best outcomes for the region at a state and federal government level</li> <li>iii.   Ensure the sustainability, and where possible, the growth of the region through contributing to the effectiveness of all member councils</li> <li>iv.    Undertake projects that have a material benefit to some or all member councils of the Organisation to promote regional cooperation and the efficiencies of individual councils. Areas of regional strategic importance include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attracting Population and industry</li> <li>○ Transport networks</li> <li>○ Disaster Recovery, Management &amp; Betterment</li> <li>○ Health Services</li> <li>○ Housing</li> <li>○ Education &amp; Childcare</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>b) Notice of the addition of ‘Transport &amp; Telecommunication Connectivity’ to the ‘Areas of regional strategic importance’ be tabled for consideration at the February 2023 meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>Moved:            Moree            Seconded:        Balonne</b></p> <p>That BROC write to both the NSW and QLD Departments of Transport asking what considerations are being given to ensure main road connectivity between the states.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
8.6	<p><b>Tourism Trail</b></p> <p>Matter dealt with earlier.</p>
9.	<p><b>General Business</b></p>
9.1	<p><b>Occupational Licensing</b></p> <p>Concern expressed about the lack of labour mobility caused by Occupational Licenses not being recognised over borders.</p> <p><b>Moved:            Balonne            Seconded:        Moree</b></p>



	<p>That BROC write to the Qld Minister for Small Business, the Hon Dianne (Di) Farmer regarding the mutual recognition of trades/skills and strongly encouraging QLD to sign up to the National Agreement that recognises NSW Occupational Licenses.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
9.2	<p><b>Live Traffic App</b></p> <p>Concern was expressed about the Live Traffic App not having up to date information. Further information to be sourced and provided at the next meeting.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Action Log</b>
	<p><b>Moved:            Goondiwindi            Seconded:        Moree</b></p> <p>That:</p> <p>    a) the items on the Action Log be noted: and</p> <p>    b) the following items be removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NAB account</li> <li>- BROC Strategic Planning Process</li> <li>- QLD Cross Border Commissioner</li> <li>- Chairperson Report AGM</li> <li>- BROC Constitution / Terms of Reference</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>
	<p>The next meeting will be held in Walgett on Thursday 23 February, 2023 commencing at 1pm (NSW time).</p>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Meeting Closed</b>
	<p>There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 4.50pm.</p>