



MINUTES OF THE BORDER REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS MEETING HELD AT THE CIVIC & COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE, CORNER LOUISE AND STOCKYARD STREETS, CUNNNAMULLA (PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL) ON FRIDAY 11 AUGUST 2023 COMMENCING AT 9AM (LOCAL TIME).

Attendees:

Balonne Shire Council	Cr Samantha O’Toole (Zoom)
	Matt Magin
Brewarrina Shire Council	David Kirby
Bulloo Shire Council	Donna Hobbs
Goondiwindi Regional Council	Cr Rob McKenzie
Gwydir Shire Council	Cr David Coulton
Inverell Shire Council	Cr Kate Dight (Chairperson)
	Sharon Stafford
Moree Plains Shire Council	Cr Mark Johnson
	Cr Lisa Orchin
	Nick Tobin
Paroo Shire Council	Cr Suzette Beresford
	Cr Rick Brain
	Cassandra White
	Tony Koch
Southern Downs Regional Council	Cr Andrew Gale (Zoom)
Tenterfield Shire Council	Cr Bronwyn Petrie (Zoom)
	Cr John Macnish (Zoom)

Also in Attendance:

Ann Leahy MP	Member for Warrego, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers
RDA Darling Downs/South West	Robyn Haig
RDA Northern Inland	Russell Stewart
SES	Paul Perusic
	Matthew Chadwick
ARTC	Jo Tait (Zoom)
Department Transport QLD	Bill Lansbury
Transport for NSW	Matt Perez
Jamie Gorrie	Dept Agriculture & Fisheries
Greg Ringwood	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

1 MEETING OPEN

2 WELCOME

Cr Suzette Beresford PSM, Mayor, Paroo Shire Council extended a warm welcome to delegates and invited guests.

3 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED (Goondiwindi/Moree Plains) that the following apologies be accepted:

<i>Brewarrina Shire Council</i>	<i>Cr Vivian Slack-Smith</i>
<i>Bulloo Shire Council</i>	<i>Cr Tractor Ferguson</i>
<i>Goondiwindi Regional Council</i>	<i>Cr Lawrence Springborg & Carl Manton</i>
<i>Gwydir Shire Council</i>	<i>Cr John Coulton</i>
<i>Southern Downs Regional Council</i>	<i>Cr Vic Pennisi</i>
<i>Walgett Shire Council</i>	<i>Cr Jane Keir</i>
<i>QLD Police</i>	<i>Chris Mitchell</i>
<i>Member for Lismore</i>	<i>Janelle Saffin MP</i>
<i>NSW Cross Border Commissioner</i>	<i>James McTavish</i>
<i>QLD Dept Premier & Cabinet</i>	<i>Matthew Gregg</i>
<i>Bourke Shire Council</i>	<i>Cr Barry Hollman</i>

CARRIED

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MEETING MINUTES – 19 MAY 2023

RESOLVED (Paroo/Moree Plains) that the minutes of the Border Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held in St George on 19 May, 2023, as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

4.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Memorandum's of Understanding (MOU)

It was noted that a draft template has been drafted and forwarded to Councils for consideration alongside with their neighbouring cross-border council(s). Councils provided an update on the status of their respective MOU's, noting that the intent was for a group signing at the November BROCC meeting.

RESOLVED (Goondiwindi Regional/Moree Plains) that Goondiwindi Regional Council approach Simone Talbot from their ROC to prepare a draft Memorandum of Understanding for consideration that encompasses all Cross-Border Councils.

CARRIED

5 CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER UPDATE

Nil.

6 DISASTER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Paul Perusic – SES North Western Zone, NSW

- The geo-spatial systems that the SES use have traditionally stopped at the border but as of recently, they have started sharing the data and maps with their QLD counterparts to build a better picture of events.
- Both the Mungindi and Boggabilla SES Units are now fully staffed, with training to commence shortly - this is a great improvement.
- Have reached out to QFES to familiarise themselves with their practices and determine what equipment/resources are available

Matthew Chadwick – SES Northern Western Zone, NSW

- The Tenterfield volunteer numbers have built back up.
- The Tablelands has been split into 2 commands and he is the local commander for the Upper reaches of the region.
- As mentioned last meeting, west of Mungindi, it becomes the SES Western zone under the Command of Brigid Rice.
- It is particularly important the SES & RFS have outreach services. However, to date the RFS has been non-responsive to this. Going forward, it is hoped that these organisations come together and that this improves.

Hon Ann Leahy – Member for Warrego, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers

- The supply of gravel is becoming more difficult because of the native title claims over the pits that are on crown lands.
- The DPI are the lead agency with an inter-government working group charged with negotiating native title clearance for these pits. Currently in Southern QLD there are 104 operational pits of which only 4 have native title clearance. The issue is becoming urgent and the concern is that the Dept of Main Roads (who have extensive understanding of this) are not a part of the working group. The indigenous land groups have an 18 month processing time frame and Councils needs to be aware of this as their existing permits expire and they begin to renegotiate title.
- The Bulloo Shire have a similar situation.
- In NSW many of the pits are on older land leases which pre-date Native Title legislation (pre- 1993) and are not subject to native title claims. Any pits that are on free hold land are much easier to access.

7 GUEST SPEAKER

Item held over till later in the meeting.

8 STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR BROCC

Item 8.2 'BROC Areas of Strategic Importance (BASI) Focus Group Updates' brought forward for consideration.

8.2 BROCC AREAS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE (BASI) FOCUS GROUP UPDATES (INCLUDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

There are seven (7) areas of strategic importance for BROCC and all member Councils agreed to promote and support a restructure of BROCC operations so that these areas could be individually addressed and tailored to meet outcomes relevant to BROCC. Each area has one member Council electing to lead and drive the advocacy. The outcome of deliberations to date are detailed below.

BROC Areas of Strategic Importance (BASI)

1. Attracting Population and Industry (Lead Council – Paroo, Associated Councils - Inverell, Moree)

Cr Beresford provided the following update:

- Website has been updated
- Links established on some Council websites.

2. Transport Networks (Lead Council – Gwydir, Associated Councils - Southern Downs, Tenterfield, Inverell, Bulloo)

Gwydir Shire Council provided the following update:

- There are several different regulations between the states of VIC, NSW & QLD. The problems incurred between states with freight are different loading regulations eg axle weight as opposed to volumetric loading.
- The other annoyance is the different rules regarding road train and B triple routes. From experience when buying hay in Victoria during the drought road trains had to de-couple at the border, hence freight bill was bigger.
- When in Canberra at the ALGA conference Cr John Coulton spoke to the people at the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator stand about some of the problems incurred. There was a Victorian hay grower there at the time and he shared the frustration. After a conversation about all the state differences the personnel offered to attend and speak at a future BROCC meeting.
- The other big anomaly is that of registration charges, there are big differences between states. A good example of this is caravans. NSW is very expensive.
- Pinch point notified - bridge over the Gwydir at Gravesend on the Gwydir Highway.
- Noted matters raised by Pastoralists Association of West Darling re: Requesting that NSW allow longer truck combination into the Unincorporated area and Sealing the Warrie Gate Road from Nocundra to the NSW border.

RESOLVED (Gwydir/Paroo) that a representative of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator be invited to address BROCC at their November meeting.

CARRIED

3. Disaster Recovery, Management & Betterment (Lead Council – Balonne, Associated Councils - Goondiwindi, Moree, Tenterfield, Inverell)

Balonne Shire Council provided the following update:

- waiting on the report of the Cross-Border Exercise from Chris Mitchell to assess the survey content (report due within the next four (4) weeks).
- Collaboration between NSW & QLD evident on the day of the Cross-Border Exercise. Chris Mitchell congratulated on bringing agencies/councils/the event together.
- Survey to be revisited after results from Cross Border Exercise known.

4. Health Services (Lead Council – Tenterfield, Associated Councils - Moree, Inverell, Goondiwindi, Paroo)

The following report was provided:

- Adam Marshall's Hunter New England Health petition to split the agency has been put as a private members bill and is progressing through the parliamentary system.
- Ambulance arrangements are currently being prioritised.
- A big win for Mungindi in that QLD is spending funds in Mungindi to build services to accommodate health staff.

5. Housing (Lead Council – Walgett, Associated Councils - Bulloo, Moree)

Walgett not in attendance. No report provided.

6. Education & Childcare (Lead Council – Moree, Associated Councils - Bulloo, Balonne, Walgett)

The following update was provided:

- NSW & Qld Dept of Education are in conversation particularly regarding the pre-school at Mungindi and pleasingly, people are listening.

7. Telecommunication Connectivity (Lead Council – Goondiwindi, Associated Councils - Moree, Balonne, Inverell)

The following report was provided:

- May Boisen and Ian George to be invited to address BROC regarding Telstra’s partnership connectivity roll out.
- Field Solutions Group to be invited to address BROC.

8.1 PROPOSAL TO REALIGN THE BROC AREAS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE (INCLUDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

RESOLVED (Moree / Goondiwindi) that BROC redefine the Strategic Priority Areas (SPA) as follows and put forward the necessary change to the Constitution at the November AGM.

CARRIED

BROC STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS (SPA)		
SPA	Encompassing	Responsible Council
1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM Lead Council: Inverell	Industry	Inverell
	Digital Connectivity	Goondiwindi
	Tourism	Paroo
2 LIVEABILITY Lead Council: Moree Plains	Health	Tenterfield
	Housing	Goondiwindi / Bulloo
	Education	Moree
	Policing / Crime Prevention	Goondiwindi / Moree
3 INFRASTRUCTURE Lead Council: Gwydir	Road Network	Gwydir / Balonne
	Transport	Southern Downs
	Water Security, Urban & Waste Water	Inverell
4 DISASTER MANAGEMENT Lead Council: Balonne	Agency Coordination	Balonne
	Biosecurity	Balonne

At this juncture, the time being 11.15am, Cr O’Toole, Cr Beresford and Bill Lansbury left the meeting.

9 AGENCY UPDATES

Matt Perez, TNSW District Works Manager, Far West Networks & Assets

- Matt is responsible for maintaining the road network in the unincorporated Region of NSW and is willing to be the point of contact for BROC going forward. He may not be the person who can resolve the issue but he will find the relevant person in TNSW who is. David Dickie is his senior. Holly Davies is the Division of Partnering Communications.

Jo Tait, Australian Rail Track Corporation ARTC

- Federal approval for the North Star to Border region of the Inland Rail has been granted which is progress. The elements of cost, time and scope are still to be resolved.
- There is a new Inland Rail Board in place with Naomi Tonscheck as the new project officer. BROC would like to invite her to address at the next meeting.
- The section north of Parkes is still in review and there remains no time frame for this approval.

Greg Ringwood – Local Engagement Officer for the Office of Environmental Water

- During the last 2 years they have delivered the greatest amount of water to the environment to date with the Macintyre Marshes, the Gwydir Wetlands and the Narran Lakes brimming with ecological activity. These flows have all been from regulated river systems. The trade-off is always between using water now or saving for later and risking losing it due to some other weather event such as drought.
- There is a current blue green algae event that they are watching closely.
- The recent EWAG meeting highlighted the importance of community engagement sessions and trying to ensure NSW & Qld are in conversation.
- Copy of presentation kindly provided for distribution with minutes.

Robyn Haig – RDA DDSW

- Robyn has just been appointed to this role.
- The Growing Better Regions Fund is open again.
- There is a new RDA charter for intelligence gathering and information dissemination with a new business plan; liaising major projects, telecommunications advocacy & supporting carbon transmission.
- Advocacy for the Qld Cross Border Commissioner is constantly talked about but with little resolve.
- There is a region-wide housing audit with many recommendations expected to result.

At this juncture, the time being 11.45am, Donna Hobbs left the meeting, Cassie White arrived.

Russell Stewart – RDANI NSW

- Another boundary review is currently in place and the new RDA boundaries may be delineated by LG areas. This is a significant change and will have flow on impacts to RDA operations
- Migration is always the priority. So far this year there have been 290 migrants but they have all gone to the major regional cities, ie Tamworth & Armidale. He is advocating to get these migrants to smaller centres. He is looking to LGA's to partner to provide accommodation and if Councils have available housing, they will attract the migrants.

7 GUEST SPEAKER

Cassie White – CEO Paroo Shire Council ‘Transforming Paroo – The Revitalisation Phase’

- Paroo, population of 1544, is enjoying a growth phase with lots of revitalisation programs in place.
- Highlights include community team spirit, outback relaxed lifestyle, services and amenities available, multi-million dollar riverwalk/hot springs project, thinking outside the box, upskilling staff – all whilst juggling income/expenditure.
- Copy of presentation kindly provided for distribution with minutes.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 INWARDS

- Hon Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education, Industrial Relations & Racing - Occupational Licences.
- Southern Downs Regional Council – Border Tourism Trial Proposal.
- Bank Statements and Fixed Term Certificate – National Australia Bank & Credit Union

10.2 OUTWARDS

- Insurance Council of Australia – Postcode Driven Insurance Policy Premium Price Increases.
- Hon Fiona Nash, Regional Education Commissioner – Preschool/Kindergarten Mungindi cc
Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education; Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm, Assistant Minister for Education; James McTavish, Cross Border Commissioner.
- Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government – Inland Rail (Completion of the Narrabri to North Star Project).
- Mr James McTavish, Cross Border Commissioner – Appreciation of financial support for Cross Border Disaster Management Exercise held in St George on 13 July 2023.

RESOLVED (Balonne/Gwydir) that the Inwards and Outwards correspondence be received and noted.

CARRIED

10.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

11 FINANCIAL REPORT

11.1 TRANSACTIONS

National Australia Bank – 69-022-2187

Opening Balance as at 12 April 2023	\$20,453.87
Interest	\$0.51
22/23 Membership – Moree Plains Shire Council	\$500.00
Balance as at 11 July 2023	\$20,954.38

National Australia Bank – Term Deposit 42-388-8697

Lodged 27 December 2022 for 12 months @ 3.75%	\$10,583.97
Maturity Date – 27 December 2023	

Warwick Credit Union – Fixed Term Deposit 100005924

Reinvested 22 April 2023 for 12 months @ 3.75%	\$ 11,559.83
Maturity Date – 22 April 2024	

RESOLVED (Goondiwindi/Moree) that the Financial Report be accepted.

CARRIED

11.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL REPORT

Nil.

12 ITEMS LISTED**12.1 BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL – MEMBERSHIP**

RESOLVED (Moree/Balonne) that:

- i) Bourke Shire Council be accepted as a member of BROCC;*
- ii) A tax invoice for 2023/34 membership of \$500 be forwarded to Bourke Shire Council;*
- iii) The BROCC Constitution reflect Bourke Shire Council as a member.*

CARRIED

At this juncture, the time being 12.35pm Cr Beresford returned to the meeting.

12.2 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - DESIGNATED AREA MIGRATION AGREEMENTS

It was noted that SEQLD are developing a DAMA and inviting other councils to register their interest.

RESOLVED (Balonne/Moree) that Balonne & Inverell Shire Councils investigate the possible establishment of a Designated Area Migration Agreement which covers the BROCC geographic area.

CARRIED

13 ACTION ITEM LOG

RESOLVED (Goondiwindi/Moree) that:

- i) the Action Item Log be received and noted: and*
- ii) the following items be removed from the Action Log:*
 - Invitation to Join BROCC*
 - Disaster Management Workshop*
 - Transport for NSW Contact re: Inland Bruce*
 - Bureau of Meteorology*

CARRIED

14 GENERAL BUSINESS

14.1 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - INTRODUCTION TO PORTT AND DIGITISED PROCUREMENT

RESOLVED (Goondiwindi/Moree) that the information be received and noted.

CARRIED

CRIME FORUM

Meeting in Goondiwindi on the 29th September 2023 and BROC members invited to attend to tackle crime issues. There is a need for wrap around support for offenders when they come out of jail. The NSW Minister has visited Moree and is aware of the issues. Advocacy is for a judicial bubble to be put in place for the border regions.

LGAQ / LGNSW / CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

RESOLVED (Balonne/Goondiwindi) that:

- i) BROC write to the CEO's of both organisations extending a standing invitation for a representative from LGAQ, LGNSW to attend BROC meetings cc Cr Darriea Turley AM, President LGNSW; and*
- ii) An invitation be extended for an alternate delegate from the NSW Cross Border Commissioner's office to attend future BROC meetings.*

CARRIED

BIOSECURITY

Issues such as varroa mite and fire-ants to be included in BROC strategic priority areas under 'Disaster Management'. These current issues are being dealt with by QLD & NSW local land services and to date no cross border issues have arisen.

15 NEXT MEETING

Cr Dight thanked Paroo Shire Council for hosting this meeting in Cunnamulla and confirmed that the next meeting, AGM & Ordinary, will be held in Tenterfield (hosted by Tenterfield Shire Council) on Friday 10 November, 2023 commencing at 9am local time.

16 MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.06pm.