



MINUTES OF THE BORDER REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 247 ROUSE STREET, TENTERFIELD (TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL) ON FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 9.00AM (LOCAL TIME).

Attendees:

Balonne Shire Council	Cr Samantha O'Toole
	Matt Magin
Bourke Shire Council	Cr Barry Holman
	Leonie Brown
Brewarrina Shire Council	Cr Vivian Slack-Smith *
	David Kirby *
Bulloo Shire Council	Donna Hobbs *
Goondiwindi Regional Council	Cr Rob McKenzie
Gwydir Shire Council	Cr John Coulton
	Cr David Coulton
Inverell Shire Council	Cr Kate Dight (Chairperson)
	Sharon Stafford
Moree Plains Shire Council	Cr Lisa Orchin
	Kelvin Tytherleigh
Paroo Shire Council	Cr Suzette Beresford
	Tony Koch
Southern Downs Regional Council	Cr Vic Pennisi
	Cr Andrew Gale
	Dave Burges
Tenterfield Shire Council	Cr Bronwyn Petrie
	Cr John Macnish
	Glenn Wilcox

Also in Attendance:

QLD Police Service	Chris Mitchell
Member for Warrego	Hon Ann Leahy MP *
Cross Border Commission	Kalina Koloff *
	Kellie Urquardt *
RDA Darling Downs/South West QLD	Robyn Haig
RDA Northern Inland NSW	Nathan Axelsson *
LGNSW	Cr Darriea Turley *
	David Reynolds *
LGAQ	Sarah Vogler *
ARTC	Jo Tait *
ARTC / Inland Rail	Naomi Tonscheck *
Department Transport QLD	Peter Trim *
Telstra	Scott Mullally
	Ian George
NHVR NSW	Bethany Magill *
NHVR QLD	Jose Arredondo *
	Angela Slagter *
	Cristian Pardo *

Regional NSW
The Real Time Initiative
SWQROC

Tegan Hinchey-Gerard *
Graeme Brittenden
Simone Talbot *

* denotes attendance via Zoom

1 MEETING OPEN

2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor, Tenterfield Shire Council performed an Acknowledgement of Country and extended a warm welcome to delegates and invited guests.

3 APOLOGIES

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

<i>Bulloo Shire Council</i>	<i>Cr Tractor Ferguson</i>
<i>Goondiwindi Regional Council</i>	<i>Cr Lawrence Springborg & Carl Manton</i>
<i>Walgett Shire Council</i>	<i>Megan Dixon</i>
<i>Paroo Shire Council</i>	<i>Cassandra White</i>
<i>Moree Plains</i>	<i>Cr Mark Johnson</i>
<i>Member for Northern Tablelands</i>	<i>Hon Adam Marshall MP</i>
<i>RDANI</i>	<i>Russell Stewart</i>
<i>Member for Lismore</i>	<i>Hon Janelle Saffin MP</i>
<i>QLD Dept Premier & Cabinet</i>	<i>Matthew Gregg</i>

CARRIED

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MEETING MINUTES – 1 DECEMBER 2022

RESOLVED (Moree Plains/Southern Downs) that the minutes of the Border Regional Organisation of Councils Annual General Meeting held in Goondiwindi (Goondiwindi Regional Council) on 1 December, 2022 as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

4.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

CARRIED

5 CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Cr Kate Dight presented the Chairperson's Report.

'In planning this report I reflected back on 2022. What a land of extremes we inhabit! This time last year we were just finishing with the 4th flood for the year. As I write, most of our Council areas are alight with fire at some location, the RFS are doing an incredible job keeping our communities safe and we are all concerned for water supply and storages.

The Border Region of Council Organisation has had a busy year. We have been productive, advocating for issues encompassed by 4 main strategic pillars;

- ❖ Economic Development & Tourism,*
- ❖ Liveability,*
- ❖ Infrastructure and*
- ❖ Disaster Management.*

During my term as Chairperson, we have been streamlining and establishing direction and purpose for BROOC to make our organisation as effective and efficient as possible. Initially we constructed multiple areas of strategic intent but as the process developed, we have minimised these to those mentioned. The contribution from the whole group in supporting these Strategic Priority Areas (SPA) has been excellent and I commend and thank you all for your involvement.

We began the year at Inverell where we were fortunate to hear from the New England Tablelands Member of Parliament, Mr Adam Marshall. With NSW Councils significantly impacted by challenges of the NSW Health system, he made an encouraging announcement with the introduction of the Single Employer Model (Murrumbidgee Model) to provide health clinicians to our communities. BROOC has been advocating for more doctors and nurses to serve our regional communities for some time and to hear of this progress was very welcome. As with all these significant changes, implementation is still in motion and our advocacy for improved health services must continue.

At this meeting we also heard from leading arms of the SES which significantly progressed the flow of information for the Disaster Management coordination of services. This paved the way for the BROOC Disaster Management Conference in St George. This was coordinated by A/Senior Sergeant, Executive Officer, Dalby & Roma District Disaster Management Groups, South West District, Mr Chris Mitchell and was a highlight of the year. It uniquely brought together all key Disaster Management agency organisations and key personnel from both NSW & QLD not done so before (to my knowledge). The professional relationships and connections that were formed have become integral to the functionality of Disaster Management for the border regions. We are very grateful for Mr Mitchell's driving force and going forward we fully support the collaboration and hope that it continues.

In May we met at St George and were treated to a networking dinner sponsored by Leading Roles Recruiters which was a new initiative and one that I hope continues. The change in pre-school services at the border town of Mungindi was brought to our attention. I am very pleased to inform you all that due to the extensive collaboration of Balonne & Moree Plains Shire Councils, and support from BROOC & other organisations, this issue has been resolved and Mungindi has been awarded federal funding to build a new pre-school to cater for this demographic. Goondiwindi RC brought communication networks to the table and the Cross Border Commission has since funded a telecommunication infrastructure build in the region.

Finally, we were hosted by Paroo Shire Council in Cunnamulla in August. It is always inspiring to see how other Councils grow their regions and their new Hot Springs development on the banks of the Paroo River is fantastic. The revitalisation of the community after a decade of downturn is particularly difficult and Paroo Council is certainly swinging the pendulum in the right direction through lots of strategic hard work. It was very pleasing to formally welcome Brewarrina and Bourke Shire Councils to BROOC, taking our membership to 12. Now all Councils along the QLD and NSW border are represented via this Cross Border organisation which gives strength to member councils as well as to our collective advocacy.

We continue to hear regularly from:

- The NSW Cross Border Commission,*
- Members of State Parliaments of NSW & Qld, Mr Adam Marshall & Ms Ann Leahy,*
- SES, RFS, NSW Reconstruction Authority,*

- *ARTC & Inland Rail,*
- *The Commonwealth Office of Environmental Water,*
- *RDA DDSW and RDANI NSW, and*
- *Transport NSW & Qld Dept of Main Roads*

All organisations contribute to our meetings, and I thank their representatives most sincerely. The flow of information provided by them generates collaboration which is critical to BROC. By way of update, with the change of government in NSW in 2023, the Cross Border Commission has been undergoing restructure and there is a new Acting Commissioner, Ms Kalina Koloff. She has worked with Local Government previously and we welcome her to the role and to BROC, recognising that the Commission plays a critical role in overcoming the myriad of cross-border issues.

I would like to sincerely thank my Vice Chair Mr Rob McKenzie for his support of BROC and for my role as Chairperson and Ms Sharon Stafford for her meticulous secretarial services and coordination of us all. The organisation has undergone structural change this year and they have both been fundamental in supporting me to deliver this outcome.

I do believe we have an improved organisation which can efficiently identify issues, advocate for outcomes, and meet our community needs. The effort you all make to attend these meetings in person is valued and I believe makes us unique and effective. As always this is a team and I value the active contribution from you all. Going forward, I urge you to bring issues to the table, capitalise on the momentum that we have successfully built and utilise the organization to its fullest capacity’.

RESOLVED (Inverell/Goondiwindi Regional) that the Chairperson’s report be received and accepted.

CARRIED

6 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Audited Financial Report as at 30 September, 2023 comprises of the following:

- Statement of Income & Expenditure for the Period 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023.
- Statement of Assets & Equity as at 30 September 2023.

RESOLVED (Gwydir/Balonne) that:

- a) the meeting notes that the Constitution requires the financial report to be distributed 21 days before the Annual General Meeting and that this was circulated on 20 October 2023; and*
- b) the Audited Financial Statements be accepted.*

CARRIED

7 ITEMS LISTED

7.1 ELECTIONS

Election of Chairperson

Cr Dight vacated the Chair.

Cr John Coulton acted as Returning Officer.

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 Kate Dight was declared elected as Chair.

Election of Deputy Chairperson

Nominations were called for the election of Deputy Chair.

Cr Dight nominated Cr Rob Mackenzie (Goondiwindi Regional Council) – nomination accepted.

There being no further nominations, Cr Rob Mackenzie was declared elected as Deputy Chair.

Election of Secretary/Treasurer

The BROC Constitution states that the Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer will be the Councillor and staff delegate of the same council.

Accordingly, Sharon Stafford (Inverell Shire Council) was declared Secretary/Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Cr Dight resumed the Chair.

7.2 MEMBERSHIP FEES

RESOLVED (Gwydir/Paroo) that the 2023-24 membership fee remain at \$500 per member Council per year.

CARRIED

7.3 MEETING DATES & TIMES

Meeting Dates for 2024 - generally speaking second Friday every 3 months (9am local time)

- 9 February 2024 – Brewarrina (Brewarrina Shire Council)
- 10 May 2024 – Southern Downs (Southern Downs Regional Shire Council)
- 9 August 2024 – Walgett (Walgett Shire Council)
- 15 November 2024 - Goondiwindi (Goondiwindi Regional Council) AGM & Ordinary)

Meeting Dates for 2025 - generally speaking second Friday every 3 months (9am local time)

- 14 February 2025 – venue to be confirmed
- 9 May 2025 – venue to be confirmed
- 8 August 2025 – venue to be confirmed
- 14 November 2025 - venue to be confirmed (AGM & Ordinary)

RESOLVED (Goondiwindi Regional/Moree Plains) that:

- i) the meeting dates and times for 2024 & 2025 be accepted; and*
- ii) the proposed venues for the 2025 meetings be considered at the February 2024 meeting.*

CARRIED

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

9 NEXT AGM

15 November 2024 at Goondiwindi (Goondiwindi Regional Council).

10 MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25am.