



## BORDER REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS MEETING MINUTES

### 1. MEETING DETAILS

**Meeting Title:** Border Regional Organisation of Councils Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 10 April 2026

**Time:** 9am

**Location:** Paroo Shire Council Chambers, 49 Stockyard St, Cunnamulla Qld 4490.

**Meeting Chairperson:** Councillor Peter Mailler, Moree Plains Shire Council

**Minutes Prepared by:** Goondiwindi Regional Council

**Welcome by:** Councillor Suzette Beresford, Mayor, Paroo Shire Council

#### Attendance

**Attendees:** \*Attended via Teams

Moree Plains Shire Council	Cr Peter Mailler
Goondiwindi Regional Council	Amanda Martin
Gwydir Shire Council	Cr Sean Coleman
Bourke Shire Council	Cr Sally Davis Leonie Brown
Inverell Shire Council	Cr Kate Dight
Bulloo Shire Council	Donna Hobbs
Paroo Shire Council	Cr Suzette Beresford Martin Leech
Balonne Shire Council	Cr Michaela Christensen* Michelle Clarke*
Tenterfield Shire Council	Cr Bronwyn Petrie* Greg Sauer*
Southern Downs Regional Council	Cr Sheryl Windle*

#### Also in Attendance:

Qld Cross Border Commissioner	Bob Gee*
NSW Cross Border Commissioner	Kalina Koloff*
Department of Trade, Employment & Training	Matthew Gregg
Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers, QLD	Cassie White*
Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers, QLD	Kate Burey
Local Land Services	Rob Kelly*



### Apologies:

Toowoomba North Electorate Office	Trevor Watts MP
Northern Tablelands Electorate Office	Brendan Moylan MP
Bourke Shire Council	Cr Lachlan Ford
Gwydir Shire Council	Cr Tiffany Galvin
Walgett Shire Council	Cr Jasen Ramien
Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers	Hon. Ann Leahy MP
Member for Southern Downs	James Lister MP
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Sarah Barton
Bullock Hill Shire Council	Cr Stuart Morton

*That the meeting apologies be accepted*

Moved: *Kate Dight*

Seconder: *Suzette Beresford*

Carried

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Border Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held on Friday 13 February 2026 in Tenterfield (hosted by Tenterfield Shire Council) were distributed.

*That the minutes of the Border Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held on 13 February 2026 as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.*

Moved: *Kate Dight*

Seconder: *Suzette Beresford*

Carried

### 3. FINANCIAL REPORT

#### National Australia Bank Business Account

Balance as at 8 April 2026	<b>\$7.21</b>
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#### National Australia Bank Savings Account

Balance as at 8 April 2026	<b>\$27,538.62</b>
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### National Australia Bank – Term Deposit 42-388-8697

Matures 27 December 2026	<b>\$12,056.28</b>
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### Warwick Credit Union – Fixed Term Deposit 100005924

Matures on 22 April 2026 @ 4.25%	
Balance as at 8 April 2026	<b>\$12,510.27</b>

Moved: *Peter Mailler*

Seconder: *Kate Dight*

*That, the Financial Report be accepted*

Carried

#### 4. CROSS BORDER UPDATES

**Bob Gee, Queensland Cross Border Commissioner update:** Bob apologised for not being present but he is busy with his role in the National Fuel Taskforce. This has presented a huge opportunity for the States and Territories to come together which has been hugely successful and effective. COVID created the pathway and systems of government has responded well. QLD is asking for better transparency of public information from Chris Bowen's Ministry. Data is needed to understand the flow of fuel and know where and when the ships are moving into Australian territories. The Fuel market is dominated by the wholesale fuel market (80%) while the regions are relying on the spot market (20%) to deliver supplies. Consequently delivery into the regions is a pricing issue. It is really important that government understands the time frames required for efficient delivery which is a focus of inquiry at the current time, and the efforts of industry lobby groups to pass on information is very helpful. Eg when do feedlots need fuel etc, what are the minimum obligation requirements for the flow of fuel to ensure it gets where it is needed, what are the Council requirements of bitumen etc. Importantly, the message is, there is no shortage of oil particularly with Chinese and US supplies but pricing is an issue and it is escalating.

**Service Mapping** – Mapping of agency services for cross border communities is taking place and the State and Federal governments are wanting to learn more and see the outcomes of this activity. Mr Gee is starting to see BROC issues prioritised at these higher levels and the champions the collaboration with the NSW Cross Border Commissioner for the success of this prioritisation.

Health alliances across Qld and NSW jurisdictions are the greatest priority and enabling these organisations to have mutual recognition is paramount. It is encouraging to see that there is starting to be success with these alliances.



**Biosecurity** - Licencing for feral animal control is a priority. The Department of Primary Industries needs to consider cross border issues and this is a focus.

**Auto Number Plate Recognition (AMPR)** – new cameras are used for law compliance and economic reasons. They enable authorities to gather data and see where people are travelling along the road network.

**Skills** – Mutual recognition of skills is still a work in progress. Matt Gregg from Regional Leadership Network (RLN) gave an update on how they develop their programs. RLN is providing an excellent resource to help with getting BROC issues into government systems.. Matt wants to utilise BROC to understand cross border issues and priorities. The issue of mutual recognition of services has always been a challenge and RLN is wanting to help BROC in prioritising this issue.

The meeting was then invited to highlight their cross border issues of greatest focus. Triple zero call centres, licencing of tradespeople such as builders, electricians and plumbers, fire management with the RFS and disaster management and the Reconstruction Authority were all noted.

**ALGA Conference** – Bob advised the ALGA conference is on in June and is an opportunity for cross border Council members to come together. All BROC members are encouraged to attend the Cross Border Breakfast on the Tuesday morning of the conference and to capitalise on this opportunity to highlight issues.

### **Kalina Koloff, NSW Cross-Border Commissioner Update:**

Working with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and the standards authority regarding differences between jurisdictions with heavy vehicle inspections with no resolution yet. They are picking at the red tape and questioning if the standards are national why are they not the same in each state.

**National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)** – Cross border recovery systems are problematic. In an emergency it may be better to have the evacuation and recovery services in a different Local Government Authority.

The commission is very aware of the issues facing communities across the Tenterfield and Southern Downs Shire Council areas with the flow of disaster recovery monies for the fire emergency event of a few years ago and is working on these.

**Reconstruction** – There is a review underway of the cross border policy position for the Reconstruction Authority and the protocols for these issues. For the first time the CEO is wanting cross border issues tackled and there appears to be genuine motivation to write protocols for recovery and emergency evacuation. The CEO of Reconstruction NSW is sponsoring the cross border commissioners to meet with CEO's to draw up a protocol to be submitted for consideration.

The NSW fuel check app is having cut through and providing real time data for fuel availability.

Fuel check app has been added to Council Disaster Dashboards

## **5. STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA FOR BROC (SPA)**

### **SPA 1 – Economic Development and Tourism – Inverell Shire Council**



Industry/Renewable – Cr Dight informed that Stage 2 of the white rock wind farm is progressing. Stage 1 has been successful with great benefits to the community. Voluntary planning agreements have been negotiated.

The transmission line will be constructed in 2028 – 2030. The project will have a 5 year intensive impact. Cross border licencing of electricians will be of high importance and water availability may be an issue for construction.

Tourism – Cr Beresford advised that the tourism season was off to a slow start. Tourism is the Council's second biggest industry. The Motorbike Gymkhana in Eulo was down on numbers. The River Lights Festival is upcoming.

The map on disaster dashboards showing fuel availability was a positive.

The area is expecting many international visitors for the 2032 Olympic Games and Tourism Officers will need to collaborate with each other.

The BROC initiative, printed map "Cellar Doors to Sunsets", are popular; councils can order directly; if councils are running low or updates are required, they should notify BROC so updates can be incorporated into the next print run.

The map has been added to BROC website but Amanda is having difficulty getting it on the ATDW. May need to subscribe.

That BROC subscribe to the ATDW if necessary, in order to get the "Cellar Door to Sunsets" map listed.

Moved: *Cr Dight*

Seconder: *Cr Coleman*

Carried

Cr Petrie gave an update on tourism and the effect the fuel crisis is having.

Tourism/events impacts from fuel uncertainty:

- Motorbike Gymkhana Eulo was down on numbers.
- River Lights Festival upcoming.
- Autumn Festival had strong attendance despite some fuel-related cancellations; subsequent events were impacted.
- Gravel and Granite (bike event) was cancelled to next March due to fuel uncertainty.
- Show and Shine (May) was cancelled; visitors expressed concern about fuel availability and "taking fuel from locals."

### **SPA 4 – Disaster Management – Balonne Shire Council**

Michelle Clarke gave a disaster management update:



- DM activated with recent flooding along the Balonne into NSW; Cross Border Commissioners progressing recovery/evacuation arrangements.
- Planned September evacuation exercise: Mungindi to St George.
- Continued advocacy for a broader “border bubble” for disaster management (not just recovery/evacuation, but also communications and essential services).
- AusAlert test for Mungindi had no update; a national warning system test is expected in July (nationwide phone alert).

### 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

#### Options for a BROC Executive Officer

Cr Mailler initiated a discussion about the interest and options to fund an Executive Officer for BROC. An Executive Officer/Secretariat would enhance opportunities and provide clarity to agencies and cross border commissioners. Councils were not in favour of contributing any further funds in order to employ an officer. Outside funding would be the preferred option for this. It was suggested that a project manager may be a better option who becomes the default executive officer to provide continuity and consistency. The point was made that the best way to get funding is to attach it to an economic outcome. A project providing infrastructure or an economic outcome would be more favourable. To find a funding model BROC need to deliver with scope of works and relevance.

Project development: councils to start forming a “wish list” of projects aligned to strategic priority areas and submit ideas ahead of the next meeting; submissions to be collated and circulated about a week before the meeting. The purpose of this is to explore the opportunity of external funding for executive services for BROC and to make BROC more outcomes focussed.

Moved: *Cr Mailler*

Seconder: *Cr Davis*

Carried

There was general discussion around the view that incorporation for BROC would be suitable. This would allow the opportunity for project funding which would depend on project design.

That Border Regional Organisation of Councils investigate becoming an incorporated association in Queensland.

Moved: *Cr Dight*

Seconder: *Cr Coleman*

Carried



## 7. AGENCY UPDATES

### Rob Kelly Local Land Services

- Local Land Services (LLS) outlined its role across NSW: agricultural biosecurity (pests/weeds/exotic diseases), land management (native vegetation clearing codes, farm forestry), natural capital, on-farm emergency preparedness, cultural/heritage activities, and management of ~500,000 ha of declared Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) and stock watering places.
- The session was prompted by recurring confusion about who is responsible when livestock are unattended/straying on roads, TSRs, or private land, and how to act quickly to restore public safety.
- Under the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) legislation (referred to as PSLA/PSAB in discussion), both councils and LLS are authorities with powers to impound unattended property (including stock), but responsibilities depend on where the animals are.
- LLS permits relate only to authorised grazing/walking through TSRs; permits do not make LLS responsible for unattended livestock outside land LLS controls.
- For public roads, LLS is not a “roads authority” under the Roads Act and cannot act independently on roads without the relevant delegated authority; councils/police/road authorities hold road management powers.
- What LLS can do when asked: assist to move stock to safety, transport/hold them on a TSR with yards, and support council rangers to identify owners (ear tags, etc.).
- Private land: LLS has no lawful power to impound/remove stock from private property; they can provide advice and help identify owners.
- Impounding process example (Hilltops/Young): ~20–40 untagged sheep were impounded; after 7 days with no owner identified they were sent to market and sold under the Act.
- Regional contacts: Western LLS GM is Elena Compton; additional contacts mentioned were Jane Hutchison-Smith (North West) and Paul Hutchins (Northern Tablelands) as points to support collaborative approaches.

### Q&A: goats, pigs, tagging, and compliance pathways

- Rangeland/straying goats scenario (incl. suspected “illegal depot” with feeding/watering and inadequate fencing): LLS advised they can assist where goats are straying on roads and can be impounded; if there are depot/welfare/compliance concerns, police and DPI/Environment compliance pathways may apply.
- Goats are a pest species in NSW, enabling Biosecurity Act mechanisms (directions to manage/control pest species); if people want to keep goats for later sale there is a process to follow.
- NVD/vendor declarations: participants raised that stock cannot be legally transported/sold without appropriate documentation; LLS advised councils (as authorities) can move impounded stock using council PIC arrangements and note they are “impounded stock” being moved to a saleyard.
- Sheep eID/tagging was raised as potentially reducing unidentified stock problems; LLS noted non-compliance still occurs (some people don’t tag even cattle).
- Feral pigs: LLS emphasized pigs are a pest species and are controlled/culling is used; they discouraged domestication due to disease risks and noted testing shows significant disease presence.
- Domestic/free-range pigs straying across adjoining properties (unidentified but domestic): LLS indicated primary compliance power sits with DPIRD Ag & Bio compliance; directions can be issued to contain/fence/separate domestic from feral pigs (example given of a fencing notice/biosecurity direction in Northern Tablelands).
- Acknowledgement from attendees that LLS feral pig shooting has been “fundamental,” with commitment to continue when funding allows; sensitivity noted around operations near highways.



### 8. CORRESPONDENCE

#### Inwards

- Statement Summary's, Fixed Term Deposit - Warwick Credit Union
- Statement Summary – NAB
- Cr Lachlan Ford Bourke Shire Council – Wild Dog Fence
- Tara Moriarty, NSW Government Minister – Wild Dog Fence
- Public Lighting Code Invitation for feedback – DCCEEW
- NSW Cross Border Commissioner - Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan Input

#### Outwards

- Nil

Recommendation: *That the inward and outward correspondence be received and noted.*

#### Matters arising from correspondence

Nil

### 9. ACTION ITEM LOG

Recommendation:

*That:*

- a) The Action Item Log be received and noted: and*
- b) The current completed items on the Action Item Log to be deleted and the following actions be added:*

- Councils to submit project proposals/ideas to work on from current SPA's to the secretariat around 10 days before the 24 July meeting; secretariat to collate and circulate about a week before.
- Investigate the Incorporation of BROC in Queensland
- Balonne CEO to share with BROC the report on the economic benefits of wild dog exclusion fencing
- Update the website to clearly list current chair and deputy chair (without publishing personal contact details).

Moved: *Cr Mailler*

Seconded: *Cr Dight*

Carried



## 10. GENERAL BUSINESS

- MDBA review: Murray Darling Association Region 11 (chaired by Robert Hoddle, Gunnedah) is preparing a submission due 1 May.
- Request to councils: provide a short dot-point (up to one-page) summary of local impacts and proposed solutions to be incorporated into Region 11's submission.
- Timeframe agreed: work towards 17 April for those dot points (earlier than 24 April) given 1 May deadline.
- Guidance suggested for submissions: include "good news stories" and outcomes achieved; highlight how ongoing uncertainty is harming investment; focus on solutions.
- Mental health "pod" trial in Tenterfield: trial discontinued/moved elsewhere; delays in setup and technical issues contributed; users who accessed it were very satisfied, and it helped raise awareness of remote service options.
- Wild dog exclusion fencing: continued communication with the minister; a grant officer will explore funding opportunities.
- Insurance premiums: update on a Southwest Rocks initiative with JLT (Johnson Lloyd Thompson) proposing a community cooperative model for flood insurance (up to \$100k cover); seeking ~\$300k for a feasibility study; concept intended to reduce premiums and could be extended if viable.
- Drone trial in for crime in Moree has been a success.
- Website: recent updates improved functionality (minutes and map now uploaded); redesign deferred until broader decisions (e.g., incorporation/projects) are clearer; suggestion to add chair/deputy chair identification on the site (contacts to remain via the secretary).

## 11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of BROC will be held at Brewarrina hosted by Brewarrina Shire Council on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2026 at 9.00am (local time).

## 12. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.05pm

**Councillor Peter Mailler**

**Chair**