BORDER REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS MEETING AGM MINUTES

1. MEETING DETAILS

Meeting Title: Border Regional Organisation of Councils Meeting Minutes

Date: 9 October 2026

Time: 9.00am

Location: St George Cultural Centre, Wallam/Mungallala Room, 112 Victoria Street (next door to Balonne Shire Council offices, 112-118 Victoria St, St George QLD 4487)

Meeting Chairperson: Councillor Rob Mackenzie, Goondiwindi Regional Council

Minutes Prepared by: Goondiwindi Regional Council

Welcome: **Mayor Samantha O'Toole** welcomed the Border Regional Organization of Councils (BROC) to St George and thanked them for travelling to attend the session.

Chair Rob Mackenzie thanked the Balonne Shire Council and acting CEO Dave Burges for hosting the event and providing the meeting space.

Attendance

Attendees: *Attended via Teams

Balonne Shire Council	Mayor Samantha O'Toole Cr Michaela Christensen Digby White
Goondiwindi Regional Council	Cr Rob Mackenzie Amanda Martin
Moree Plains Shire Council	Cr Peter Mailler
Inverell Shire Council	Mayor Kate Dight
Paroo Shire Council	Cr Suzette Beresford*
Southern Downs Regional Council	Cr Sheryl Windle
Bullo Shire Council	Donna Hobbs
Tenterfield Shire Council	Cr Greg Sauer*

Also in Attendance:

Qld Cross Border Commissioner	Bob Gee
Acting NSW Cross Border Commissioner	Karen Minto*
NSW Reconstruction Authority	Linda Whitworth
Regional Development Australia	Robyn Haig*
LGAQ	Sarah Vogler

Apologies:

Northern Tablelands Electorate Office	Brendan Moylan MP
Bourke Shire Council	Leonie Brown
Gwydir Shire Council	Mayor Tiffany Galvin
Gwydir Shire Council	Cr Sean Coleman
Moree Plains Shire Council	Mayor Susannah Pearse
Moree Plains Shire Council	Ian Stoneman
Paroo Shire Council	Martin Leech
Walgett Shire Council	Mayor Jasen Ramien
Tenterfield Shire Council	Mayor Bronwyn Petrie
Bulloo Shire Council	Cr Stuart Moreton
Bourke Shire Council	Mayor Lachlan Ford
Inverell Shire Council	Brett McInnes

That the meeting apologies be accepted

Moved: *Cr Kate Dight*

Seconder**:** *Cr Samantha O'Toole*

Carried

2. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Can I start by thanking Mayor Sam O'Toole and Balonne CEO Dave Burges for hosting this BROC meeting and their staff for organising everything for today. The Border Regional Organisation of Councils continues to be a pivotal group to bring forward and advocate on issues that affect our families, businesses, communities, and indeed councils along our shared border. The delineation of one state to another, which at times is literally just a line on a map, has historically and unfortunately still remains a massive hurdle to jump for those who live on or near the Queensland/New South Wales border. Issues from small things such as when you can catch a fish, or how big it is, right through to health, education and policing. Ladies and gentlemen, it is our job to keep bringing forward the issues that make life hard for our border communities and persecute those issues with all layers of government and bureaucracy so as to achieve outcomes that benefit not only our residents who live along that border, but indeed those from farther regions of our states who at times get caught up in the lunacy of different state laws and regulation. To that end I must talk about our Cross-Border Commissioners. Firstly, I would like to take a moment and reflect on the great job our inaugural Queensland Cross-Border Commissioner, Ian Leavers, did in his role. Before the sad circumstances of Ian's passing he had pioneered and accumulated information from both sides of our border communities to help understand and then to advocate on our behalf's to the State Government and the many departments that preside over the issues that negatively affect our region. We thank Ian for his dedication in the role and know that so much of his hard work has been able to be passed on to our good friend, current Queensland Cross-Border Commissioner, Bob Gee. Bob and Ian were great friends and the understanding those two gentlemen had, has helped provide a seamless transition for the Cross-Border Commissioner. Thank you Bob for your understanding not only of our issues but of the relationship we had with Ian and the sensitivities that came with it. I'd also like to acknowledge New South Wales Cross-Border

Commissioner Kalina Koloff, and the job she did whilst in the role. We were fortunate enough to have Kalina in the role after the passing of Ian Leavers. That meant we did have some consistency and continuity whilst a new Queensland Cross-Border Commissioner was being found. Likewise, I would also like to acknowledge Kellie Urquhart who took on the role of NSW Cross-Border Commissioner after Kalina. That then brings us to the current Queensland Cross-Border Commissioner Mr Bob Gee. Bob has taken the batten left behind by Ian, educated himself on information left behind by his predecessor. He has continued dialogue with affected border region residents and also his counterparts in the New South Wales government. I have no doubt that with his experience, connections, common sense attitude and collaborative working relationship with his New South Wales cross-border commissioner equivalent, that we will see the results that will have positive flow on effects for our border region.

At this time it would be pertinent of me to mention New Cross-Border Commissioner for New South Wales, Karen Minto. Karen has already reached out to Bob and spoken about issues, getting up to speed on what this part of her massive portfolio of NSW border sees as the needs to make life living on the border less complicated. We welcome Karen and look forward to a good working relationship and positive outcomes. I'd also like to acknowledge past Secretary Pip Harris who took on the role with me when I became BROC chair. Pip continues to work with the Goondiwindi Regional Council and we wish her luck with the next part of her life as she is going to become a first time mum towards the end of the year. Thank you Pip for everything you did whilst in the role. Can I also acknowledge Peter Mailler as deputy chair, thrown in the deep end straight up chairing a meeting in Cunnamulla. Pete who literally lives on the border, has brought a common sense, lived experience to our group. Peter's personal circumstances have changed so unfortunately he will not be standing as a councillor for the Moree Plains Shire at the next local government elections and has made the difficult decision to stand down as our deputy chair to allow someone else to fill the position with the desire to continue with their local government commitments and therefore a seat at the table for BROC. As a group can I thank you Peter for everything you have done and we wish you well on your future endeavours with Claire and your family. Ladies and gentlemen, we have issues that we deal with All the time on our border and all the knock on effects that 2 separate states and legislations impose upon us. Something that has come out of left-field however and will affect our councils financially is the federal decision to change and cut financial support for Disaster Recovery Funding. This is totally unacceptable and typical of cost shifting undertaken by different levels of government. Thankfully as a group here but also right across our amazing nation, local government representatives have pushed back and our voice is being heard. Hopefully the federal government do a backflip or at least have some common sense outcomes going forward for local government. Inland Rail also continues to be a political football, one in which team "Regional Australia" has not been given full use of the ball. The decision to stop any further building of the inland rail line will have huge financial ramifications not only to our producers that were looking at utilising this tremendous asset, but to our road network and the extra damage that will certainly be taking place because of goods not being able to be transported by rail. Again this is something that our group will continue to fight and hopefully, whether a change in mind or a change in government may get better outcomes into the future. Lastly I would like to thank our Secretary Amanda Martin for everything she has done as Secretary and Treasurer since taking over from Pip. Amanda has bought a wealth of knowledge and commitment to the role cracking the whip on me regularly and as necessary. Mandy thank you very much for what you do and we look forward to another 12 months with you in the position.

Ladies and gentlemen I have been very fortunate to be your Chair for the last two years and with your support and indulgence, I hope I can continue in this role for another 12 months.

That the Chairperson's report be received and accepted
Moved: *Cr Rob Mackenzie*
Seconder: *Cr Kate Dight*
Carried

3. ITEMS LISTED

Nil

4. AUDITED FINANCAL REPORT AS AT 30 June 2026

The Audited Financial Report as at 30 June 2026 comprises of the following:

- Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
- Statement of Assets and Equity as at June 2026.

That the Audited Financial Statements be accepted.
Moved: *Amanda Martin*
Seconder: *Cr Kate Dight*
Carried

That memberships fees remain $500.
Moved: *Cr Kate Dight*
Seconder: *Cr Michaela Christenson*
Carried

5. ELECTIONS

Councillor Peter Mailler took the chair and declared all positions vacant.

Election of Chairperson

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

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

Cr Rob Mackenzie assumed the Chair.

That the Chairperson be accepted.
Moved: *Cr Kate Dight*
Seconder: *Cr Suzette Beresford*
Carried

Election of Deputy Chair

Cr Samantha O'Toole nominated **Cr Tiffany Galvin** (Gwydir Shire Council).

There being no further nominations, Cr Tiffany Galvin was declared elected as Deputy Chair.

That the Deputy Chairperson be accepted.
Moved: *Cr Samantha O'Toole*
Seconder: *Cr Kate Dight*
Carried

Secretary

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

Accordingly, Goondiwindi Regional Council was declared Secretary/Treasurer for the ensuing year. At this time position is held by Amanda Martin at Goondiwindi Regional Council.

MEETING DATES AND TIMES

Meeting Dates for 2027 (9am local time)

- 5 February 2027 – Bourke Shire Council - Bourke (Moved Cr Michaela Christenson, Seconded Cr Shery Windle)
- 9 April 2027 – Bulloo Shire Council - Thargominda (Moved Cr Kate Dight, Seconded Donna Hobbs)
- 23 July 2027 – Gwydir Shire Council - Bingara (Moved Cr Pete Mailler, Seconded Cr Samantha O'Toole)
- 8 October 2027 – SDRC – Warwick or Stanthorpe (Moved Cr Pete Mailler, Seconded Cr Michaela Christenson)

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

7. NEXT AGM MEETING

The next AGM meeting of BROC will be held at Warwick or Stanthorpe hosted by Southern Downs Regional Council on Friday, 8 October 2027 at 9.00am (local time).

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30am

Councillor Rob Mackenzie

Chair