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**MINUTES OF THE RURAL ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD AT BERANGABAH ON  
WEDNESDAY 05 MAY 2021 COMMENCING AT 11.08AM**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Cr Peter Abott (Cobar Shire Council), Cr Kate Winders (Cobar Shire Council), Bob Sinclair (Berangabah), Paul Whytcros (Kia-Ora), Mary and Phillip Bruce (Pine Ridge), George Milliar (Tiltagoona), Graeme Barton (Ours), Caleb & Joanna Deadman (Kaleno), Barry and Pauline Oliver (Kaleno), Nigel Vagg (Moolah), Ann Vagg (Moolah), Robert Vagg (Moolah), Stephen Roberts (Ashleigh Downs), Jenni Rogers (Kulwin), Andrew Paul (Red Tank), Diane Noble (Karwarn), Mark Neyland (Keewong), Reggy (Keewong), Scott Casey (Director of Infrastructure Services, Cobar Shire Council) Kane Kreeck (Road Works Manager, Cobar Shire Council), Kelly Buerckner (Cobar Shire Council) & Bryce Moore (Cobar Shire Council).

**APOLOGIES**

Cr Julie Payne (Cobar Shire Council) Justin McClure, Bill Ashby.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the apologies received be accepted.

*George Milliar/Kate Winders*

**CARRIED**

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**ITEM 1 – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**FILE:** R5-36

**Author:** *Director of Infrastructure Services, Scott Casey*

**Business Arising from Previous Minutes - None**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Committee adopt the Minutes of the Rural Roads Advisory Committee Meeting held on 9 February 2021 as a true and accurate reflection of the proceedings of that Meeting.

*George Milliar/Paul Whytcros*

**CARRIED**

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**ITEM 2 – RURAL ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – STATUS REPORT**

**FILE:** R5-36

**AUTHOR:** *Director of Infrastructure Services, Scott Casey*

**Item 84**

- Scott Casey- Council will fix grids and build up to standard, if sealing is required, we'll look at it. Kane advised it was put on the backburner due to dingo siren trial.

**Item 90**

- Complete- Remove

**Item 91**

- Bob Sinclair questioned Angels Pass what can we claim with flood damage? Kane advised we can claim money under flood damage for betterment works. Wash away at bore, gas pipeline on wool track does it need culverts?? Is Bryce inspecting all these areas. Bring the inspector out once, so longer process but better outcome long-term.

3 separate sources of money- Council funds, IRW or EPA (betterment).

Scott advising next year we'll be in a better situation.

Bob Sinclair asked do we need additional resources in Engineering department to avoid missing out on money available, advertised for project manager to free up Kane for roads. Scott spoke about challenges and Kane fixing issues onsite with Musheroo that occupies his time. Scott advised we can hold our heads above water for 5 months until the money runs out when we don't need additional resources.

**Item 96**

- Complete - Remove

**Item 99**

- Trial sites selected, installation to follow depending on contractor availability.

**Item 100**

- Work completed, gravel to go down next financial year.

**Item 101**

- 5 new bores, new bore on Pulpulla Rd, Possible on Belarboon and Bindi. SR12 bore pump removed and relocated to Musheroo. Distance is a killer and strategically working on securing more bores if we can. If water is available, we can save money and complete work faster.

Rigids instead of semi for water, turnaround time faster and less damage to road.

Scott Casey, we'll always listen to feedback but not always take it on board.

Action ongoing.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Committee receive and note the information contained in the Status Report.

*Bob Sinclair/George Milliar*

**CARRIED**

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**ITEM 3 – EXPENDITURE REPORT**

**FILE: R5-36**

**AUTHOR: *Director of Infrastructure Services, Scott Casey***

- George Milliar- what was the delay with Pulpulla Rd, decent chunk of capital budget should have been completed this financial year. Delays securing water access, bore application lodged waiting on results, great bore option. REF and approval delays. Crushed 60,000m<sup>3</sup> gravel which equates to 70% gravel required, laid 3kms gravel. Completion estimate of November 2021. 21 day on, 9 day off roster. Tolbra 2 graders completing project, via CDSC with resource sharing. Minor issues with GPS on graders, resolved now and work progressing. Surveyor issues with design. 10 km sections at a time.
- Andrew Paul- SR31 Gravel re-sheeting, SR32 historically had \$250,000 money allocated for re-sheeting but has disappeared. Barry Danson on the road completing gravel on SR31, questioned traffic is higher on SR32 than 31 why is budget \$150,000. Kane explained R2R funds the project, is listed as SR31 but will be on both roads. Total budget 300,000 to be spent on both roads, where gravel is required. Scott Casey -Capital budget is 12months, can't fix everything in a year but prioritise higher traffic roads and benefit to majority of community. Bulk of money will be spent on SR32, but also repair washouts on SR31.

- SR12 through the park 20kms needs reforming, basic road was graded last year but needs work again. Focus on heavy traffic areas. NPWS have been approached for access to gravel pit, Broken Hill NPWS have allowed other shires access to gravel in park. The section has been flood damage declared and repair works will occur next financial year.
- Scott Casey- Cobar has 4 grader crews, 2 on highways, Euabalong crew down south so one other crew to cover all areas. Contractors to cover extra works Tolbra, Mick Deppeler, Paul Pretty contract operator.
- Robert Vagg- SR31 residents being disadvantaged because other users have heavy usage and transfer the money elsewhere. Long-time resident regularly experiences water over the road and can't be accessed. Scott Casey spoke prioritise funds and transferred to other priorities. Flood damage works is government funds and can be used to immediately restore damage. Council approved 1.5million for grids and culverts, so we have the money if there are known problem areas to repair. We'll start putting in some grids and culverts to fix the issues, funds are separate from roads budget. Pay attention to local knowledge, waste when you fluff the road and don't focus on the drainage it defeats the time spent grading.
- Question whose responsibility is the grids, Kane Kreeck advised property owner is responsible for the grid. Dingo sirens Mark and Rod Marriot properties to trial. If sirens work, \$8,000 double grid is \$60,000. Barellan shire quoted 15k to install double grid. Concerns raised with long term success of dingo sirens; property owners have heard of cattle only being scared the first few times then siren becomes ineffective.
- Bob Sinclair- Cobar Shire council currently has more money than it has in years, on roads and in town due to Government. Huge labour shortage due to all the money being thrown around. In years to come the money will disappear so let's focus on getting our roads improved while the money is around. Scott moving towards having contractor's complete works when money is flowing, keep a core staff of grading crews.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Committee receive and note the information contained in the Expenditure Report.

*Bob Sinclair/Kate Winders*

**CARRIED**

#### **ITEM 4 – GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Idea of Shire putting down more bores sounds like a good idea but is it worth the effort for something that will sit idle for majority of year. Waste of money if we're not using landholders' water nearby.
- Roads we've got, is there an option to capture table drain water into dams instead of it sitting there for months after a rain event. Resource issues to investigate but Scott will investigate. Fit more works into program during winter when water goes further.

- Bob Sinclair appreciates non wool track residents taking the time to attend, are we applying again for further funding and can people present write letters of support. Last round application was unsuccessful, acknowledged as strong contender. External consultant engaged to lodge application, new working group established to prepare new application and make current. Take on board feedback from funding body to strengthen the application. Joint application with CDSC last time and will be again, Cobar Shire will be lead. Open options to Dubbo sale yards to increase keeping sales within state instead of carting stock interstate. Alternate route but it needs to be sold that it opens the state up.  
Work will continue the wool track regardless of application.
- Graeme Barton- investing money in gravel, do we have tools fit for purpose? Are smooth drum roller correct for use out here or should we be using pad or multi foot roller. Grader operators need to understand the value of gravel and not to take it off the road and push into table drain.
- Grid from Paddington what are we going to do, Kane advised whole lot needs to be ripped, can't just lay gravel on top in the ruts. Scott spoke about desire to improve works and leave a legacy behind. Million dollars of gravel in stock, extend time between maintenance grades. Better off doing 5kms perfect instead of 20kms, but Scott said it's better to have 20kms passable in lesser condition.
- Bob Sinclair - Council now understands the importance of crushing gravel instead of dumping uncrushed gravel that then needs the goolies to be pushed off and taking the good gravel along with it.
- Wool track application was initially 3 shires including Balranald, pity application didn't specify sealing wool track would ease traffic on Newell highway. New application will be proofread by all members involved, previous application was lodged in December, this time around we're preempting the funding and lodge prior than due date for proof reading. Possible to hand back the Wool Track to State Government.
- George Milllear on behalf of Justin McClure, Tilpa East side river road very badly rutted section before Tilpa weir, drainage is annihilated. Last bridge before Bourke boundary, couple of dangerous potholes that need attention.

**• THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 13:18PM**