



# **MINUTES FOR EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Greg Ingham  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD AT WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 2:00pm**

**OPEN FORUM****Public Presentations:**

*Mr Peter Rufford addressed Council in relation to the latest published report by PEECE Pty Ltd dated 02/09/2019. This report is a supplementary report to the previous report prepared by PEECE on the feasibility of upgrading the back road between Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri to a sealed standard.*

*The report addresses the issues raised at a community forum organised by Council. The report also provides a policy framework to adopt the Burranbaa Road route as the preferred route and to proceed with an application for funding from the NSW Fixing Country Roads program. In addition it recommends a number of initiatives Council could take to develop the road network in the study area.*

*The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting open at 2:02pm*

**PRESENT**

Clr Ian Woodcock (Deputy Mayor)  
 Clr Bill Murray  
 Clr Lawrence Walford  
 Clr Kelly Smith  
 Clr Jane Keir  
 Clr Michael Taylor  
 Greg Ingham (General Manager)  
 Michael Urquhart (Chief Financial Officer)  
 Jessica McDonald (Director Environmental Services)  
 Raju Ranjit (Director Engineering/Technical Services)  
 Bronte Kerr (Minute Secretary)

**ABSENT**

Clr Manuel Martinez (Mayor)  
 Clr Robert Turnbull  
 Clr Tanya Cameron

*(Clr Martinez and Clr Turnbull advised the General Manager prior to the meeting of their pecuniary interest related to the agenda and hence were not in attendance).*

**8/2019/1 Leave of Absence****Resolved:**

That the leave of absence received from Clr Cameron is accepted and leave of absence is granted.

**Moved: Clr Keir**  
**Seconded: Clr Taylor**  
**CARRIED**

**Declaration of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interests - Nil**

### 8/2019/2 Sealing the back road between Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri – Implementation strategy

#### Resolved:

Council confirm the implementation strategy of upgrading sections of the road at both ends of the road between Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri, commencing at the Collarenebri end, sealing north.

**Moved:** Clr Taylor

**Seconded:** Clr Smith

**CARRIED**

### 8/2019/3 Sealing the back road between Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri – Rational/Route/Initiatives

#### Resolved:

That Council:

1. Adopt the following three objectives for the evaluation of the road project and confirm that they are of equal value.

- a. Improve the transport productivity of farming activity in the study area,
- b. Provide a sealed road between Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri for inter-town and tourist traffic, and
- c. Improve access for farming families to town services offered by Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri, including medical, schools, off-farm employment and entertainment.

2. Confirm Route D (Burransbaa Road route) as the preferred route for a funding application to seal the back road between Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri as this route is low risk for Council and makes the greatest contribution to the objectives of the project.

3. Proceed with an application for funding from the NSW Fixing Country Roads program for sealing the preferred route using the Business Case prepared with the original feasibility study.

4. Proceed with an application for funding from the Commonwealth Bridges Renewal Program for the replacement of the Big Warrambool Bridge on Angledool Road.

5. Apply the implementation strategy of upgrading sections of the road at both ends of the road in alternate years. This would involve:

- a. Commencing at the Collarenebri end, progressively extending the seal north.
- b. Then Lightning Ridge end, due to the unresolved issues with the owners of Neirbo Plains, adopting as the first priority, sealing the Burransbaa Road from Angledool Road back towards Lightning Ridge to the boundary with Neirbo Plains.

6. At a future appropriate time, enter negotiations with the owners of Neirbo Plains to decide how best to address the impact on the koala colony on their property near the existing road reserve. Consideration could be given to realigning the road reserve along their boundary with Rugby and Burransbaa at that time.

7. Make a submission to the RMS to reclassify the road between Burren Junction and Angledool Station as a State Road for funding under the State Road Program. This route could be extended to Pilliga and Coonabarabran if supported by Narrabri and Warrumbungle

Councils. This submission will increase the chances of funding for the lower Ridge Road and Angledool Road from the Crossroads to Burranbaa Road.

8. Consider developing a road access program to improve the access to those properties wanting to offer attractions for tourists. This would complement the promotion of Lightning Ridge as a national tourist attraction. Considering the impact of the drought on farmers, this type of program could well gain the support of the State and even the Commonwealth Government as it would provide an opportunity for farmers to diversify their income.

9. Provide signposting in Lightning Ridge to define a heavy vehicle route, particularly for road trains, bypassing the main street for those vehicles that want to access the Castlereagh Highway via Lightning Ridge.

**Moved: Cllr Smith**  
**Seconded: Cllr Walford**  
**CARRIED**

### **Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 3:21pm.  
To be confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

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Deputy Mayor

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General Manager