MINUTES
Western Councils Forum – 29 May 2019

Meeting No.	5
Meeting	Western Councils Forum
Date	29 May 2019
Time	9.00am
Venue	Georgetown – Supper Room at the Community Hall
Meeting Objectives	To focus on the issues which will make a difference to our western council members

COUNCIL	ATTENDEE	TITLE
ETHERIDGE	Cr Warren Devlin	Mayor
	Cr Tony Gallagher	Councillor
	Cr Will Attwood	Councillor
	Mr David Munroe	CEO
CROYDON	Mr Bill Kerwin	CEO
	Ms Denise Knudsen	Business Manager
CARPENTARIA	Cr Jack Bawden	Mayor
	Mark Crawley	CEO
FNQROC	Darlene Irvine	Executive Officer
BURKE	Cr Ernie Camp	Mayor
	Cr Paul Poole	Deputy Mayor
GUEST	Mr Bram Collins	

COUNCIL	APOLOGIES	JOB TITLE
Croydon	Cr Trevor Pickering	Mayor

1. Welcome

Darlene welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained we were trialling a new format which was similar to a mini FNQROC Board meeting. Future meetings would be held just prior to the FNQROC Board meeting so that the minutes and actions could be included within the agenda to be discussed and or ratified.

2. Apologies

As noted above

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

No.	ACTION	OWNER	STATUS
4.1	Circulate copy of Arts Qld Presentation	L Richardson	Complete
4.2	Identify private sector organisations re possible funding partners	T Hall (Arts Qld)	On going
4.3	Work 1:1 with councils to identify Arts projects that fall within RASN criteria and/or other funding pools	T Hall	Complete
4.4	Follow up Standards Australia licencing with councils	A Hancock	Complete
4.5	ALL councils to provide key contact as champion of procurement documentation to A Hancock	ALL	Complete
4.6	Facilitate meeting with Ross Hodgman (TMR) post RRTG (10 Dec) to meet 1:1 with interested councils	L Richardson D Irvine	Complete
4.7	Identify opportunities to roll out operational contract training per council	A Hancock	In Progress
4.8	Questions re building legislation changes, FNQROC act as a conduit to Helix Legal to share information	A Hancock	On going
4.9	A Hancock to explore opportunities to transport tyres out of the region (Carpentaria and Etheridge)	A Hancock	
4.10	Urgently provide update re access to Karumba for scrap metal collection prior to wet season limitations	M Hayward A Hancock	Complete
4.15	Extend invite to TTNQ to 2019 FNQROC Board and/or Western Council meetings	L Richardson	Trying
4.16	Circulate TTNQ 6 Monthly Report to all councils highlighting key outcomes	L Richardson	Complete
4.17	Follow up opportunities to incorporate outback images at Cairns Airport	L Richardson	In progress, not there is one there now.
4.18	Follow up Carpentaria Shire re promotion of Barramundi Way Discovery Centre via TTNQ	L Richardson V Olesch	Complete
4.19	Follow up Hon Kate Jones MP office re regional visit in April 2019 re Barramundi Centre opening	L Richardson	Complete
4.20	Review financial and annual reports of Savannah Way Ltd to assess effectiveness re Board Membership	D Irvine	In Progress
4.21	Provide councils with more information in relation to baiting stockpiles (time frames), funding opportunities and transition planning.	T Sydes	Commenting on new legislation today. It will be available but you'll have to purchase it.
4.22	FNQROC to lobby LGAQ on behalf of Western Councils re baiting	T Sydes	Ongoing
4.23	Western Councils to follow up progress re finalisation of Biosecurity Plans	ALL Member Councils	
4.24	Liaise with LGAQ re regional approach to Wild Dog bounties	T Sydes	Ongoing
4.25	Provide T Sydes with contact details for Northern Gulf contact for inclusion in	D Bainbridge	Complete
4.26	Identify any new advocacy priorities early in order to develop Briefing Notes	ALL Member Councils	On going

No.	ACTION	OWNER	STATUS
4.27	Build advocacy narratives aligned to portfolios	D Irvine L Richardson	complete
4.28	ADD Dale Bainbridge to FNQROC ED Group database and remove Bill Kerwin	L Richardson	Complete
4.29	REMOVE Norm Garsden (Etheridge) from database and add David Munroe	L Richardson	Complete
4.30	CIRCULATE 2019 Calendar Invites	L Richardson	Complete

ACTION 1: Darlene to identify the boundaries of the Art's Qld silo trail project.

4. Presentation from Bram Collins on future of Savannah Way Ltd and collaborative direction on tourism.

- Savannah way not going as great as it possible could. Looking for a renewed commitment to tourism right across Gulf.
- TTNQ is focussed on Cairns and its members. 1% of their membership comes from this region, 66% from Cairns and the coast.
- If tourism is to grow we all need to work together. If we don't Savannah way will go.
- Tourism is the No. 2 industry in the Gulf and councils have made considerable investment in this region.

Savannah way is a long road; small councils contribute but find it difficult to see the benefit in their area.

- The job of the Savannah Way is to get them to our region. Then it is up to the individual businesses to capture them. Some of those people there are because of Savannah Way and local organisations.
- The trick is to get them to stop as they flow through the communities.

Savannah way is NT and WA - what is in it for us?

- Savannah way is a brand of national significance - in top 10 with Great Ocean road. Very well recognised brand.
- There is no doubt the action is in this region.
- Need to get the 7 shires from Cairns working together.
- Would hate to see the brand lost.

Savannah way and GSD and Savannah Guides used to all work well together. Need to get GSD to see Savannah way as their tourism arm. It needs to be run by tourism industry - they are the ones wearing the risk.

One issue was Qld Councils were propping up Savannah Way. Already committed to expense of the Barramundi Centre. Need to review the membership arrangement. Don't want to hear about Flyers at caravan shows.

How do we get the private enterprise more involved? If we have a Bram in every town it wouldn't be a problem. Croydon doesn't have any private operators - only council.

'We' need to be together on a shared vision.

Bram - Our RTO doesn't matter - we need to drive the change. Best outcome is that GSD and Savannah Way aligns - Russel and Sam not managing anymore. Would like Bronwyn to manage in future (Bronwyn is aligned to GSD).

If the seven councils had an integrated tourism strategy. There is a Gulf Tourism Strategy which we all had input into it. Relook at this one, don't rewrite one that won't be used.

Pre arrival tourism is what Suvannah Way do - advising to get here. Post arrival tourism is here; the tourism centres, activities, get some activity happening. Be a destination.

Events Calendar so there are no conflicts - Savannah way could coordinate this.

5. Strategic Development/Economic Development in the Gulf

Do we want to see Savannah Way Ltd continue?
Burke - Yes with limited budget - to keep it alive, through GSD
Croydon - Yes
Etheridge - Yes, as North Queensland
Carpentaria - Yes - as North Queensland unless they (NT & WA) are will to contribute.

RESOLUTION:
That Savannah Way Ltd should continue. It is suggested it is broken up to Savannah Way Ltd Qld, Savannah Way Ltd NT, Savannah Way WA.

This region would market Savannah Way Qld.

Where does Savannah Way Ltd Qld sit?
Burke - happy along side GSD
Carpentaria - used to sit under GSD happy for it to do again.
Etheridge - yes under GSD
Croydon - yes.

Savannah way to coordinate events calendar.

RESOLUTION:
Savannah Way Ltd Qld should sit with Gulf Savannah Development.

ACTION 2: Review Savannah Way tourism strategy - local tourism organisations and Councils – Darlene to discuss with Bram on the date.

ACTION 3: Gulf Savannah Development - discussion and direction forward with all councils needs to occur - this will be coordinated by the GSD Chair. They will have a meeting in Croydon within 6 weeks.

TTNQ or Outback?
Carp - what ever
Croydon - stay where we are
Etheridge - stay with TTNQ and hold them to account
Burke -

ACTION 4: Darlene to have a look at the Cairns airport and if the outback pictures are there a thank you be sent to TTNQ.

6. Agricultural Development

Issues with councils being able to purchase State lands to support development. Is it a regional issue? Happy to pay the value of the land but State is selling at a significant higher amount. (77 hectares at $300,000 which is not commensurate with local values).

RESOLUTION:
These issues to be dealt with as they arise through delegations.

Gilbert River well and truly on the way. Strathmore 53,000 ares under crops. To support this, their priority is Strathmore road.

7. Western Roads Upgrade Program and Gulf Developmental Road

Darlene provided an overview of the work she has been undertaking while the Regional Road Investment Strategy (RRIS) is being completed. To get an understanding on the safety of roads identified by member councils in the region she has assessed these as well as other 'like' roads in the region to get an understanding, based on data, on where our focus areas should be in the interim (noting the will take into consideration safety as well as economic development i.e. opening our region).

A copy of this assessment was handed out at the meeting.

FNQROC has identified reinstating the Western Roads Upgrade Program as an advocacy priority.

People coming out of Ravenshoe/Mt Garnet etc amd Charters Towers - advisory sign board to advise if the Gulf Developmental Road is open/closed and where.

ACTION 5: Darlene to raise the possibility of electronic advisory signs at Ravenshoe/Mt Garnet and Charters Towers to advise if sections of the Gulf Developmental Road is open or closed.

8. Airstrips and resealing Program

Federal government owned them all and then gave them to LG. Federal RADS is 50% with councils unable to fund remaining 50%. Etheridge has been inspected recently and they have to reseal it at significant cost to ratepayers.

Discussion re what are the plans for Etheridge airstrips - what do they want to aim for. Two narrow. Etheridge is in a critical place for aviation growth.

ACTION 6: Etheridge to raise at FNQRRTG re allocation of funds to regional and remote airports owned by councils.

9. Karumba Port

- Got to start promoting it.
- Railway line from Cloncurry to Karumba.
- Looking at transhipping. Ways and means of dealing with silting up. New century spent $7mil 7 months ago and it's resilted again after the floods.
- Would be a successful container export port.
- No Great Barrier Reef is a benefit.

ACTION 7: Darlene to ask Jason Sprott to meet with the Mayors re master plan being developed for Karumba.

10. Potential Western Mayors Delegation

Not supported at this stage, don't want to break up the work being done by ROC's. Wait until after meeting on GSD direction.

11. General Business

Income tax. NWQROC pushing for a 'regional deal'. Have bought up income tax**.** The more remote you are the more you get. Look at all the remote areas and reducing income tax by 10-15% (with a ceiling) you would increase employment (if given every week or fortnight it would be spent in the local economy - if given on an annual basis it becomes a holiday away). Could also attract the staff to the regions.

Data communication
Croydon on 3G - Normanton on 4G and Georgetown on 4G why. Work to be done between here and Mt Garnet and in Karumba which will allow Croydon to achieve 4G.

Shared resources
Should be looking at shared resources i.e. procurement, engineering, accounting etc.

12. Next Meeting date

2rd October in Carpentaria Shire (2 weeks prior to the FNQROC Board meeting)

13. Meeting close: 2.30pm

Action Items:

	Action	Responsibility	Status
Action 1	Darlene to identify the boundaries of the Art's Qld silo trail project.	Darlene Irvine	

Action 2	Review Savannah Way tourism strategy - local tourism organisations and Councils – Darlene to discuss with Bram on the date.	Darlene and Bram to organization date
Action 3	Gulf Savannah Development - discussion and direction forward with all councils needs to occur - this will be coordinated by the GSD Chair. They will have a meeting in Croydon within 6 weeks.	Cr Ernie Camp (GSD Chair)
Action 4	Darlene to have a look at the Cairns airport and if the outback pictures are there a thank you be sent to TTNQ.	Darlene Irvine
Action 5	Darlene to raise the possibility of electronic advisory signs at Ravenshoe/Mt Garnet and Charters Towers to advise if sections of the Gulf Developmental Road is open or closed	Darlene Irvine
Action 6	Etheridge to raise at FNQRRTG re allocation of funds to regional and remote airports owned by councils	Etheridge
Action 7	Darlene to ask Jason Sprott to meet with the Mayors re master plan being developed for Karumba.	Darlene Irvine