



MINUTES OF THE 64TH BOARD MEETING OF THE FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT GROUP

MONDAY 03 February 2020

Civic Reception Room, Cairns Regional Council, 119-145 Spence Street, Cairns

REPRESENTATIVES:	Cr John Kremastos, Mayor	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Chair Cr Peter Scott, Mayor	Cook Shire Council
	Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor	Croydon Shire Council
	Cr Warren Devlin, Mayor	Etheridge Shire Council
	Cr Annette Haydon	Tablelands Regional Council
	Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mr Sanjay Ram	Department of Transport and Main Roads
OBSERVERS:	Mr James Gott, CEO	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Ms Linda Cardew, CEO	Cook Shire Council
	Mr Bill Kerwin, CEO	Croydon Shire Council
	Mr David Munro, CEO	Etheridge Shire Council
	Cr Joe Paronella, Mayor	Tablelands Regional Council
	Mr Steve Wilton, CEO	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mr Leon Yeatman	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mr Chris Bradley	Department of Transport and Main Roads
	Ms Crystal Baker	Roads & Transport Alliance Rep (LGAQ)
FNQROC STAFF:	Ms Darlene Irvine	Executive Officer
	Ms Linda Richardson	Executive Coordinator
	Mr Lachlan Rankine	Reg. Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator
	Ms Amanda Hancock	Reg. Procurement Coordinator
APOLOGIES:	Cr Tom Gilmore, Mayor	Deputy Chair / Mareeba Shire Council
	Cr Terry James	Cairns Regional Council
	Cr Julia Leu, Mayor	Douglas Shire Council
	Ms Tanya Lindenberg	Roads & Transport Alliance Rep (TMR)

238 Chair's Welcome & Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The meeting commenced at 1:33 pm Cr Peter Scott, FNQ RRTG Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

239 Apologies

As noted

240 Presentation/s

Nil

241 Confirmation of Minutes

MOVED: Cr Devlin

SECOND: Cr Kremastos

That the minutes of the 63rd Far North Queensland Regional Roads and Transport Group held on 09 December 2019, as distributed with the agenda be confirmed.

CARRIED

242 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

Minute 178 & 169 – Department of Transport and Main Roads to work with Etheridge Shire Council with recommendations moving forward regarding give-way signs on narrow bridges on the road between Georgetown and Mount Surprise.

Cr Devlin advised that give-way signs may not be enough and guardrails may also be needed, after a vehicle went over the edge in the last couple of months.

Minute 186b & 198– DTMR to follow up with Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council in relation to the status of speeding signage as previously requested.

Mr Ram (TMR) to follow up and report progress back to Cr Andrews, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.

Business Item to remain on agenda until full delivery

Minute 197 – DTMR looking at improved signage in relation to the Bruce Highway (section South of Mourilyn & Tully) and Canecutter Way.

Business Item to be closed

Minute 234a – FNQROC Member Councils to review the correspondence tabled on behalf of Carpentaria Shire Council for discussion at the next FNQ RRTG Meeting

See Agenda Item 12.1

Minute 234b – Recirculate Carpentaria Shire Council correspondence re seeking FNQ RRTG support for ROSI Funding and add to FEB Agenda for discussion

Complete

243 Minutes of the FNQ RRTG Technical Committee Meetings

Minutes of the FNQ RRTG Technical Committee Meeting held on Friday 31 January 2020 will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting.

ACTION: FNQ RRTG TC Minutes (31 January) to be circulated with FNQ RRTG Minutes (03 Feb)

244 Recommendations from the FNQ RRTG Technical Committee Meetings

Recommendations as raised at the FNQ RRTG Technical Committee Meeting held on Friday 31 January 2020 will be circulated for endorsement via Flying Minute.

245 Works Program Update – Mr Lachlan Rankine

- L Rankine spoke to the TIDS Works Program spreadsheet, providing a status update on projects as at 20 January 2020, specifically noting those projects either experiencing under/over spends or postponements.
- D Irvine noted significant amounts of under expenditure or savings add administrative stress to expending TIDS by the end of the financial year. Many councils over estimate cost of projects, possibly to manage risk for councils and the group have held discussions on how to manage this process moving forward.
- Agreed that after this next program is adopted the strategy will be to include an estimate of the detailed design costs in the year prior to construction. This should allow councils to have a more accurate picture of what the cost of the project will be. Noted that the Board had previously provided RRTG Technical Committee with the approval to manage over/underspends to a range of 10% of project costs.
- The Chair asked if there was a process for cross-referencing or peer review within the RRTG Technical Committee and if not, this would be a good practice for the group to incorporate moving forward. D Irvine noted that the outcome of RRIS and identified priority projects within the strategy would provide a good cross reference for the group.
- The Chair noted that significant under/over spends will not be acceptable to RRTG Board and moving forward questions will be asked.

246 Update from the Roads and Transport Alliance

The Chair invited Mr Sanjay Ram, TMR to provide an update from the Roads & Transport Alliance.

2019-20 RTA TIDS

- Expenditure reports up until end December 2019 now distributed. Statewide year to date expenditure is \$26.9m, or 44%, based on the end of December snapshot (up from 30% as at the end of November).

2019-20 RRTG TIDS

- FNQ RRTG overall expenditure for RTA TIDS is 42% as at the end of December 2019. The RRTG currently has unallocated funding in 2019-20 (\$104,087); note this might not reflect recent program changes.
- Please continue to review your TIDS program, including forecasts and budget adjustments, and provide updates to your TMR District office. As we head toward the end of financial year, it is important the data is an accurate reflection of delivery expectations.

2019-20 SCDF

- The 2019-20 SCDF program is over 50% committed. Applications for funding, including indicative advice on applications your group intends to submit for the remainder of the financial year, are due by 31 January 2020.

Program development 2020-21

- 2020 LG elections 28 March 2020 with Caretaker Period to commence from 22 February 2020. Please ensure program approvals can be made prior to Caretaker Period. L Rankine advised noting tight timeframes the unendorsed program has been submitted.
- It is also noted that the State Budget has been brought forward to 28 April 2020. TMR will need to undertake a range of program development activities to support the earlier 2020 State Budget process (for example, reviewing project forecasts, updating project budgets and cashflow, and so on). Please continue to review and update your programs in readiness for the accelerated State Budget timeframes.

School Transport Infrastructure Program - Round 1 Outcome

- The STIP provides funding to improve the safety and operation of primary and secondary schools through the provision of new or improved infrastructure at schools and/or on the surrounding road network. The STIP budget is \$20 million over three financial years.
- The Minister for Transport and Main Roads approved the first round of the STIP Program in Sept 2019. The first round of grants supported road safety improvement at 8 schools with a value of \$3.051 m.
 - FNQ Douglas Shire Council received approval for a project at Miallo State School - Relocation of entrance to carpark, new line marking, signage and clear directions on use of the car park.
 - FNQ Mareeba Shire Council received approval for a project at Kuranda State School - Upgrade of signage and line marking in the carpark.
- The second round of grants are at the Minister's office for approval and the closing date for the third round of grants is 29 May 2020. Local Road Safety Managers in TMR Districts are the key TMR contacts for schools and local governments that are interested in the STIP.

Transport and Tourism Connection Round 2 - Outcomes

- The Minister has issued TTC Round 2 successful letters to the relevant councils.
 - FNQ Cassowary Coast received approval for a project - Cardwell Cultural Precinct Stage 1 to deliver a new flexible multi-use open space including a lawn area, plaza space, mini stage, mini amphitheatre, playground and pedestrian linkages.
 - FNQ Mareeba Shire Council received approval for a project – Mareeba Railway Avenue off-street carpark upgrade to deliver an expanded sealed, dedicated parking off Byrnes Street, at the southern end of Railway Avenue to cater for recreational vehicles, additional car parking and EV charging.

Regional Transport Plans

- In December, the final RTP for FNQ was released and is available on the TMR [website](#).

LG Heavy Vehicle Route assessment guidelines

- ARRB has developed a "Local government heavy vehicle route assessment" guideline for TMR/ARRB NACOE (National Asset Centre of Excellence). It is currently in review and expected to be released soon, with a series of webinars available following publication of the guideline.

Cycle network Local Government Grants

- Applications closed 20 December; the 2020-21 program announced through QTRIP publication.

TMR Staff Movements

- Mr Ram noted that Mr Mark Kelleher (ex TMR) has moved into the position as CEO, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council and introduced Mr Chris Bradley in the Acting Manager role with TMR.

247 Joint Purchasing & Resource Sharing

- 2019/20 program proceeding well. Requested Regional Resealing indicative programs for 2020/21 which will then go to tender (no further extension options as per previous years) utilising the new FNQROC Procurement & Contract documentation.

248 Road Safety

- Cr Devlin noted in relation to Savannah Way and Gulf Development Road and the wet season approaching he flagged the crossing at Gilbert River with TMR. Noted that Etheridge Shire Council had experienced more accidents on narrow bridges and highlighted the need for signage and/or guardrails to improve safety.
- D Irvine asked the question re flood cameras and the availability to the public. Mr Ram advised that this is not the case. Cr Devlin advised that checking the Hann Highway floodway's is becoming time consuming (ie 4-5 hours) and discussions with the Mayor of Hughenden have revealed that they have actually financed seven (7) cameras themselves and Etheridge Shire will be taking this item to the next council meeting.
- Under the FNQROC Joint Purchasing Agreement Cr Devlin raised the possibility of the region (a council) constructing Bridge Deck Units to try to address local crossings throughout Cape York and the Gulf; Tablelands Regional Council used to do this but they don't anymore. The Chair agreed to table this item at a future FNQ RRTG meeting for consideration.

ACTION: ADD Joint Purchasing Agreement: Bridge Deck Unit Construction to APRIL FNQ RRTG Agenda

2:10pm – Cr Bawden, Cr Andrews, Cr Paronella, Mr Crawley and Mr Leon Yeatman departed the meeting extending good wishes for upcoming Local Government elections.

249 Asset Management

Nil

250 General Business Items

- **ROADS OF SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE (ROSI) FUNDING PROGRAM**

At the previous meeting, the Chair tabled correspondence from Carpentaria Shire Council to the FNQ RRTG seeking support for the sealing of the unsealed sections of the Normanton to NT Border as the priority section of the Cairns to NT Border Corridor Upgrade and that the full allocation of the \$62.5 mil be planned and allocated to this section to support the benefits identified under the funding program.

The Chair advised, in conversation with D Irvine and L Rankine that the ROSI Funding Program is still in the consultation stage and has not been released as yet, however noted that any funding for Savannah Way would be strongly supported. As far as supporting specific areas that will not be determined until we have completed the prioritisation list as part of the RRIS.

The Chair asked D Irvine for any further comments, particularly in relation to the RRIS prioritisation model. D Irvine reinforced support for upgrading Savannah Way and agreed the RRIS will inform priority projects for the FNQ region, noted the draft is due end of Feb/early March.

The Chair acknowledged that councils are great advocates for their individual Shires but also noted it is important to think of regionally and not create divides. The intent of this group is to look at the overall regional benefit and when the time becomes due, there is no reason why the FNQ RRTG Board cannot support both councils in applications.

Mr Ram (TMR) provided an update on the ROSI process noting that Savannah Way Cairns to NT Border has support of the Federal Government and there is \$62.5m of funding allocation delivered in two (2) parts, the Early Works Package and then the Investment Strategy.

The Early Works Package includes two projects (\$22.5mil in value) on the Gulf Developmental Road to dual lane seal single lanes between Georgetown and Croydon. PPR's are currently being developed with approval hopefully May/June 2020.

Investment Strategy (\$40mil) is not sufficient to complete all the works on the Savannah Way and it will require consultation and agreement between the FNQRRTG and NWQRRTG on the projects to be delivered.

- **COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO TIDS PROJECT ESTIMATES & DELIVERY BY 30 JUNE 2020**

L Rankine noted that correspondence had been recently circulated to Councils requesting information relating to TIDS Project Estimates and Delivery (30 June 2020) and some responses remained outstanding. This information is critical to ensure funding accurately expended for the FY and projects delivered on time.

- **TIDS EXPENDITURE ON STATE ROADS**

Re the RRIS presentation (in FNQROC board meeting), Mr Munro noted a comment was made re the identified priority roads that Councils could prioritise for TIDS's and asked if that indicated a change of philosophy or policy of the FNQ RRTG that TIDS may be used for State roads based on the outcomes of the FNQ RRIS?

D Irvine advised any policy changes would be the decision of the RRTG Board and should Etheridge Shire wish to raise this item at a future meeting, it should be tabled providing Councils sufficient time to consider and allow informed discussion.

Cr Devlin noted there had been suggestions made to Etheridge Shire that they could take ownership of State roads in order to complete works utilising TIDS funding. With maintenance expenditure outweighing construction costs, this suggestion would bankrupt a Council that only receives \$2m in rates annually.

D Irvine reinforced the FNQROC RRIS will better inform the FNQ RRTG Board in best policy moving forward.

- **TCICA RRTG UPDATE**

Cr Scott advised that the formation of the TCICA RRTG group is not likely to happen prior to the upcoming Local Government elections.

- **LGAQ UPDATE**

C Baker advised on behalf of S Britton that LGAQ had put forward a budget submission for an increase in Statewide TIDS funding. Processing eligible expenditure claims as quickly as possible will be important in demonstrating strong Statewide expenditure profile to support the budget ask.

251 Next RRTG Technical Committee Meeting

L Rankine advised that a Local Government Heavy Vehicle Access Workshop is available for Council Technical Staff and held prior to the next RRTG TC Meeting on **Friday 20 March 2020** in Cairns.

252 Next RRTG Board Meeting

The next RRTG meeting scheduled in Cairns on **Monday 27 April 2020**, noting that currently Calendar Invites have been circulated to CEOs and Observers ONLY, with further invites to be extended to relevant Mayors post Local Government elections.

ACTION: Circulate invites to FNQ RRTG Meetings following Local Government Elections to relevant Mayors.

253 Conclusion

The Chair extended his thanks to the board and staff, in particular Lachlan, Travis and Amanda for their work around joint purchasing and resource sharing across this term.

There being no further business the Chair, Cr Scott declared the meeting closed at 2:20pm and wished all good luck in the upcoming Local Government elections.

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Cr Peter Scott

Chair

AGREED ACTION ITEMS

Monday 03rd February 2020

Minute Number	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
186b 198 & 242	DTMR to follow up with Yarrabah Shire Council in relation to the status of speeding signage as previously requested. Item to remain on agenda until full delivery	DTMR R Hodgman S Ram	S Ram to follow up
243	FNQ RRTG TC Minutes (31 January) to be circulated with FNQ RRTG Minutes (03 Feb)	FNQROC L Richardson	
250a	ADD Joint Purchasing Agreement: Bridge Deck Unit Construction to APRIL FNQ RRTG Agenda	FNQROC L Rankine L Richardson	
252	Circulate Calendar invites for FNQ RRTG Meetings to relevant Mayors following Local Government elections	FNQROC L Richardson	