MINUTES

Western Councils Forum – 2 October 2019

Meeting No.	6
Meeting	Western Councils Forum
Date	2 October 2019
Time	12.00pm
Venue	Normanton – Council Training Room
Meeting Objectives	To focus on the issues which will make a difference to our Western Council members

ATTENDEES

COUNCIL	ATTENDEE	TITLE
ETHERIDGE	Cr Warren Devlin	Mayor
	Cr Will Attwood	Councillor
	Mr David Munroe	CEO
CARPENTARIA	Cr Jack Bawden	Mayor
	Mark Crawley	CEO
FNQROC	Darlene Irvine	Executive Officer

APOLOGIES

COUNCIL	APOLOGIES	TITLE
BURKE	Cr Ernie Camp	Mayor
CROYDON	Cr Trevor Pickering	Mayor – No response received
	Mr Bill Kerwin	CEO – No response received

1. Welcome

Darlene welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Apologies

As noted above

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

	Action	Responsibility	Status
Action 1	Darlene to identify the boundaries of the Art's Qld silo trail project.	Darlene Irvine	complete
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	Held waiting on outcome of GSD study
Action 3	Gulf Savannah Development - discussion and direction forward with all councils needs to occur - the GSD Chair will coordinate this. They will have a meeting in Croydon within 6 weeks.	Cr Ernie Camp (GSD Chair)	Ongoing
Action 4	Darlene to have a look at the Cairns airport and if the outback pictures are there a thank you to be sent to TTNQ.	Darlene Irvine	Complete – outback photos of Undara at the Airport
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	Complete
Action 6	Etheridge to raise at FNQRRTG re allocation of funds to regional and remote airports owned by councils.	Etheridge	Still to be completed
Action 7	Darlene to ask Jason Sprott to meet with the Mayors re Karumba master plan in development.	Darlene Irvine	Ongoing

Action 2 –
Waiting on resolution of Action 2. In the meantime it was:

RESOLVED:
Seek funding for an Integrated Tourism Strategy including product development & LTO to deliver.

Action 5 – Ross Hodgman advised that a strategy for electronic advisory signs is currently being completed. Current options is the TMR website for road closures, which councils can directly link to. He acknowledges mobile communication to access this in rural and remote areas is an issue and advisory boards would be more beneficial in rural and remote areas than urban areas. (Political push would be supported).

Discussion identified that Charters Towers already has one. One should be located at Mr Garnet and Normanton, which covers Gulf Developmental Road, Gregory Developmental Road and Hann.

Action 3 – include electronic advisory signs in Mt Garnet and Normanton for Gulf Developmental Road, Gregory Developmental Road and Hann Highway in next State Advocacy brief.

Action 7 – KPMG is currently undertaking the Cairns and Mourilyan master plan.
Carpentaria advised that they have not seen anyone from Ports North in a long time. Need a way to increase use of the port thus increasing support services and economic development.

Action 4 – Darlene to follow up Ports North re Karumba Masterplan.

4. Quarries – Gravel Royalties – Approvals for Gravel Pits & Rehabilitation

Discussion had around the sudden focus on burrow pits and gravel pits, with bills being issued for royalties not for approximately 4 years. Councils do not believe it is just them; the issue would also affect Tablelands, Mareeba and Cook.

Action 5 – **Request some DG from DAF to meet with councils prior to the December FNQROC Board meeting to discuss gravel royalties to get some clarity…emergent vs construction, assign to pit, assign to purpose among other issues.**

5. Regional Spatial Data to tell our story

Darlene gave an early presentation of the regional data collected to date, and how we can use it to start telling our story, both regionally and locally. Data in the set currently includes mobile black spots and road crashes. DES interested to feed into the prioritisation of mobile blackspots

Action 6 – Darlene to see if we can get microwave stations (those on homesteads etc) (note: the taxpayer paid for these)

6. Update on Regional Road Investment Strategy

Darlene gave an update on the Regional Road investment Strategy and the spatial data sets associated with it. The final results will be added to our regional data set to tell our regional/local stories.

Draft strategy on track for the end of the year.

7. Federal delegation – November 2019

- Gilbert River Irrigation Project Fed 1/3 $450mil estimated construction cost.
- Gulf Developmental Road $50mil + Gilbert River Bridge ($25mil).
- Clarification of where the $62.5mil (ROSI) between Normanton and NT border is going.

Action 7 – Send copies of PPR's for Ootann and Richmond-Croydon Rd to Mark Crawley.

8. **General Business items:**
    a. **Charleston Dam update**

Cr Devlin gave an update on the Charleston Dam. Currently building and blasting. Trazlbat doing the trenching and is impressed with the unit which has cut through granite and includes a screening plant as part of the process. 40km of pipe was ~ $4mil.

9. **Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 3.45pm

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Action 2	Etheridge to raise at FNQRRTG re allocation of funds to regional and remote airports owned by councils	Etheridge	Still to be completed
Action 3	Include electronic advisory signs in Mt Garnet and Normanton for Gulf Developmental Road, Gregory Developmental Road and Hann Highway in next State Advocacy brief.	FNQROC	
Action 4	Darlene to follow up Ports North re Karumba Masterplan	FNQROC	
Action 5	Request some DG from DAF to meet with councils prior to the December FNQROC Board meeting to discuss gravel royalties to get some clarity…emergent vs construction, assign to pit, assign to purpose among other issues.	FNQROC	
Action 6	Darlene to see if we can get microwave stations (those on homesteads etc) (note: these were paid for by the taxpayer)	FNQROC	
Action 7	Send copies of PPR's for Ootann and Richmond-Croydon Rd to Mark Crawley.	FNQROC	Complete