# FNQROC WESTERN COUNCILS

## MINUTES

| Meeting No. | 7 |
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| Meeting | FNQROC Western Councils Forum |
| Date | 14 May 2020 |
| Time | 08:30am |
| Venue | Via GO TO MEETING (Video / Tele Conference) |
| Meeting Objectives | To focus on the issues which will make a difference to our FNQROC Western Council members |

## ATTENDEES

| COUNCIL | ATTENDEE | TITLE |
|---|---|---|
| ETHERIDGE | Cr Barry Hughes | Mayor |
| | Mr David Munroe | CEO |
| CARPENTARIA | Cr Brad Hawkins | Councillor |
| | Mr Justin Hancock | Director of Corporate Services |
| | Mr Mark Crawley | CEO |
| CROYDON | Cr Trevor Pickering | Mayor |
| | Cr Jono Evans | Deputy Mayor |
| | Mr Bill Kerwin | CEO |
| BURKE | Clare Keenan | CEO |
| FNQROC | Darlene Irvine | Executive Officer |
| | Linda Richardson | Executive Coordinator |

## APOLOGIES

| COUNCIL | APOLOGIES | TITLE |
|---|---|---|
| BURKE | Cr Ernie Camp | Mayor |

1. Welcome

   D Irvine welcomed members and observers to the meeting.

2. Apologies

   As noted

3. Introduction to intent of FNQROC Western Councils Meetings

   D Irvine provided a brief overview of the objective of the FNQROC Western Councils meeting for new members, noting the group focussed on the issues and opportunities, which could make a difference to the Western Councils.

It is often difficult to raise and discuss items adequately at the FNQROC board meetings so these meetings provide an opportunity to do this and those things which can't be delivered operationally are included within the FNQROC Board agenda.

Traditionally meetings held in region, providing councils with an opportunity to host and highlight projects and community. Once travel restrictions lifted this would reoccur, with the next meeting scheduled for 15 September and held in Croydon.

4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

4.1 Minutes of Meeting held 02 October 2019

Nil amendments

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes: 02 October 2019

| | ACTION | RESPONSIBILITY | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Action 1 | 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 |

- Croydon advised they are now members of Savannah Way Ltd (SWL)
- Carpentaria are waiting on their marketing plan
- Etheridge had previously written to the other councils about becoming an LTO but was no interest.

**Watching brief**

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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 |

Take off the action list at this stage.

**Item complete**

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| 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 | |

Update from TMR is that they are developing a strategy for the placement of electronic advisory signs. They do not have any funding for them and would welcome support. Waiting on a response on where this is up to.

**Follow up**

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| Action 4 | Darlene to follow up Ports North re Karumba Masterplan | FNQROC |

Ports North have undertaken preliminary investigations. They are talking with New Century and other individuals regarding their plans. At this stage, they do not know when they will commence with a Karumba Masterplan.

**Item complete**

Karumba is silted due to 2019 monsoon and Carpentaria are yet to hear back regarding funding to desilt the port

**Action: Darlene to see if she can find out anything regarding monsoon funding to desilt Karumba**

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| 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 |

D Irvine advised that this did not occur. Since the last meeting LGAQ have received a legal Opinion regarding this (Number L004/20). It is in their view that Council's gravel pits and borrow pits are not quarries under the Act.

There is legal argy bargy between the State and LGAQ, which has not been resolved, and they are still hearing about officers going out in groups and being very literal. Councils should expect another wave of this, a couple of councils have been PIN'd, not for the plans but for taking material outside their permit area.

LGAQ has a bit of work still to do on this, no resolution yet. They are trying to convince the department to go on an education roadshow.

There is an exposure draft coming, which will amend the Act. The department wants to include mandatory respiratory testing once every 5 years. When the exposure draft comes to committee, they then want to make a song and dance about it. They are also looking to see how they can bring TMR in on the fight.

**Watching brief**

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

Warren Entsch's office was to get back to D Irvine on this and the locations, (it is suspected this information has been 'lost'). We are however, a partner with QUT, JCU and Northern Gulf NRM on a project looking at the innovative solutions to some of our blackspots – as the project is looking for funding under the Monsoon trough Category C - it will have a focus on areas where it can assist recovery and resilience.

D Irvine also advised that she has provided a submission to the discussion paper for Mobile Blackspot (Round 5a) Program, specifically focussed on rural and remote areas where it is least commercially viable. It is hoped the above project will be able to feed into this program once released.

She also made a submission on the draft guidelines for the Regional Connectivity Program Grant, focussed around mobile and broadband connectivity. This has similarity to, but runs beside the Mobile Blackspot (Round 5a) Program.

**Watching brief and priority for FNQROC**

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|---|---|---|---|
| Action 7 | Send copies of PPR's for Ootann and Richmond-Croydon Rd to Mark Crawley | FNQROC | Complete |

## 6. Update on Regional Road Investment Strategy

D Irvine advised the board that the DRAFT Final of the Regional Road Investment Strategy (RRIS) is due at the end of May and will be circulated to the FNQROC Board and FNQ RRTG Board for comment.

## 7. Issues & Opportunities for Western Councils as a result of COVID-19

### 7.1 Flights into Cairns

Darlene advised flights into Cairns are down by 99.9% - no passenger numbers.

### 7.2 Drive Market

- TTNQ have launched the Drive NQ campaign with WIN TV, with digital/social campaigns launched 18 May. Drive NQ interactive maps are live on drivenorthqueensland.com.au . To be included, products must be listed with ADTW (Australian Data Tourism Warehouse).

Darlene spoke of the opportunities for the western councils having a captive drive market. Councils advised that there is not much point – you cannot travel into the 'outback' and the 'outback' cannot travel out. They will miss school holiday visitation opportunities.

**Action: Darlene to follow up with Mark Olsen to advocate for lifting the restrictions between Outback and the other regions.**

7.3 **Clarity required:**

a. What is a local?
    i. Can a Normanton resident go to the pub in Karumba?
    ii. What about the grey nomads who have been in caravan parks, as they cannot go home?
    iii. What about FIFO workers?

**Action: Darlene to see if she can get some clarity around the definition of local within the outback roadmap**

7.4 **COVID Recovery Plan? Opportunity?**

a. Watching brief for Croydon and Etheridge
b. Carpentaria interested, particularly as Karumba is hurting, this is their peak season.

## 8. General Business items:

### 8.1 LGAQ Rural Water and Waste Water Guarantee

Darlene advised that she personally supported the Western Alliance concerns. She has not raised this with FNQROC as yet as it is too difficult to have the conversation over video conference. She will raise it at the June meeting when we meet in person (mostly) so that a thorough discussion can be hard around the bureaucracy attached to this.

### 8.2 ROSI projects

Croydon seeking an update on when they can start ROSI jobs to enable forward planning.

**ACTION: Darlene to follow up on ROSI projects and estimation of when councils would be able to commence.**

## 9. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 9.15 am

ACTION ITEMS:

| | Action | Responsibility | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Action 1** | Update on electronic signage strategy from TMR | D Irvine | |
| **Action 2** | Darlene to see if she can find out anything regarding monsoon funding to desilt Karumba | D Irvine | |
| **Action 3** | Darlene to follow up with Mark Olsen to advocate for lifting the restrictions between Outback and the other regions. | D Irvine | |
| **Action 4** | Darlene to see if she can get some clarity around the definition of local within the outback roadmap | D Irvine | |
| **Action 5** | Darlene to follow up on ROSI projects and estimation of when councils would be able to commence. | D Irvine | |