



## MINUTES OF THE 67TH BOARD MEETING OF THE FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT GROUP

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**Monday 14 December 2020**

**Civic Reception Room, Cairns Regional Council**

<b>REPRESENTATIVES:</b>	Cr Brett Moller, Councillor	Cairns Regional Council
<b>CHAIR</b>	Cr Peter Scott	Cook Shire Council
	Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor	Croydon Shire Council
	Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor	Etheridge Shire Council
	Cr Kevin Davies, Deputy Mayor	Mareeba Shire Council
	Cr Annette Haydon, Councillor	Tablelands Regional Council
<b>DEPUTY CHAIR</b>	Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
	Cr Michael Kerr, Mayor	Douglas Shire Council
	Mr Andrew Hobbs, Acting DD	Department of Transport and Main Roads
<b>OBSERVERS:</b>	Mr Helius Visser	Cairns Regional Council
	Mr Bill Kerwin, CEO	Croydon Shire Council
	Ms Linda Cardew, CEO	Cook Shire Council
	Mr Sanjay Ram	Department of Transport and Main Roads
	Mr Graeme Nielsen	Department of Transport and Main Roads
<b>RAPT:</b>	Ms Tanya Lindenberg	Roads & Transport Alliance Group (TMR)
<b>FNQROC STAFF:</b>	Ms Darlene Irvine	Executive Officer
	Ms Linda Richardson	Executive Coordinator
	Ms Amanda Hancock	Procurement Officer
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cr Mark Nolan, Mayor	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Cr Dave Bilney, Councillor	Tablelands Regional Council
	Cr Bradley Creek, Mayor	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mr Robbie Chow	Roads & Transport Alliance Group (LGAQ)
	Mr Ross Hodgman, District Director	Department of Transport and Main Roads

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## **284 Chair's Welcome & Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

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The meeting commenced at 1:00 pm.

The 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.

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## **285 Apologies**

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As noted

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## **286 Presentation/s**

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Nil

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## **287 Confirmation of Minutes**

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**MOVED:** Cr Davies

**SECOND:** Cr Kerr

*That the minutes of the 66th Far North Queensland Regional Roads and Transport Group held on 12 October 2020, as distributed with the agenda be confirmed.*

**CARRIED**

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## **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES**

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### **Minute 263a- YASC to provide R Hodgman details regarding incidents at the site they are requesting guard rails for (including those that were not report to the police)**

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- S Ram (TMR) to discuss initiatives as part of Road Safety Package further with YASC

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### **Minute 278 – YASC to liaise with TMR Road Safety Committee regarding solutions to road safety behaviour changes**

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- YASC continuing to observe a disregard for the law in the community, including intoxication, speeding and car thefts. Looking for continued support in safety messaging. S Ram reinforced the immediate key is the TMR Road Safety Committee and potentially opportunities via the Traffic Advisory Committee setup in YASC to assist with safety programs.

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### **Minute 280a - R Chow to send Budget 2020-21 Factsheet to FNQROC for circulation with the FNQ RRTG Minutes**

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- Complete

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### **Minute 280b –S Ram to inform FNQ RRTG of the funding guidelines and regional definitions re \$500m Federal Road Safety Funding Program once released**

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- Pending. It was noted that each identified project needs to be delivered within the six (6) months and whilst focussed on State Government roads there will be elements when a LG road feeds into a state road, such as Yarrabah Road for example.

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## **288 Minutes & Recommendations of RRTG Technical Committee Meetings**

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Minutes as noted. Nil recommendations to the FNQ RRTG Board.

D Irvine advised that Wendy Hughes will be commencing on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and will initially work in partnership with EO to build up the technical knowledge to compliment her strategic knowledge.

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## **289 Works Program Expenditure Update**

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D Irvine provided an update of the current Works Program Expenditure noting the current status of individual projects as at 9 December 2020. It was noted that an update had not been received from YASC at time of circulation.

**ACTION:** YASC to provide a TIDS Works Update to D Irvine.

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## **290 Program Update from TMR**

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Nil

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## **291 Update from the Roads & Transport Alliance**

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The Chair invited T Lindenberg to provide an update on behalf of the Roads & Transport Alliance:

- Road & Transport Alliance Group met recently and the role of Chair has been handed to G Hallam (LGAQ) from Neil Scales.
- LGAQ Annual Conference held on the Gold Coast and RRTG Assembly held in conjunction (19 Nov). Presentation from the Chief Engineer for TMR on the use of recycled road construction products which received great interest from LGAs and has been recorded and available online (link previously circulated by T Lindenberg)
- TIDS Expenditure across the State at 29% at end of November, FNQ sitting on 60% expenditure which is an improvement on 2019. Do not lose sight of spending TIDS funding, particularly as Governments maybe seeking available surplus funds not spent, to support stimulus program funding.
- State-wide Capability Development Fund in a good position currently, training that was deferred due to COVID is now been brought forward. The mid-year review will be undertaken in early 2021. Traditionally any unspent capability funds has been redistributed to participating Indigenous councils, for example YASC benefited from additional funding in 2019.
- State budget has been delivered and QTRIP released. The State Government committed to another four (4) years of TIDS funding.

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## **292 Joint Purchasing & Resource Sharing**

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- 2020/21 Bitumen Reseal Program nearing completion with only Hinchinbrook left to do.

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## **293 Road Safety (if any issues)**

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- Cr Pickering thanked S Ram (TMR) for the assistance in the installation of electronic signage which is now positioned in Croydon. S Ram noted that this may be an additional solution for YASC. Electronic signage also records data on the number of vehicles speeding to further inform safety measures.

- Cr Toppin thanked S Ram for the assistance relating to the road widening on the Kennedy Highway and requested an update on the status of the Kuranda Range Study. S Ram advised high level document is currently with Executive Board for consideration and approval.
- S Ram noted that bridge inspections are currently been undertaken on the Barron River Bridge with no structural issues identified.

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## 294 Asset Management (if any issues)

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Nil raised

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# GENERAL BUSINESS

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## 295 General Business Items

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### Discussion Topic 29 – Cairns to NT Border Corridor

- In opening, Cr Scott noted he mistakenly believed the discussion paper had been circulated to the involved councils prior to the ROSI Consultation in Townsville which was not the case. Cr Scott reminded members that one of the key tasks of the RRTG is to ensure equity across all members.
- Prior to addressing the Discussion Paper, several members provide commentary relating to their council relating to this item, including:
  - Cr Bawden requested through the Chair to provide the board with background historical information relating to the origin of this item for Carpentaria Shire Council. Federal advocacy efforts were assisted by Advance Cairns and the office of Hon Bob Katter MP in relation to the sealing of the last component of the unsealed section (approx. 100km), of which most sits within the shire of Carpentaria and because of this Croydon and Etheridge shires were not part of the initial conversation, it is expected that everyone was going to benefit from this road being sealed. NWRRTG philosophy is to seal between communities, which is Doomadgee and Burke and that connections would benefit the region in relation to freight, education, health, etc.
  - Cr Pickering commented that from Croydon Shire Council it will continue to work through the FNQ RRTG with a focus is on the best outcome for the community with safety taking priority.
  - Cr Hughes commented from ESC point of view they are looking for clarity around the remaining \$40m. With regard to that statement the question posed is (a) what is the process, and (b) where is that process at for a fair and equitable allocation of funds across the 4 Shires which is open and transparent.
  - Cr Bawden clarified that the initial funding was \$63.5m, with \$23.5m allocated to be spent in Etheridge and Croydon Shires and a remaining \$40m to be allocated.
- The Chair invited D Irvine to speak to the Discussion Paper providing background information relating to road and funding history. D Irvine highlighted that there is two (2) issues at play and we need to separate them out. One being the remaining ROSI funding and the second is the requirement from the Federal Government asking for an Investment Strategy on the Cairns to NT Border Corridor from the RRTG. This investment strategic will inform the federal government on the investment needed and priority order for future funding opportunities.
- It was noted the process moving forward included:
  - a. The Assistant Minister requesting an Investment Strategy from RRTGs for ROSI corridors with priorities by end of March 2021
  - b. TMR/Federal Government to provide a proforma template to gather data by the end of December 2020 with RRTG's to provide completed proformas by the end of March 2021.

- D Irvine provided background information that formulated the basis of the paper, including original funding allocations aligned to the NA White Paper and noted the Discussion Paper is based on the whole corridor, outlining some of the considerations that will come out of it.
- The FNQROC Prioritised list of projects was tabled, noting the list does not take into account Lifeline Routes, Historic Flood Events, Road Ownership and Crash History.
- The RRTG TC next meet on the 29<sup>th</sup> January to review the list and put recommendations up to the RRTG Board for further consideration, noting 2 more pieces of information is required being Heat Mapping (QRA) for the region and Unplanned Closures from TMR which will help inform the next steps

#### **Roundtable comments/feedback:**

- Cr Hughes commented that safety is #1 priority and in the past TMR have set the rules around the division of funding and now the Shires are been asked to make the rules and ESC does not agree with this process as it has the potential to create conflict between Shires. Additionally, asked when the next round of funding is due and would this present an opportunity to add more.
- Cr Scott asked about interface between RRTG TC's and TMR. S Ram noted that roads cross 2 RRTG regional and therefore it is necessary to come to agreeance on priorities. \$62.5m is not going to fund the entire solution required, so need to be smart.
- S Ram commented that an IQWRAP approach will not be welcomed and it is not the role of RRTGs to inform TMR how to obtain Federal funding. D Irvine advised that we had already done that and much of that information informed the basis of the federally requested investment strategy. P Franks commented that IQWRAP was designed as a State based document and was only presented to the Federal Government, when not accepted by the State.
- Cr Hughes requested if messaging could be filtered to RRTG TC of rolling one program into the next to get better return on investment
- Cr Bawden recommended that Gerard Read be included to provide advice from the FNQRRTG at the next RRTG TC meeting (29 Jan)

**ACTION:** D Irvine to invite Gerard Read (representing the NWQ RRTG) to participate in ROSI investment strategy discussions with the technical committee

The Chair invited additional General Business items from the floor.

- Nil raised

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### **296 Next RRTG Technical Committee Meeting**

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D Irvine advised that the next RRTG TC meeting will be held 29 January 2021

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### **297 Next RRTG Board Meeting**

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The next RRTG meeting is proposed for **Monday 08 February in Cairns** (subject to raised items).

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## 298 Conclusion

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The Chair thanked members for their contribution throughout 2020 and wished all a safe Christmas.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2:00pm.

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Cr Peter Scott  
FNQ RRTG Chair

### AGREED ACTION ITEMS

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Minute Number	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
280B	S Ram to inform FNQ RRTG of the funding guidelines and regional definitions re \$500mil Federal Road Safety Funding program once released	S RAM	
289	YASC to provide a TIDS Works Update to D Irvine	YASC L Yeatman	
295	D Irvine to invite Gerard Read (representing the NWQ RRTG) to participate in ROSI investment strategy discussions with the technical committee	FNQROC D Irvine	