

# Minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group

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| <b>Meeting No</b>   | 71  |
| <b>Meeting Name</b> | FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group  |
| <b>Date</b>         | 2 December 2021   |
| <b>Time</b>         | 9.30am – 10.30am  |
| <b>Venue</b>        | Barlow Park, Corporate Conference Room<br>Corner Scott Street and Severin Street Cairns |

## REPRESENTATIVES

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|---------------------|---|--|
| <b>CHAIR</b>        | Cr Peter Scott, Mayor                     | Cook Shire Council                     |
| <b>DEPUTY CHAIR</b> | Cr Ross Andrews, Mayor                    | Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council      |
|                     | Cr Michael Kerr, Mayor                    | Douglas Shire Council                  |
|                     | Mr Ross Hodgman, District Director        | Department of Transport and Main Roads |
|                     | Cr Kevin Davies, Deputy Mayor (Via Phone) | Mareeba Shire Council                  |
|                     | Cr Bradley Creek, Mayor                   | Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council   |
|                     | Cr Annette Haydon                         | Tablelands Regional Council            |
|                     | Cr Wayne Bing Chew, Deputy Mayor          | Croydon Shire Council                  |
|                     | Mr Ken Timms, CEO                         | Etheridge Shire Council                |

## OBSERVERS

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|-----------------------|--|
| Mr Gary Rinehart, CEO | Tablelands Regional Council            |
| Mr Leon Yeatman, CEO  | Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council      |
| Mr John Gillespie     | Department of Transport and Main Roads |

## FNQROC STAFF

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|-------------------|---|
| Ms Darlene Irvine | Executive Officer                             |
| Ms Paula Power    | Executive Support Officer                     |
| Ms Wendy Hughes   | Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator |

## 344 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

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The meeting commenced at 9.35am.

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.

## 345 APOLOGIES

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|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sanjay Ram, Regional Director NQ | Department of Transport and Main Roads |
| Cr Trevor Pickering, Mayor       | Etheridge Shire Council                |
| Mr Bill Kerwin, CEO              | Croydon Shire Council                  |
| Ms Juanita Warner, Acting CEO    | Douglas Shire Council                  |
| Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor           | Etheridge Shire Council                |
| Cr Mark Nolan, Mayor             | Cassowary Coast Regional Council       |
| Cr Brett Moller                  | Cairns Regional Council                |

## 346 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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**MOVED: Cr Peter Scott**

**SECOND: Mr Ross Hodgman**

*“That the minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group Meeting held on 14 June 2021 be confirmed.”*

**CARRIED**

## 347 ELECTIONS

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Ms Wendy Hughes declared the Chair position vacant and called for nominations for the position.

**Cr Peter Scott**

**Nominated by: Cr Michael Kerr**

**Second by: Cr Annette Haydon**

Cr Peter Scott accepted the nomination for Chair.

There being no further nominations Cr Peter Scott was declared as Chair of RRTG.

Cr Peter Scott declared the Deputy Chair position vacant and called for nominations for the position.

**Cr Ross Andrews**

**Nominated by: Cr Peter Scott**

**Second by: Cr Michael Kerr**

Cr Ross Andrews accepted the nomination for Deputy Chair.

There being no further nominations Cr Ross Andrews was declared as Deputy Chair of RRTG.

## 348 MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS OF RRTG TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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**Annual review of LRRS Register for FNQ RRTG region.**

**Motion 1 – Updates to LRRS Register**

That the FNQ RRTG endorse the addition of 7 roads to the LRRS register, noting that the roads numbered 1-5 were identified previously through the RRIS:

1. Beantree Road (TRC)
2. Willows Road (TRC)
3. Mapee Road (TRC)
4. Musgrave-Strathgordon Road (CSC)
5. Portland Road (CSC)
6. Bamaga Road (CSC)
7. Channel Road (TRC)

[\(Refer to RRTG TC Minutes no. 117 – Pages 5-6\)](#)

**NOTES:**

*R Hodgman, TMR requested Bamaga Road – Cape York Infrastructure package be put on hold while S1 and S2 PDR upgrades and investment strategy are investigated. R Hodgman/Cr Scott to discuss the extension prior to finalising. No issues raised on remaining 6 roads. For endorsement.*

*T Lindenberg, TMR advised that roads that are eligible for ATSI TIDS funding can also be added to the LRRS network – it does not preclude them. Noting that nominating a road for either program does not guarantee funding. ATSI TIDS is application based and decisions regarding funding on LRRS roads is a decision for the RRTG.*

**Action:** R Hodgman/Cr Scott to discuss and agree general requirements for Bamaga Road – Cape York Infrastructure package prior to inclusion on the LRRS register.

**MOVED: Cr Peter Scott**

**SECOND: Cr Michael Kerr**

That the FNQ RRTG endorse the addition of 6 roads to the LRRS register, noting that the roads numbered 1-5 were identified in the Regional Road Investment Strategy:

1. Beantree Road (TRC)
2. Willows Road (TRC)
3. Mapee Road (TRC)
4. Musgrave-Strathgordon Road (CSC)
5. Portland Road (CSC)
6. Channel Road (TRC)

**CARRIED**

**Amendments to the FNQ RRTG Operating Guidelines  
Motion 2 – Addition of Budget Estimate Review Triggers**

(Refer RRTG TC Minutes No. 117 – Pages 7 and 9)

**MOVED: Cr Michael Kerr**

**SECOND: Cr Peter Scott**

That the FNQ RRTG endorse amendments to the FNQ RRTG Operating Guidelines as follows:

- a. That the FNQ RRTG Operating Guidelines be amended to include three budget estimate review triggers for the 4-year works program.
  - I. Trigger 1: all project budget estimates are to be reviewed by the nominating council at the time of preparing the fixed 2-year program component of the 4-year works program;
  - II. Trigger 2: before nominating for a project to be brought forward to accommodate underspends, councils are to reassess the estimated budget for that project; and
  - III. Trigger 3: any projects that have been sitting in the forward works program for 2 years or more are to be reassessed by the nominating council.
- b. That the FNQ RRTG Operating Guidelines be amended to include “if a project estimate needs to increase by no more than 10% the project doesn’t need to be reprioritised and stays within the program”.

**CARRIED**

**NOTES:**

*R Hodgman, TMR - maintain within program spending limit and acquit by 30 June. Will require careful monitoring of projects and timely reporting.*

## **349 WORKS PROGRAM UPDATE**

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Two Cook Shire Council projects were reduced in scope with corresponding TIDS allocation returned to the pool. Current known underspend of around \$540,000. Will face challenges backfilling due to supply chain issues and constrained council budgets. Technical Committee looking at projects that can be brought forward.

Etheridge Shire project 569 – will purchase significant material to expend allocation of \$804,864 this financial year. Designs are all done and ordered with an estimated start of April 2022.

T Lindenberg advised that up to 20 per cent of the RRTG's annual TIDS allocation can be used on non-LRRS road projects. Works on the State-controlled road network, including TMR LRRS, are eligible for inclusion in the RRTG works program, if deemed a regional priority by all RRTG members, noting TIDS funding allocated to these projects is not required to be matched.

D Irvine advised that historically the FNQ RRTG board has not supported TIDS going on to State Roads as:

- a. This results in a reduced level of investment as it doesn't have to be matched,
- b. There was a requirement for councils and TMR to continue their level of maintenance investment on LRRS roads – it was not believed the State had done this and as a result the LRRS network was deteriorating. They didn't believe funding should be attributed if the State wasn't contributing.

**Action;** Representatives to consider the impact if the RRTG agrees to spend TIDS on State LRRS for discussion at the next FNQ RRTG meeting.

## 350 UPDATE FROM THE ROADS & TRANSPORT ALLIANCE.

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- 2020-21 statewide TIDS Expenditure is currently at 25 % at the end of November. FNQ is currently at 37%, so tracking well at this stage. Second quarterly reports will be sent out early in the new year.
- ATSI TIDS applications are now open and all councils with primary access routes into first nations communities are eligible to apply. Applications close Monday 15 February. John Gillespie from the Far North district office manages the program.
- There is another \$600,000 in SCDF available this FY, with 26 projects already committed. Since the last meeting the SCDF application for the Yarrabah Transport Network Plan has been approved. I look forward to receiving the application for the airport project and would encourage you to submit that prior to the mid-year review.
- The Roads and Transport Alliance Board meeting scheduled to be held on Monday 29 November went ahead via FM. All board papers were noted and the decision on the Road Length Review is pending. LGAQ are seeking more information from the Local Government Grants Commission regarding the reported road length data. A decision should be made later this month.
- The Roads and Transport Alliance (RTA) Assembly was held on 25 October in Mackay in conjunction with the LGAQ conference and had record attendance. The annual progress report was released at the Assembly, thanks again to Etheridge and Cook for the stories on Battlecamp Rd and Strathmore Rd.
- TMR has two active transport related grants currently open for applications. Cycle Network LGG program and the Walking LGG program. Applications close 17 December.

## 351 JOINT PURCHASING AND RESOURCE SHARING

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No issues. 2021/22 bitumen reseal complete with the exception of Cook which has some prime seal to do; we are now looking at 2022/23.

## 352 ROAD SAFETY

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Reminder roadwork sites are open during festive period. People can be distracted and fatigued. Councils to make sure signage is in good order from a road safety perspective.

Shared learnings with safety leads of large projects has been a positive experience.

PDR Driver reviver – road needs more rest areas to manage driver fatigue.

Cr Andrews – queried options for marine safety advice with jetty at Yarrabah now close to completion. Harbour Master, David Ferguson is best placed to provide updates on marine safety.

### 353 ASSET MANAGEMENT

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Regional Aerodrome Audit sub-committee met Friday 26 November. Project on track to be delivered this financial year, on-ground inspections scheduled February/March 2022.

Cr Scott – leading into cyclone season, would like to see a regular assessment and maintenance program.

W Hughes confirmed intent to run audit project annually/bi-annually. Findings will assist with planned maintenance and associated budgeting.

### 354 GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

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- LGAQ Annual conference – 12 motions on roads, all passed.
- Federal election priorities.
  - \$800 million per year nationally for four years for the Roads to Recovery Program
  - \$200 million per year for five years to fix 'first and last mile' issues
  - Funding for a permanent bridges renewal program
  - Establish a \$3 billion road safety fund
  - Increase funding for TIDS to \$100 million by 2024
- Federal Budget has been brought forward to March 2022
- Cr Andrews requested an update on a Yarrabah 'Entry Statement'. R Hodgman advised that he has sought feedback, as the road is not a State road, an entry statement falls on the asset owner. Yarrabah could seek TIDS funding to do an entry statement.

### 355 NEXT RRTG TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 118

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- Barlow Park (Cairns) on Thursday 9 December 2021.

### 356 NEXT FNQ RRTG MEETING NO. 72

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- 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

### 357 CONCLUSION

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The Chair thanked members for their contribution. There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.20am.

## AGREED ACTION ITEM

Thursday 2 December 2021

| Minute Number | Action   | Responsible Person(s)   | Status |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|--------|
| 348           | R Hodgman/Cr Scott to discuss and agree general requirements for Bamaga Road – Cape York Infrastructure package prior to inclusion on the LRRS register. | R Hodgman/<br>Cr Scott  |        |
| 349           | Representatives to consider the impact if the RRTG agrees to spend TIDS on State LRRS, for discussion at the next FNQ RRTG meeting.                      | RRTG<br>Representatives |        |

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**Cr Peter Scott**

**FNQ RRTG Chair**