



MINUTES

Rural Lands Committee Meeting Friday, 25 February 2022

**MINUTES OF WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL
RURAL LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL DEPOT MEETING ROOM
ON FRIDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 9.00AM**

1 COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.00am with Cr White (Chair) welcoming those present.

2 PRESENT

Cr Gavin Baskett (Mayor), Cr Cathy White (Chair), Cr Tina Elliott (Deputy Mayor), Cr Anne Seymour, Cr Frank Standfast, Mr Paul De Launay (Group Manager), Mr Geoff Cox (Rural Lands Manager), Mr Dale Elliott (Works Foreman), Mr Peter White, Mr Brett Elliott, Mr John Paine, Mr Charles Dyer (Group Manager), Mrs Phillipa Whitehead, Ms Brittany Beetson (Biosecurity Officer) and Miss Chloe Cain (Minute Secretary).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Tim East, Mrs Nerida Henwood, Mr Simon Williams, Mr Peter Spence and Mr Doug Allpass.

3 APOLOGIES

22.02.01

Moved: Cr Tina Elliott

Seconded: Phillipa Whitehead

THAT the apologies from from Ms Taddy Howard and Dolly Grant be received.

CARRIED

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

22.02.02

Moved: Cr Gavin Baskett

Seconded: Cr John Paine

That the minutes of the Rural Lands Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil

6 SPECIAL GUESTS

Mrs Nerida Henwood

- Explained from a graziers prospective how the grasshoppers have effected their land. She also explained how the current grasshoppers are effecting the seeding and regrowth of the country.

Mr Tim East

- Spoke about his thoughts of how the grasshoppers are effecting future grass growth. Tim has received a large amount of rain this year although the grass hasn't seeded due to the grasshopper situation.

Mr Simon Williams

- Central mapping satellite goes over every 7 days surveying the land.
- Seeding issues caused by grasshoppers.
- Land owners will not get a resolution until they cover all areas.
- Mister spraying is killing them although they are returning because of favourable areas.

Presentation regarding the Diamantina area

- 2019 Moonsoonal event supported all the programs over the past two years although they are coming to an end in June 2022.
- One program left to cover the next 2 years.
- DCQ have been very dedicated to the Winton Shire.
- Very impressed with how proactive the land owners have been over the years. 350 land owners are actioning the issues.
- DCQ have been focusing on Winton Shire, Flinders Shire, Longreach and Barcaldine to knock out the core seeding areas leaving broad light areas left.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

Received a email from Taddy Howard requesting the next common muster date.

8 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**8.1 RURAL ROADS UPDATE**

Council group operations manager provided the group with an update on the Rural Roads:

- 196 grids completed, they have just started back at work from Christmas period. The grid contractors are employed through GBA therefore we cannot give them work directives.
- Peter White noted that the time taking to clean the grids is unacceptable.
- Currently reviewing roads from recent rainfall.

Brett Elliott

Complimented the current conditions of the roads and council are doing a good job maintaining them.

Cr Cathy White gave a briefing on the road data that has been collected on the Jundah road.

8.2 STOCK ROUTE UPDATE

Council Rural Service Manager provided the group with an update on the Stock Routes Department:

- Currently completing funding work.
- Awaiting link slabs to arrive for the troughs.
- Have not applied for any state funding due to still completing current.
- One job has been removed from funding works due to not having the correct measurements.
- Sprayign has been ongoing.
- Common muster still cannot happen due to the policy needing to be changed and awaiting Stock Squad to conduct the muster as it will be a forced muster.

8.3 STOCK ROUTE POLICY

- Cr Gavin Baskett gave a verbal update regarding the 8 recommendations that are going through parliament the week to be decided.
- LGAQ – 5 options to increase the fees.

9 ACTION ITEMS

Action	Person Responsible	Date Raised	Update
Making sure Council employees are aware of Land owners Biosecurity Plans	RSM	01/03/2020	Ongoing
Education for Council employees of land care and grids when constructing roads	DOW	25/02/2022	Ongoing
Organise Erosion Workshop	DOW	25/02/2022	To Be Planned
Take Draft Good Neighbour Policy to Council	RSM	12/02/2021	In draft mode
Public Town Common Users Meeting	RSM	13/08/2021	Not until March 2022

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Cathy White

- Concerned about the rural addressing signs.

Cr Gavin Baskett

- Advised Cr White that there is money in the budget to update the rural addressing signs and provide emergency services with IPads.
- National Resilience and Recovery Agency Board have a working group up and running in conjunction with DAF.
- Received information from Jenny Neilson regarding emergency approved chemical. As other chemicals are tied up with the local commissions and not available for commercial sale due to the harm caused to other insects.
- 77 Water agreements have been sent out and only 5 returned.

John Paine

- Large grasshoppers arrived in October 2021 and have hung around until the recent rainfall. Have spotted some large grasshoppers after the recent rain.
- Shared his concerns with the exclusion fencing that has been put up on his boundary, not to high standards.

Phillipa Whitehead

- Have discovered that a different species of grasshoppers on their land that don't fly. Although they only ate certain parts of there paddocks.
- Recently spotted the little brown grasshoppers.

Brett Elliott

- A rat plague cleaned out the grasshoppers.
- Found that the grasshoppers like the shorter grass more than the long thick patches.
- 2008-2022 the grasshoppers numbers haven't changed.
- Noticed the grass did not grow back in a paddock that had a large number of grasshoppers over the years.
- Nargon access road has one creek crossing that needs a base in the bottom of the creek.

Peter White

- Noticed the grasshoppers arrive one week before it rains.
- Has concerns regarding the Fermoy access road being graded and has found gates left open after the contractors have been through.

Cr Tina Elliott

- Suggested that the community looked into running a campaign for awareness of rubber vine.

Simon Williams

- A new chemical has been released through BAYA trials although it is looking very successful.
- Struggling with land owner participation in prickly acacia containment although the programs and training are on offer.

Cr Anne Seymour

- Questioned why the Indian Lover Grass is slashed on the side of the road and not sprayed?

Cr Frank Standfast

- Explained the side of the road is not sprayed as it is an Environmental issue.
- Rotary has concerns as it is a fire hazard.

Geoff Cox

- Rural Lands are investigating Ballistic Injection Training to offer to rural land holders.

Departure: Mr Paul De Launay departed the meeting at 10:37am

The Meeting closed at 10.49am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Rural Lands Committee held on .

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CHAIRPERSON