

**Winton Shire Council
Rural Lands and Agriculture
Advisory Committee Meeting
held at the Neighbourhood Centre Boardroom on
Wednesday, 21 August 2024 at 2:01pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Shane Hume (Queensland National Parks & Wildlife Service), Mr Mel Elliott (Rural Business Representative), Ms Sara Elliott (Community Member), Mr Ernie Ellis (Community Member), Mr John Paine (Rural Representative) and Mrs Phillipa Whitehead (Rural Representative).

PRESENT

Ms Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma (Executive Director – North Region Water Resource Management), Mr John Ritchie (Guest), Cr Julie Dorries (Chair), Cr Tina Elliott and Mrs Kristi Minehan (Minute Secretary).

APOLOGIES

Mayor Cathy White, Cr Adrian Lenton (Deputy Chair), Mr David Birchmore (Rural Representative), Ms Adele Pentland (Wild Dog Management Working Group Representative).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2024

No changes required

GENERAL BUSINESS

Business arising out of previous meeting

Follow up required to determine if letters have been written.

Has the boundary fence with Bladensburg National Park been repaired? QNPWS advised they will investigate this.



Visitors from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water – Georgina / Diamantina Water Planning Team.

Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma, Executive Director Water Resource Management and
John Ritchie, Director Water Planning and Science.

Presentation and discussion

The departmental officers provided a PowerPoint presentation. Open discussion around the room to better understand each person's interest in today's presentation.

Question regarding whether additional interaction – to get back to the visitors in relation to whether it requires further consultation, particularly as no substantive change is being proposed.

Feedback welcome – that no changes, or particular change, are required. Preferably submit it in writing.

Guests departed.

Further conversation within the Committee regarding monitoring stations. Other rivers have monitoring stations about every 50 kms, the Diamantina in our area has them about every 500 kms so there is a query whether they are serious about monitoring water flows in the Winton Shire catchment. What data do they have in order to make decisions.

Are not able to tell whether or not roads are closed as there are not enough monitoring stations to capture the data, nor is there data to inform when water is likely to arrive at Winton. Discussion about how representations can be made and what people should be involved.

Invitation should be sent to those that are affected.

Email the presentation to committee members.



RECOMMENDATION STATUS

A) Land acquisition

The Deputy General from the Department came out for the Opal Festival and visited Opalton and they were made aware of the situation. Further meetings with the Department are occurring by RAPAD. Still talking with the departments involved.

B) Grids Policy

Discussion regarding number of grids across particular properties and who uses them. Grids for people's convenience and the land holder wears the cost. A lot of expense for other's convenience.

250 grids in the Shire – policy is there mostly for replacement of grids. Replaced on road priority and condition of the grid. \$20k for a grid – just a grid. \$37k to purchase a 100km / hour grid – grids need to meet a standard. Some are \$50k (double grid on bitumen).

Grid back to gate – no policy in place at this time. If unable to be replaced, then options need to be discussed.

What are the categories of road? Council does have that information.

The old policy was that Winton Shire Council took ownership, not the new policy. Legal advice is that Winton Shire Council cannot own it. Landholders do put dirt there due to make them safer.

Historically, 20-30 were owned by Council and the rest owned by land holders. Cleaning of grids has also been disputed between Council and the land holder.

Policy is up for review. Legal advice to be considered by Council. Feedback is that the landholder should not be up for the full cost of the grid, particularly on high use road (for example, the Jundah Road).

Whilst it is acceptable to leave the old grid on site, it should not be buried as it can be hazardous to landholders and road users. Council could either remove or be given to the land holder if they prefer.

Perhaps call a meeting with land owner's involved, or other way of obtaining feedback. Perhaps only talk to those that are being affected (5 grids per year over the next 5 years).

Needs to be done on a grid by grid basis – Depends on the standard of the road and the standard of the grid required.

PLANNING OUTCOMES

A) Land purchases

The protection of the mining area – talking about how this was being implemented (RAPAD discussion).

B) Alternate energy sources

Have been told it was impractical due to the distance to get the energy back to the grid. RAPAD situational analysis, because there is only a 66Kv line from Hughenden to Winton – not viable due to volume capability.



OTHER BUSINESS

Common Muster – can that be done next month (September)?

There is a little dam on the common that is starting to bog cattle (Teaspoon) may need fencing.

Rural fire people were to come to the Local Disaster Management Group and then have a meeting with all stakeholders. Planned. Cr Dorries will provide the timeline.

Fence on the park and the town common – Q.NPWS does have a Good Neighbour Policy. Under the Nature Conservation Act it is an offence to knowingly allow cattle into a protected estate – technically the people who own the cattle can be charged. Therefore, the fence does need to be repaired – it is not the obligation of the Park to build the fence. The fence will be repaired now it's known.

150th year plaque – any ideas about what it should be mounted on. Suggestions welcome.

Turnoff on the Belmont access of the bitumen is very steep – truck bullbar is hitting it – when the shoulder was done was not done well. Should be submitted by Snap Send Solve – direct line into Works. He will try that.

The meeting closed at 3.44pm

NEXT MEETING DATE

Ordinary meeting to be held on 27 November 2024

