



## **MINUTES OF**

# **TSC (SECTION 355) DOWNS TO RIVERS ACTION COMMITTEE**

## **FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2014**

MINUTES OF THE **TSC (Section 355) Downs to Rivers Action Committee** OF TENTERFIELD SHIRE held at the Legume Community Hall, Acacia Street, Legume on Friday 14 February 2014 commencing at 10.30 am

### **ATTENDANCE**

Cr Neil Meiklejohn (Chairperson)  
Cr Peter Petty (Mayor – Tenterfield Shire Council)  
Cr Gary Verri (Tenterfield Shire Council)  
Cr Ernie Bennett (Mayor – Richmond Valley)  
Cr Lindsay Passfield (Kyogle Council)  
Glen Lamb (Legume Progress Assoc)  
Geoff Hamilton (Legume NSW Farmers)  
Gary Murphy (Engineer - Richmond Valley Council)  
Peter See (Engineer -Southern Downs Regional Council)  
Patrick Murphy (Scenic Rim Regional Council)  
Kerry Brown (Urbenville Progress Assoc)  
Andrew Peterson (Killarney Co-op)  
John Alexander (RMS)  
Julie Rhodes (Office of Hon Kevin Hogan - Member for Page)  
Hon Thomas George MP (Member for Lismore)  
Jeremy Sollars (Warwick Daily News)  
Dennis Gascoigne (Engineer - Tenterfield Shire Council)  
Lotta Jackson (General Manager – Tenterfield Shire Council)  
Noelene Hyde (Exec Assist - Tenterfield Shire Council)

*Clause 254(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 requires that the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment are recorded and shown in the Minutes of the meeting.*

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies received and accepted from Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Hon Adam Marshall MP, Hon Lawrence Springborg MP, Hon Bruce Scott MP, Hon Kevin Hogan MP, Mr Steve Toms (Cross Border Commissioner), Mr Wade Lewis (Director Intergovernmental Relations, QLD Dept of Premier & Cabinet), Mayor Jenny Dowell, Mr Jim Hurley, Mr Jim Peterson, Mr Pat Brosnan, Mr George English.

## **PRESENTATION**

Mr Dennis Wagner delivered a presentation on the development and construction of the Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport and Industrial Area and the opportunities this development presents for communities and business in the regions around Toowoomba.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the TSC (Section 355) Downs to Rivers Action Committee meeting held on Friday 29 November 2013, as circulated, be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings of the meeting.

(Peter Petty/Gary Verri)

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **1. Invitation to Attend Meeting**

- Toowoomba Regional Council – have advised that they are unable to attend the meetings but would like Minutes etc to be forwarded.
- NSW Cross Border Commissioner (Mr Steve Toms) and QLD Counterpart (Mr Wade Lewis) – both have given apologies for this meeting but have requested that Minutes etc be forwarded.

### **2. Proposals for Rebranding DTRAC**

Hon Thomas George MP stressed the need for a name change as “DTRAC” does not provide an overview of what the project is. These comments were backed up those attending the meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister in Canberra.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That DTRAC be renamed “Legume to Woodenbong Road Alliance” with the logos of the seven (7) Councils being included on any documentation.

(Peter Petty/Glen Lamb)

### **3. Update of Road Condition & Safety Report**

Dennis Gascoigne updated the meeting on the current situation, advising that Tenterfield Shire Council worked closely with RMS to develop the brief. A consultant has been selected (Hyda) and a meeting scheduled for week commencing 17 February 2014 to ensure

that the terms of the audit are well defined so that safety issues can be clearly identified.

Mr Gascoigne thanked the RMS for their support in undertaking this safety analysis of a regional road.

John Alexander from RMS advised that the RMS will be undertaking a partial risk assessment of Koreelah Bridge as a separate audit.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Canberra Meeting – 11 February 2014**

On behalf of the Committee, Cr Neil Meiklejohn thanked Hon Thomas George MP for the significant role he played in co-ordinating and opening doors to allow the meeting to take place.

The delegation comprised Mr Simon Stahl (Northern Co-operative Meat Company), Cr Lindsay Passfield (Kyogle Shire), Cr Neil Meiklejohn (Southern Downs Regional Council), Lotta Jackson (General Manager Tenterfield Shire Council), Mayor Peter Petty (Tenterfield Shire Council), Mayor Ernie Bennett (Richmond Valley Council). Politicians attending were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Roads & Infrastructure Hon Warren Truss MP, Hon Bruce Scott MP (Federal Member for Maranoa), Hon Thomas George MP (State Member for Lismore), Hon Kevin Hogan MP (Federal Member for Page) and Hon Barnaby Joyce MP (Federal Member for New England).

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to outline what the \$30m project is and allowed the Deputy Prime Minister the opportunity to look at the issue other than through the Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA).

Hon Thomas George MP thanked the Mayor, General Manager and Director of Engineering Services of Tenterfield Shire for their assistance to date and recommended that Tenterfield Shire Council (on behalf of DTRAC) write to the politicians involved advising that the project is "shovel ready".

Neil Meiklejohn stressed that the issue is now out in the media but interviews and lobbying need to be continued. Lotta Jackson suggested that members of the Committee use the information contained in the "Briefing Note" when speaking or lobbying stakeholders.

### **Tenterfield Shire Council's Code of Conduct (General Manager)**

General Manager Lotta Jackson presented the document "Your Obligations as a Council Committee Member", advising that Tenterfield Shire Council has adopted the Model Code of Conduct and has assured that staff and Councillors are aware of their obligations. Members of Council's Section 355 Committees also need to be aware of their obligations under the Code.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee receive, note, and read the tabled Code of Conduct.

(Lindsay Passfield/Peter Petty)

**Northern NSW Regional Transport Plan**

Lindsay Passfield expressed concern regarding the lack on consultation with stake holders for the Northern NSW Regional Transport Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That DTRAC write to the Minister expressing its concern re lack of consultation with the stakeholders including local government, big business and industry lobby groups. Further, DTRAC requests the opportunity to contribute to the Northern NSW Regional Transport Plan and specifically, the Legume to Woodenbong section of the road linking the Northern Rivers to the Darling Downs.

(Lindsay Passfield/Gary Verri)

**Road Works – Oaky Hill**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the positive feedback on the road works at Oaky Hill be recorded.

(Lindsay Passfield/Glen Lamb)

**Spring Creek Road – Road Closure**

Patrick Murphy referred to the closure of Spring Creek Road and advised that it is anticipated the road will be reopened by March 2014.

Dennis Gascoigne advised that Scenic Rim Regional Council provided some funding for works on White Swamp Road which has served as an alternative route whilst Spring Road has been closed. Tenterfield Shire Council acknowledges this contribution.

**Mt Lindesay Road – Truck Stop**

Geoff Hamilton referred to the section of road at Oaky Creek and requested that Tenterfield Shire Council consider placing a truck stop at this section of the Road.

**NEXT MEETING**

Friday, 9 May 2014 at Legume Community Hall – 10.30 am (morning tea 10.00 am)

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 12.55 pm.

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Councillor Neil Meikeljohn  
Chairperson

Attached:  
Briefing Note  
Media Release – Hon Barnaby Joyce