



MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

14 FEBRUARY 2019

**STRATEGIC ASSET AND WORKS
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ADOPTED PUBLIC BUSINESS PAPER AND
MINUTES**

Friday, 8 February 2019

TO:

- Councillors
- General Manager
- Director – Corporate Services
- Director – Planning and Community Development
- Director – Engineering Services
- Manager – Water and Waste
- Manager – Executive Projects

Notice is hereby given that the **Strategic Asset and Works Committee Meeting** will be held in the Council Chamber, the Max Centre, 30 Heber Street, Moree on **Thursday, 14 February 2019** commencing at **2pm**.

Please note that all Committee meetings are recorded.

Yours sincerely



Ian Dinham
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

Agenda

1. Open Meeting
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes – Meeting 13 December 2018
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Reports
6. Standing agenda item: Questions on Notice
7. Standing agenda item: Strategic Planning Proposals and Current Project Updates
8. Standing agenda item: Overseas Trade and Investment
9. Next meeting – Thursday, 14 March 2019
10. Close meeting

Strategic Asset and Works Committee Meeting Public Business Paper

14 February 2019

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GENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC ASSET AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HEBER STREET, MOREE ON THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2019, COMMENCING AT 2.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors K Humphries (Mayor), G Smith (Deputy Mayor), K Cassells, G Chiu, J Crawford, S Price OAM, S Ritchie, M Montgomery AM and J Tramby OAM

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr L Rodgers (General Manager), Mr J Carleton (Executive Projects Manager), Mr R Heatley (Water Services Manager), Ms D Murray (Executive Assistant), Ms L Fisher (Project and Development Manager), Ms L Colley (Grants/ Economic Development Officer), Mr M Johnson (Director Corporate Services – arrived 2:08pm), Mr A Witherby (Director Planning and Community Development – arrived 2:10pm), Mr M Connolly (Economic and Community Development Manager – arrived 3:04pm), Mrs S Pearse (Senior Communications Officer), Mrs T Smith (Support Officer – Corporate Services) and Mrs R McMillan (Road Safety Officer).

APOLOGIES:

Nil.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Nil.

MINUTES:

Minutes from the Strategic Asset and Works Committee Meeting held 13 December 2018.

19/02/01 RESOLVED (MONTGOMERY/CASSELLS)

That the minutes from the Strategic Asset and Works Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2018 be adopted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil.

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GENERAL MANAGER

Report Title	1. Questions on Notice Responses
Report by	Engineering Services
Contact	Ian Dinham, Director of Engineering
Attachments	No attachment
File	FILE 16/602

RECOMMENDATION

That the Strategic Asset and Works Committee receive the Questions on Notice responses for information.

19/02/02 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (PRICE/CASSELLS)

That the Strategic Asset and Works Committee receive the Questions on Notice responses for information

REPORT

ALIGNMENT WITH MOREE PLAINS 2027 – YOUR SHIRE. THE PLAN. OUR FUTURE

An Inclusive, Caring Community

Not applicable

Sustainable Spaces and Places

Not applicable

A Vibrant Regional Economy

Not applicable

A Leading Organisation

L1.7 Be accountable and transparent in our affairs, operate with integrity, improve our responsiveness and pursue innovative solutions for organisational improvement

BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Questions on Notice (**QON**) provide an opportunity for Councillors to ask questions of the General Manager which are then recorded within the meeting minutes and the Council's Customer Request Management (**CRM**) system. A response to this question is either provided verbally at the meeting or taken on notice if the response requires further research.

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In response to requests from Councillors, a QON response system has been implemented where all responses are made available to the public through a Standing Committee Meeting business paper (as per this report). This will ensure that the answers not provided at the meeting are publically available for review by members of the public and Council's transparency is enhanced.

FINANCIAL IMPACT TO COUNCIL

Review of the QON's has no significant financial implications.

STATUTORY AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council's Code of Meeting Practice (2016) includes the provision for QON's as part of the Committee Meeting Standing Order of Business. The Code of Meeting Practice is consistent with the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and the Model Code.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified risk implications associated with QON responses.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

No asset management implications have been identified.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DECISIONS

QON responses are provided as part of a Standing Committee Meeting business paper on a regular basis to ensure all responses are made available to the public.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Question on Notice responses

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GENERAL MANAGER

CRM 11759/2018

Question on Notice - Engineering - Councillor Price

5. We have an ongoing issue with children on motorbikes around the levee bank. Can we please clarify what Council is responsible for in relation to the levee bank area? Police have advised that they are not able to do anything until Council put up a sign advising that you are not allowed to ride your motorbike there. A further response is required.

(Finance and Governance Committee Meeting 18 October 2018)

Response:

14 January 2019 advised by Mr Jeff Fing – Superintendent – Mungindi that 16 450x450 signs have been ordered. Signs have a picture of bike on them with a red circle crossed advising no bikes allowed. 04 February 2019 Mr Jeff Fing advised that signs have arrived and would have them installed by end of February.

CRM11942/2018

Question on Notice – Engineering – Councillor Tramby

8. Mungindi Rural Fire Services have been awarded a road rescue vehicle. This vehicle is worth \$50,000 and was awarded to them on merit. They got it because they earned it, they did the training. We in Moree don't have a fully equipped road rescue vehicle. We have the vehicle but we don't have the man power yet Mungindi can actually get it off the ground. My question is; where the SES is up to? I wasn't at the presentation last month. Are there notes or a recording made? Councillor Humphries: I have a supplementary to that; We have an emergency response vehicle in town, so is that not adequate? Councillor Tramby: We have a fully equipped vehicle but it is not sufficiently staffed. They need a minimum of two (2) trained people to respond to an accident. Mungindi can man a road rescue vehicle and Moree cannot. So my question is on the capacity of the Moree SES? Councillor Price: My recollection of the meeting and presentation last month is that the SES are taking steps to build up their man power and reduce the amount of training that people are required to do to hopefully encourage more volunteers. We were going to approach the State Government for funding to build the SES headquarters at Tycannah Street. Executive Projects Manager, John Carleton: The purpose of the meeting with the SES last month was to provide Council with information on the new facility; the type of facility, where that facility will be and how it will be funded. There is collaborative funding between us and State Government. We are in the process now of working with the State to fund the project. The SES unit was here represented at the meeting and fully endorsed going ahead with that approach. Their view is that since they already have the vehicles, boats etc. once they have the facilities to house the operation they will be in a position to develop an integrated emergency management approach in Moree. Councillor Tramby: What is the



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current capacity of the Moree SES? How many are road and rescue trained? How many are administrations trained? Was this covered in the meeting last month? Executive Projects Manager, John Carleton: I believe it was covered in the context that it was explained to Council where the SES is headed long term. They foresee an increase in the quality of staff once they have the facilities to house the operation. They have seen this result in other areas and that it what they are aiming for in Moree. A further response is required.

(Strategic Asset and Works Committee 8 November 2018)

Response:

While the presentation from the SES was not minuted, the PowerPoint presentations given by the SES and Mr Carleton are available.

CRM 393/2019

Question on Notice – Engineering – Councillor Tramby

8. Fire in Anzac Park Grass dries off in the summertime and has been set alight. All the above-ground drip irrigation has been lost and 5 - 6 palm trees have been severely affected. This needs attention. Can grass be replaced with a more suitable lawn? Can the weeds also be addressed? General Manager, Lester Rodgers; I have reviewed the park and share your disappointment. I have not had an opportunity for a briefing from Mr Dinham re handover from RMS and maintenance. I will take it on notice. Director of Engineering, Mr Ian Dinham: It has been handed over to Council now, so up to Council to restore and maintain. Noted that a lot of trees along the bypass have been lost in the drought. A further response is required.

(Community Development and Services Committee 24 January 2019)

Response:

Quote has been obtained from Moree Pumps Irrigation & Plumbing for the irrigation replacement/repair. Contractor along with Parks & Open Spaces staff to commence weeding, replanting ect.

CRM11758/2018

Question on Notice – Planning and Community Development – Mayor Humphries

2. There is a concern in relation to the Rangers. There is an unhappy quorum with residents being picked up who are not main offenders and our dog mistreatment area. What's happening with our new dog pound? We have a lot of dog issues especially out to the east, what is happening with these? There are concerns with the attitude of the rangers. That a comprehensive report be bought back to Council. *A further response is required.*

(Finance and Governance Committee Meeting 18 October 2018)

Response:

Council responds to complaints about dogs over the whole shire and proactively patrol areas of concern including eastern areas of Moree. When undertaking enforcement Council are addressing an 'issue' not 'a person' and Council's actions are based on procedure and the legislation Council enforce.

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While the Rangers do focus on areas of main concern, they also patrol more generally. With any enforcement activity there will be “an unhappy quorum” of residents. It is, however important that Council are consistent across all aspects of enforcement and this not be limited to specific areas or people in the shire. For this reason, an enforcement policy has been developed that will be reported to Council as part of a comprehensive report on companion animal issues within the Shire. This will be presented to Council early in the current year.

In relation to concerns about current Rangers attitude, Council has received three (3) formal complaints relating to attitude and one (1) of which was not from a person whom was dealing with a Ranger at the time. These complaints are over the last 18-month period. Considering Environment and Compliance have managed over 7,000 complaints annually for the past two (2) years this would be considered a low rate of complaint.

It is noted and understood that Ranger roles would generally be more prone to complaints being an enforcement role compared to many other Council roles (e.g. Rangers advising that a wandering dog may be impounded by Council if it is not kept in a yard can be interpreted as a threat to ‘take my dog’).

Ongoing training and advice has and will be given to Rangers about their approach to members of the public, noting that this needs to be respectful at all times, whatever the provocation (which is frequent).

The Animal Management Facility is constructed, with this complete prior to the end of last financial year. Council has secured fit out cages etc at free of charge in Sydney, however are dependent on others for transport to Moree. Options are being examined to transfer the materials to Moree so that full use of the new facility can commence.

CRM 11758/2018

Question on Notice – Planning and Community Development – Councillor Price

2. Councillor Price advised that Mungindi also has problems with the rangers as strays not being picked up and residents doing the right thing getting fined when a dog gets out accidentally. The police have been dealing with the stray dog issues so can we get the Rangers to communicate with the Police when they are coming out so we can lead to a better outcome. *A further response is required.*

(Finance and Governance Committee 18 October 2018)

Response:

There is a positive relationship between Mungindi Police Officers and Council Rangers. We currently work together on addressing companion animals. Mungindi Police advised Council there is an ongoing concern with companion animals. Rangers commentary is that Mungindi does have a dog problem but is in a manageable state compared to other areas of the shire which does impact focus



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areas. Rangers attend Mungindi, Boomi and Boggabilla at least once per week.

CRM 11785/2018

Question on Notice – Planning and Community Development – Councillor Cassells

3. I have received complaints regarding the Greg Jones Bridge (underneath), a lot of rubbish from what is expected to be squatters. Mr Rodgers: We will arrange for someone to have a look at that and report back. A further response required.

(Community Development and Services Committee 25 October 2018)

Response:

Councils Rangers have undertaken an inspection and miscellaneous materials were identified including cans, bottles, plastic bags and an abandoned vehicle down the bank of the Mehi River. The vehicle has since been impounded by Council. In relation to enforcing Pollution, Councils Rangers have included this area for patrols. Additionally, Parks and Open Spaces have also been made aware of the concern and advised they will be monitoring this location for littering more frequently as part of general clean-up practices.

CRM 12149/2018

Question on Notice – Environment and Compliance – Councillor Montgomery

2. Who tests them and how do the samples go there? Answer – Mr Witherby – To a registered lab in Tamworth then to the NSW Department of Health. Mr Rodgers – Tamworth or Armidale are the usual NATA registered laboratories that Council usually uses. A further response required.

(Community Development and Services Committee November 2018)

Response:

Council have several agencies that are used for laboratory analysis which have to be National Australian Testing Authority (NATA) accredited. For Councils Water supply testing, samples are sent to NSW Health and Pathology Laboratory in Sydney and that data be sent to NSW Health New England. In relation to other sampling and analysis the laboratory used is dependent on the analysis required.

In relation to transport, the samples are normally sent via priority post and depends of the size, weight and type of analysis required. Examples:

- Microbiological analysis for Councils water supply needs to be sampled in bottles, sent in cool boxes stored below 4 degrees and those samples be tested within 48 hours.*
- Asbestos has to be double bagged and can be sent by sealed satchels and does not require temperature control.*
- Hydrocarbon (fuel or gas) in soil analysis needs to be sampled in unpreserved jars, sent in cool boxes stored below 4 degrees and those samples be tested within 48 hours.*

CRM 12088/2018

Question on Notice – Planning and Community Development – Councillor Cassells

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1. Does Council regularly test the water in public pools such as motels and the like? – Angus Witherby – Yes. Councillor Montgomery 2. Who tests them and how do the samples go there? Answer – To a registered Lab in Tamworth then to the NSW Department of Health. Mr Rodgers – Tamworth and Armidale are the usual NATA registered laboratories that Council usually uses. A further response required.

(Community Development and Services Committee November 2018)

Response:

A Public Pool is classified as any pool that is associated with an income e.g. pool at motel or for private swimming lessons. Council have no legislative requirement to test swimming pool quality in public pools although Councils are the responsible authority for ensuring risk to Public Health in the shire is minimised. Council currently attend to all swimming pool complaints associated with Public Health concerns and sample water quality as required. Council are currently assessing the overall risk and budget implications of committing to a routine public swimming pool testing program.

When sampling does occur, the samples are sent to a NATA accredited laboratory for analysis.

CRM 425/2019

Question on Notice – Water – Councillor Tramby

- 1. Rain water – State Government support for claims for water for stock and domestic purposes. Previous droughts we could supply water with the government covering the costs under drought relief. Is this still available in terms of access to town supplies for people’s needs? Can Council make information available to the public about this?**

General Manager, Lester Rodgers; Will take on notice and update. My understanding is that State Government support is available for claims for water for stock and domestic purposes. Council has not yet set aside any monies for this at this stage. I was expecting a large number of enquiries, but there has been less than expected.

(Planning and Community Development Committee Meeting 24 January 2019).

Response:

Water Services Manager, Roland Heatley, there is relief available through the State Government Drought Transport Subsidy, effective from 1 Jan 2018 to 30 June 2019. 50% payment of costs to cart water for stock and domestic use up to \$20,000 in a year. This is claimable online via Rural Assistance Authority website.



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GENERAL MANAGER

Report Title	2. Road Safety Program Update
Report by	Engineering Services
Contact	Director of Engineering, Ian Dinham
Attachments	No attachment
File	FILE13/592, FILE13/149

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

19/02/03 RESOLVED (SMITH/CASELLS):

That the Strategic Asset and Works Committee move into Workshop.

The Strategic Asset and Works Committee moved into Workshop at the time being 2.11pm

19/02/04 RESOLVED (HUMPHRIES/PRICE):

That the Strategic Asset and Works Committee move out of Workshop.

The Strategic Asset and Works Committee moved out of Workshop at the time being 2:34pm

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Strategic Asset and Works Committee receive the Road Safety Program update report for information.

19/02/05 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (MONTGOMERY/CASELLS)

That the Strategic Asset and Works Committee receive the Road Safety Program update report for information.

Mr L Rodgers left the meeting at 2.40pm and returned at 3.03pm

Councillor K Humphries left the meeting at 2.40pm and returned at 3.04pm



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GENERAL MANAGER

REPORT

ALIGNMENT WITH MOREE PLAINS 2027 – YOUR SHIRE. THE PLAN. OUR FUTURE

- An Inclusive, Caring Community**
C1.1 Public safety is maximised through support for initiatives that reduce the incidence of crime and promote safety
- Sustainable Spaces and Places**
Not applicable
- A Vibrant Regional Economy**
E1.3 Provide a local road network that meets the Shire's transport and freight needs
- A Leading Organisation**
Not applicable

BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

A report was presented to the Local Traffic Committee on Friday, 1 February 2019 where the following recommendation received unanimous support:

That the information be received.

The road safety program report has been identified as the preferred process of reporting the activities of the road safety program.

ISSUES AND COMMENT:

2018/2019 Road Safety Campaigns

Title: Free Cuppa Program
Funding: \$3,085 (\$2,085 from RMS Road Safety Program (administered by Warrumbungle Shire Council) , \$1,000 from Moree Plains Shire Council)
Description: This project will be implemented across 12 local government areas in the western region of NSW. The program will be implemented in conjunction with local businesses to encourage travellers to stop and take regular breaks from driving. The program will include; a 'free cuppa for the driver' scheme, a prize draw for drivers who take part in the scheme, erecting roadside banners, media coverage, promotion in caravan parks/motels and tourist information centres.
Timing: 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019
Status: Planning

EOI's have now closed with one hundred and two (102) businesses registering to participate. Free Cuppa has again expanded in 2019 with coverage now also in the Hunter Valley and South Coast regions of NSW. Free Cuppa will be launched in Bathurst and conclude with a prize draw in Wellington.

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Title: Unsealed Road Safety
Funding: \$8,000 (\$5,000 from RMS, \$3,000 from Moree Plains Shire Council)
Description: This is the second phase of an education campaign which focuses on motorist's behaviour, as well as their awareness of conditions on unsealed local roads. The primary campaign message "You don't have to be speeding – to be driving too fast on unsealed roads" addresses appropriate speed selection on local unsealed roads, urging motorists to slow down and drive to conditions. The campaign will use radio advertising and social media to educate motorists about conditions and hazards on unsealed roads.

As well as educating motorists about conditions and how to stay safe on unsealed roads the campaign will include enforcement and road safety engineering elements such as improved signage.

Timing: 01 September 2018 to 30 June 2019
Status: Planning to commence in March 2019 for Delivery in May 2019.

Title: Safer Speed, Slow Down
Funding: \$7,000 (\$3,000 from RMS Road Safety Program, \$4,000 from Moree Plains Shire Council)
Description: Speeding vehicles are a huge complaint on Moree Plains Shire roads. Crash data 2011-2015 show 71 crashes involving speed. 62% of these being fatal or injury crashes. This resulted in 6 fatalities and 60 people being injured. This campaign aims to reduce the percentage of vehicles speeding at 6 locations during October and November and again during January and February. This will be achieved by speed monitors, radio advertising, additional enforcement and education.

Timing: 01 September 2018 to 31 March 2019
Status: In progress

The speed trailer rotation has commenced and will continue through to the end of February 2019. The education advertising commenced in late January as part of this campaign and covers the Australia Day long weekend.

Title: North West Heavy Vehicle Breakfast Forum and Harvest Education
Funding: \$4,000 (\$1,000 from RMS Road Safety Program, \$3,000 from Moree Plains Shire Council)
Description: The North West Heavy Vehicle Breakfast forum is a free community information forum for truck drivers and the heavy vehicle industry to discuss industry related issues including heavy vehicle speed and other road safety issues. Representatives from State and Federal Government, RMS, NHVR and other government and industry related organisation are invited to present at the forum each year. As part of the forum the Moving Harvest Machinery Pack is updated each year. These are distributed at the forum and at local machinery and heavy vehicle businesses during both the winter and summer harvest periods.

Timing: 1 July 2018 to 31 May 2019
Status: Planning



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Planning is underway for a revamped style of function. Due to the decline in numbers at the 2017 forum we are trialling a "pop up shop" style event at a suitable venue. Negotiations are now underway to determine a suitable date for RMS, NHVR and Police. It is envisioned that this will occur in April/May 2019.

Title: Buckle Up
Funding: \$ 5,000 (\$2,500 from RMS Road Safety Program; \$2,500 from Moree Plains Shire Council)
Description: This campaign will run for 3 months. It was developed to increase the overall restraint wearing rate in Moree Plains Shire to 90% over the period of the Campaign. The campaign will consist of two (2) weekly seat belt observational surveys at a number of locations across the shire with the results being displayed through the media along with educational information about the effects of not wearing a seat belt. This will also include information about correct use of child restraints. Extra Police enforcement will also be carried out as part of this project.
Timing: 01 August 2018 to 31 December 2018
Status: In progress

The campaign educational advertising and surveys were undertaken in September and October 2018. The final report is now being prepared.

Initial data reviews shows a seat belt wearing rate of 96%.

Title: Share the road safely
Funding: \$ 2,500 (\$1,000 from RMS Road Safety Program; \$1,500 from Moree Plains Shire Council)
Description: This campaign has been developed with a focus of reinforcing the "Share the Road Safely" message for trucks and caravans. Flyers, posters and social media memos will be developed to be used to remind drivers about sharing Moree Plains Shire roads with Trucks. The "Be Truck Aware" message developed by the Centre for Road Safety would form part of the promotions for this campaign.
Timing: 01 October 2018 to 30 April 2019
Status: Not yet commenced

Title: Helping learner drivers become safer drivers
Funding: \$ 1,200 (\$1,000 from RMS Road Safety Program; \$200 from Moree Plains Shire Council)
Description: In order to provide practical advice about the role of supervising learner drivers and the value of on-road driving experiences the RMS and local councils provide the Helping learner drivers become safer drivers workshop. The workshop is designed to support parents and friends in the supervision of a learner driver. They reinforce the role of the supervising driver and the importance of the stepped approach. It also highlights the importance of teaching low risk driving techniques to learner drivers.
Timing: 01 September 2018 to 30 June 2019
Status: In progress

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The first Helping Learner Drivers become safer drivers' workshop was planned for October 2018. This however was cancelled due to lack of interest. It is believed that the lack of interest in this workshop is due to the introduction of the Safer Drivers program with the PCYC where the learner driver gets credit hours for attending.

Title:	Road Safety Month
Funding:	\$10,000 (from Moree Plains Shire Council)
Description:	Road Safety Month is a unique program to Moree Plains Shire that consists of educational promotion covering the fatal five - drink and drug driving, driver fatigue, speed, seat belts and driver distraction. The program will include educational advertising, school based competitions and other strategies such as observational surveys and workshops for young drivers. It is envisioned that the program will be supported by local community organisations such as schools, NSW Police Force, NSW Ambulance Service and other community service groups.
Timing:	01 November 2018 to 30 June 2019
Status:	Not yet commenced

Other Activities

- The Road Safety Officer continues the coordination of the Child Restraint Hiring Program. Currently the Road Safety Program has a total of 14 child restraints in the hiring program. The quarterly hiring rates (YTD) for the program are:
 - December 2017 Quarter – 28%
 - March 2018 Quarter – 17%
 - June 2018 Quarter – 14%
 - September 2018 Quarter – 18%
 - December 2018 Quarter – 18%
 - March 2019 Quarter QTD – 4%

FINANCIAL IMPACT TO COUNCIL

Council has a specific allocation for the Road Safety Program. All abovementioned campaigns fall within the already allocated budgets.

STATUTORY AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

No statutory or policy implications have been identified.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

No risk implications have been identified.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

No asset management implications have been identified.

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GENERAL MANAGER

Report Title	3. Confidential Workshop – Inland rail update
Report by	Planning and Community Development
Contact	Angus Witherby and Mark Connolly
Attachments	No attachment
File	FILE17/936

RECOMMENDATION

That the Strategic Asset & Works Committee receive a confidential briefing in workshop mode.

19/02/06 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (PRICE/CRAWFORD)

That the Strategic Asset and Works Committee receive the report for information.

Mr M Johnson left the meeting and did not return. The time being 3.34pm

REPORT

ALIGNMENT WITH MOREE PLAINS 2027 – YOUR SHIRE. THE PLAN. OUR FUTURE

- An Inclusive, Caring Community**
Not applicable
- Sustainable Spaces and Places**
S4.4 Facilitate and regulate development
- A Vibrant Regional Economy**
E1.4 Capitalise on the Shire's location on the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail route and support local businesses in doing the same
- A Leading Organisation**
L2.1 Develop and build on our partnerships and relationships with other stakeholders to address priority issues

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

That Report – Confidential Workshop – Inland Rail Update - be dealt with in Closed Committee as it relates to Section 10A (2)(d)(i)(ii)(iii) of the *Local Government Act 1993* being:

- (d) *Commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed:***
 - (i) *Prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it***
 - (ii) *Confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council***
 - (iii) *Reveal a trade secret***

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BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Moree Plains Shire Council (**Council**) has been progressing the outcomes of the Moree Shire-Wide Transport and Intermodal Study. A number of parties have been in discussion with Council about aspects of the study and its outcomes. A workshop session is proposed to allow the suspension of standing orders so that an update can be given to Council and various possible options reviewed.

In particular, the workshop:

- Sets out understandings of what the steps from here are and how they affect Council
- Identifies the major pieces of work required including timelines
- Discusses management of these issues

FINANCIAL IMPACT TO COUNCIL

Financial impact to council is considered confidential.

STATUTORY AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The inland rail project requires approval from the NSW State Government under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* noting that supporting infrastructure would be exempt development under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007*.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are significant risks to the economic future of the Shire if key infrastructure is not provided to assist the Shire to become "Inland Rail ready".

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Council's role has been identified as facilitator/advocate in terms of the public and private assets necessary to capitalise on Inland Rail.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DECISIONS

This matter has come before Council previously.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.



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GENERAL MANAGER

Questions on Notice:

Councillor Cassells:

- 1. Why are Boggabilla and Toomelah in our LGA considering they work on Queensland time and have Queensland phone numbers (07); I am just thinking of cross border issues there like if someone is arrested instead of Goondiwindi they have to travel 132km to Moree and I am just wondering why?**

General Manager, Lester Rodgers: It is an issue that we have raised through BROC and the cross border considerations and BROC is in full support not only for the Boggabilla region but also the Mungindi region and Tenterfield as well in relation to the agencies from one side or the other. The Border Commissioner James McTavish is constantly trying to get cooperation from his counterparts on the Queensland side to no avail. However, we did hear at the most recent meeting where the Mayor of Goondiwindi spoke quite forthrightly, in telling the local state member up there that he knows that NSW are way ahead of the game and that he expected the state member to do a little more on the Queensland side, on things such as a Memorandum of Understanding for things like emergency services, police, hospital emergencies. We haven't had an update but there is a BROC meeting again on Friday, so it might be timely to request and update from the Queensland side. It is an ongoing area of concern and we are constantly told there is progress being made from a New South Wales side. In relation to why is it in the Moree Plains Shire, it has something to do with the State Border.

Councillor Cassells: I take it on point but it just seems totally illogical. We are going to the Boggabilla Safety Committee in a couple of weeks and there are a lot of Queensland people on that Safety Committee and there are not many New South Wales people on that Committee; I think everyone else comes from Goondiwindi. Is it ok to raise those things there, it's a huge issue?

General Manager, Lester Rodgers: Yes, most definitely.

No further response required.

Councillor Smith:

- 1. I have emailed Councillors and the General Manager regarding the Procurement Policy. It was brought to my attention by a local car dealer that the last tender 21 light vehicles were tendered for and a heap of them were brought from out of town at a time when we are trying to get the government to help to prop the town up in a drought and we are shopping out of town ourselves. I'd like a Justification Report to come back on this. I have also been made aware that one tender for a light vehicle didn't include the cost of the tray and the fitting costs so that now has to be re-evaluated. The two car dealers in Moree employ 55 people and all are either rate payers or pay rent to rate payers and I think they need our support. We pump a lot of money into tourism and justify that by the benefit to the town. I think we need to apply the same level to procurement.**

General Manager, Lester Rodgers: In receiving your request for this matter to be reviewed, I have spoken to the Director of Corporate Services and the Finance Manager and asked for some analysis to be done and for that analysis report to be provided and brought forward. Mr Probert has indicated that this review will not only cover the last round of light plant but more broadly as well and will be brought back to Council.

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Councillor Smith: It's not only the fact that there were three Mazda utes purchased out of Gunnedah and had to have suspension modifications to suit Council Outdoor Staff, those suspension modifications failed and so three outdoor staff had to be taken off of graders and other plant to spend a full day in Gunnedah to have the vehicle repaired. If everything has to go out of town for services and warranty work there are inefficiencies there and then when we on sell them back into our community the people that buy them have to do the same thing. We have got to look at the big picture.

General Manager, Lester Rodgers: Without going into detail, it is not just the upfront purchase but as you say the ongoing maintenance and warranty and the efficiencies of not only the fleet but the operators as well. I have requested that we take a more holistic look at the resources use of our organisation not just the up-front costs.

Councillor Tramby: It's a very simple process that goes back to what we used to do which is that Council used to approve the purchases. At the moment, you have got staff doing it and they are obligated to take the cheapest quote we could review the tenders and say they don't have to take the cheapest one. There is a cost benefit there and get the work back in town. We do it, it's a simple answer.

A further response is required.

Councillor Tramby:

- 2. The Ski Park people pay a lease to Council less what they put into it. Just wondering what they paid us in the last financial year. How much did they pay if any?**

A further response is required.

- 3. The toilet at Gurley's service station is absolutely putrid. If that's not a health hazard, nothing is. It hasn't been cleaned in months and months. It is privately owned but are we obligated; it is a service station selling fuel yet the toilet is putrid.**

General Manager, Lester Rodgers: As was advised even though it is on private land we do have some broad ranging powers that I understood the health officers were going to have a look at it. I will follow that up.

A further response is required.

- 4. The Gurley water supply tank roof has rusted out. The Carrigan family put a filter on their side of the tank and it was completely clogged within 24 hours because of all the algae from the sunlight. We are concerned, how long the tanks going to last if the roof is already rusted out and if we do not drink this water. We do a lot of other things with that water. I would suggest it is no longer suitable to do anything.**

A further response is required.

- 5. Drought payment first came to Council back in August, six months ago and we still haven't got it. Don't they realise we are in a drought and the idea was to get that money to spend it in our shire. Someone has to be hauled over the coals.**

Economic and Community Development Manager, Mark Connolly: We are expecting further information in the coming weeks. More information will be brought back when available.

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General Manager, Lester Rodgers: I agree entirely with Councillor Tramby. When we first prepared the correspondence to the bureaucrats, we tried to emphasise the need for immediacy and here we are six months down the track and latterly nothing has happened. Whilst I'm loathed to be critical of people giving us money I think we need to subtly remind them that we expect them to follow through.

A further response is required.

Councillor Ritchie:

- 6. SHAE Academy I'd like an update on that. I remember they wanted the lease signed before Christmas 2017 and here it is 2019 and we haven't had a payment because it hasn't been signed. I want to know are they paying rent or maintenance? How far away is the lease?**

A further response is required.

- 7. The new dog pound we have a beautiful big shed over there that is still not in use. I was over there a fortnight ago and they are still operating out of the old pound.**

A further response is required.

- 8. The truck wash bay out at the saleyards; again we have a great heap of concrete sitting out there that has been sitting there for three or four months and nothing has been done with that. It hasn't been finished off.**

Executive Projects Manager, John Carleton: Appreciate the question; we actually have done some work last month. We are now awaiting procurement of the pump house and equipment for water and waste water. We are expecting more works in February and anticipating completion in March 2019.

No further response required.

- 9. We need to do something about the pool at the MAAC now. We have to make some tough decisions now because if that pool stuffs up we have no plan set aside. We will have no big pool. I know there is a couple of reports coming to Council in the next few week but the pool is getting worse; if it stuffs up we have no planning, no DA's for an alternate pool. We need another 25m lap pool somewhere because if that pool is stuffed we've got nothing and it's going to take 12 months for planning and DA's to get to where it is and then another 12 months to build. We could be three or four years without a pool. We have got to make a decision.**

General Manager, Lester Rodgers: There are some reports that are intended to be presented to the council and/or committee in the next few weeks starting to raise concerns around the issue that you have identified. It was only last week we had inspections carried out by our own consultants and the structural engineering firm GHD that have been engaged for the litigation matter. I am in receipt of the first report. The second report is due this week and we will be bringing them to Council as a matter of urgency.

A further response is required.



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Councillor Tramby:

- 10. BackTrack are going to Armidale 5 March 2018, to have a look at their methodology to reduce crime that has been successful in Armidale, Dubbo and many other towns and we need to get involved in it with them because they have experiences. We are going over to have a look at it and we invite other Councillors to attend because we will probably be coming back to Council for some start-up funding for the organisation. Armidale is fully self-funded by non-government funding but we would have to get it off the ground.**

No further response required.

- 11. Would like the MAAC Board to present a Business Plan irrespective of the problems with the structural thing; I think we need a business plan as to how we are going to continue to fund the MAAC subject to the repairs being made because the figures I have got here from their financial reports are accumulating \$450,000 in loss. Council needs to look specifically at how they plan to fund the centre when they are running at a loss. They have other unfunded liabilities which have come out in the financial report. I think we need to look at it. They may need more funding, I am not sure what they need but they are not financially viable at this stage.**

Councillor Smith, regarding the MAAC it will be good to get a report back from them but financially this year the situation is a lot better than it has been with an increase in admittance charges and maintaining the numbers though the drought and this information will be coming back to Council.

A further response is required.

Strategic Planning Proposals and Current Project Updates:

Councillor Price:

- 1. Update from Arts Northwest – Councillor Price attended Arts Northwest Board meeting on Monday last week and there were a couple of things discussed that may be of interest:**
 - A BackTrack film has been made. What some places are doing is viewing it publicly; have we done that? Council have already viewed this film. They are using it as a fundraiser; it may be an idea for Youth Week to show the community if someone wants to organise it.
 - CASS funding \$17,000 across the region closes in July and will be announced in November. Small grants of around \$3,000 per group will be for small groups to apply.
 - Arts Date the conference for arts bodies. The idea of Arts Date is to get the people who make the decisions in Sydney across the range and into regional areas. This year is being held in Tamworth from 31 October to 2 November.
 - Arts Northwest Connect is a list of all of the arts organisation across the region. They are going to talk with tourism to see if they can have their list added to the tourism websites as well in a link and a reworking on a region wide arts trail.



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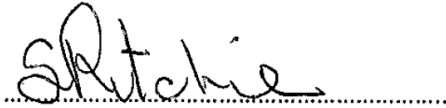
Overseas Trade and Investment:

Executive Project Officer, John Carleton:

- 1. Airport Project update** - Council are currently working on the pavement upgrades. The works commenced last weekend and will continue this weekend. The Airport is effectively closed during the day but we have to open it Saturday night for emergency traffic and closed again on Sunday.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at the time being 4.02pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR OF THE
STRATEGIC ASSET AND WORKS
COMMITTEE, WHOSE SIGNATURE
APPEARS BELOW



CHAIRPERSON

ADOPTED AT THE STRATEGIC ASSET
AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD ON

14/03/2019

DATE

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