



**MINUTES PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY 13 MAY 2021**

**COMMENCING AT 9 AM**

**WARIALDA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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**Present:**

**Members:** Cr. John Coulton (Mayor), Cr. Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor), Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM, Cr. Jim Moore, Cr. Geoff Smith, Cr. David Coulton, Cr Stuart Dick, Cr Tiffany Galvin, Cr Frances Young and Alex Eddy (Manager, Engineering Services)

**Staff:** Max Eastcott (General Manager), Leeah Daley (Deputy General Manager) and Helen Thomas (Manager, Finance)

**Public:** Nil

**Visitor:** Nil

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**OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME – MAYOR**

**APOLOGIES** All present

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:**

**THAT the Minutes of the previous Public Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 March 2021 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.**

**(Moved Cr Galvin, seconded Cr D Coulton)**

**PRESENTATION**

Ben Hughes, Principal Hughes et al, regarding Australian Railway Track Corporation - Inland Rail & Local Content

**CALL FOR THE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST Nil**

**Item 1 Monthly Technical Services Report**

**FILE REFERENCE** 21/10947

**DELIVERY PROGRAM**

**GOAL:** 5. Organisational Management

**OUTCOME:** 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

**STRATEGY:** 2.1.1 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure - TS -external

**AUTHOR** Manager, Engineering Services

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report is for notation.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

**BACKGROUND**

The monthly Technical Services report has been identified by Council as the process of reporting the activities carried out monthly by the Technical Services Department.

**COMMENT**

**ENGINEERING SERVICES**

**March Flood Damage**

All crews have been involved in undertaking emergency repairs to roads, culverts and bridge approaches which suffered major damage during the flooding in March. Temporary repair works will continue to be undertaken until funds are made available to Council under the Disaster Funding Recovery Arrangements (DFRA) for full restoration works.

**Construction**

Over the past month, staff have been undertaking heavy patching and resurfacing preparation works on both MR63 Fossickers Way and HW12 Gwydir Highway in various locations to improve road safety and prepare for future reseals. All works have now been completed, with only the line marking yet to be undertaken by Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW). The construction crew assigned to TfNSW works has now started preparing for 'The Gardens' safety project in segment 8265 on HW12 Gwydir Highway, west of Gravesend. Further details of these works can be found in the RMCC section of this report.

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*Damages to the Rocky Creek bridge on MR133 Killarney Gap Road*



*Damages to Wearnes Road*

### **Gravel Resheeting**

Northern resheeting staff have been involved with emergent flood damage repairs on SR61 Peates Road and SR62 Hibernia Road. Additionally, resheeting works on SR61 Peates Road that had started prior to the flood event have recommenced. This section of works will be 3.00km long, starting from the intersection of MR462 Bruxner Way. Material for these works is a mudstone/shale extracted from the property Ohmi.

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Resheeting on a section of SR31 Eulourie Road from 1.59km to 3.00km north of MR133 Killarney Gap Road has commenced this month. These works were originally scheduled to be 5km in length, however gravel pit accessibility following flooding has severely limited gravel availability. The full scope of works will be completed as pit access improves following dry weather.



*Resheeting works on SR31 Eulourie Road*

**Maintenance**

Northern maintenance staff have been undertaking emergent flood damage works. The crew has also continued works with the construction of gabion rock baskets within the table drains of the SR08 Gragin Road and Warialda HPV Route intersection to prevent further stormwater erosion and damage. Fencing works at the Warialda airstrip have been undertaken and a stormwater project in High Street, consisting of laying several lengths of pipe to collect excessive ground water has been completed.

Vegetation control (line trimming) at bridge approaches and guard rail has been undertaken on MR133 Killarney Gap Road, MR134 Delungra Road, MR63 Fossickers Way and SR03 Elcombe Road to improve sight distance and delineation visibility around structures.

**Street Sweeping**

Street sweeping has been on hold during April due to equipment failure. Staff are currently investigating the feasibility of contracting these works out, which would allow the skid steer machine used for street sweeping to be used more frequently for construction and maintenance works.

**Maintenance Grading**

Three maintenance grading crews, including one hired grader, have been undertaking patch grading works throughout the whole of the northern part of Shire, to reinstate safe access to the unsealed road network, prior to receiving flood damage funding. These works have been undertaken on a priority basis, with school bus routes being given the highest priority.

**Seal Maintenance**

In April, patching trucks undertook seal preparation works for the heavy patching on MR63 Fossickers Way and HW12 Gwydir Highway. Additional preparation works were undertaken for a 5.70km reseal of RR7705 North Star Road, carried out by Fulton Hogan. This project consisted of a 14mm reseal

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with an S45R rubber bitumen seal over the first section of RR7705 North Star Road, from the RR63 Warialda Road intersection, where prior shoulder works had been completed.

Seal maintenance is ongoing on all State, Regional, Local and Urban Roads.

**Slashing**

Slashing has been undertaken on SR08 Gragin Road, SR14 Mosquito Creek Road, the Warialda airstrip, RR63 Warialda Road and SR13 Oregon Road, MR63 Fossickers Way, SR18 Gineroi Road, SR19 Whitlow Road, MR134 Delungra Road, SR01 Copeton Dam Road, SR23 Wearnes Road, within the Bingara township and the Bingara airstrip.

**ENGINEERING ASSETS**

**Grants Projects**

Street tree planting has been carried out on Geddes Street in front of Warialda Pool and the possibility of additional plantings in Geddes Street within the existing funding is currently being investigated. The proposed caravan parking and rest area adjacent to Warialda Creek in Hope Street is programmed to start on 10 May.

The Nicholson Oval sports field lighting project is in the preconstruction stage with the installation of the upgraded power supply starting in May.

**Natural Disaster Claims**

Engineering Services are currently preparing the natural disaster claims for the two recent flood events. Damages for the first event in the Horton Valley in December 2020 are estimated at \$600,000. Damages for the shire-wide event in March 21 are estimated at \$11.75 million.

**Roads Maintenance Council Contract – Works Orders issued by TfNSW**

All Work Orders issued by RMS are quality assurance schedule of rates projects carried out by Council staff under the Roads Maintenance Council Contract with Transport for New South Wales.

A Work Order for \$350,000 has now been received from TfNSW for the safety upgrade project on the Gwydir Highway, segment 8265. These works will include pavement widening and the installation of guardrail and additional signage, around two corners within the segment and the installation of audio tactile line marking throughout the entire segment. This project has now started with the construction crew currently cutting down the existing shoulders to allow for the boxing out of the wider pavement. A design has now been approved for construction by TfNSW for the ‘Hadleigh’ project on HW12 Gwydir Highway, segments 8140, 8145 and 8150. All survey and design work for this project have been completed by TfNSW and construction works are programmed to start late in May. A Works Proposal is currently being prepared for these works. All heavy patching on both MR63 Fossickers Way and HW12 Gwydir Highway has now been completed, with line marking works booked for the first week in May. All resurfacing preparation works on MR63 Fossickers Way and HW12 Gwydir Highway are almost completed with only a small amount of wearing surface repairs to be undertaken.

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Routine maintenance continues each week undertaking inspections, rest area services, vegetation control and bitumen repairs.



*The section of 'The Gardens' that will receive shoulder widening, guardrail and improved signage.*

### **Grant Funded Projects – Big River Dreaming Rest Stops**

The four rest stop areas for the Big River Dreaming Project, two on SR19 Whitlow Road and two on MR134 Delungra Road, have had minimal progress this month, with only some fencing works completed at the Sheep Station Creek Rest Stop. Further works to be completed in May include the installation of the tank, stand and undelivered materials for the toilet at the Two Mile Hill Rest Stop and the construction of the walkway to the creek and stop sign at the Sheep Station Creek Rest Stop. Missing materials from the toilet cubical kit provided for the waterless toilet have now been shipped.

### **DESIGN AND ASSETS**

#### **National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) Requests**

The NHVR has recently provided training to councils and expanded the capabilities of its online portal. This has enabled Council to provide more detailed assistance to industry operators. Approximately three new permit requests are received each week, with just as many calls requesting information about what vehicles can access the shire.

#### **Inland Rail**

There have been monthly meetings with Trans4m Rail and ARTC occurring to keep Gwydir Shire Council briefed on the Narrabri to North Star section of the construction. These meetings also include discussing potential grant funding opportunities for community groups and employment opportunities for local residents. Trans4m and ARTC will be at the Warialda Show to answer any community questions regarding anything Inland Rail related.

### **CONCLUSION**

The activities carried out by the Technical Services Department are in line with the 2020/21 Management Plan and otherwise directed.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the report be received

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**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

**THAT the Monthly Technical Services' report be received.**

**(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr D Coulton)**

**Meeting closed 9.54 am**