

Roads Working Party Meeting - Notes

Date: Tuesday 30 March 2021

Time: 3.36pm

Location: Minlaton Council Chambers

Meeting Objective: To consider the future utilisation of the road network within our Council area for community access, freight, tourism and agricultural needs.

Item No.	Item	Who	When
1	Attendees and Apologies		
1.1	<p>Attendees Councillor David Langford (Cr DL) (Chair) Mayor Darren Braund (Mayor DB) (Ex Officio) Councillor Anthony Bennett (Cr AB) Councillor Naomi Bittner (Cr NB) Andrew Cameron (AWC), Chief Executive Officer Andre Kompler (AMK), Director Assets and Infrastructure Services Michael McCauley (MSM), Asset Manager Greg Twelftree (GT), Community Representative - Agricultural Industry Michael Cadd (MC), Community Representative - Transport Industry Kira Tapps (KLT) (Note Taker), Executive Assistant to the Director Assets and Infrastructure Services</p>		
1.2	<p>Apologies Roy Dick (RAD), Works Manager Richard Murdoch (RM), Community Representative - Agricultural Industry Ben Wundersitz (BW), Community Representative - Agricultural Industry Shane Carty (SC), Community Representative - Transport Industry Anthony Trengove (AT), Community Representative - Transport Industry</p>		
2	Introduction - Andre Kompler, Director Assets and Infrastructure Services		
	<p>Cr DL introduced AMK to the Roads Working Party. AMK provided an overview of his civil engineering experience, which spans 30 years, and includes civil construction, mining, roads and local government. AMK commenced his career with the former New South Wales Roads and Transport Authority (now Roads and Maritime Services) and has worked in the eastern states, Western Australia and Dubai.</p>		

3	Proposed Capital Works Process - Roads - 2021-22		
	<p>AWC advised that Council staff will begin reviewing the capital budget for 2021-22 tomorrow, Wednesday 31 March 2021.</p> <p>AWC provided an overview of Council's budget deliberation process for both its capital and operating budgets, including the elected member deliberation process.</p> <p>MSM advised that Council's capital works program is predominantly derived through asset management plans, including the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP), which was adopted at this month's Council meeting.</p> <p>Cr NB advised that the Roads Advisory Group have prepared maps of the roads that they believe should be a priority. Cr NB will discuss this AMK outside of this meeting.</p> <p>Cr DL advised that he has some roads that he would like to bring to AMK's attention.</p> <p>AMK responded that he is happy to look at these roads; however, reiterated that Council is now part way through the journey of assessing its road network. AMK flagged the HDS report that Council received in 2019 and issues that this report identified, particularly at road intersections. AMK advised that more work needs to be undertaken to complete the HDS network assessment before further heavy vehicle access can be considered.</p> <p>AMK advised that Council are beginning to receive a number of applications for Road Trains up to 36.5m and longer and highlighted issues that are currently apparent in Council's sealed road network, including edge breaks.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the inability to speed limit single articulated semi-trailers.</p> <p>MC asked if Council could look at implementing corridors to connect the unsealed road network to the sealed road network.</p> <p>AMK responded that Council are beginning to look at the east west links and prioritising investment in upgrading these roads.</p>		

4	Update - Transport Asset Management Plan		
	<p>AMK advised that Council staff are beginning to review the TAMP again. As part of this review Council will begin looking at the material that is being used on its road network and will undertake testing to see if the material is suitable and what can be done to increase its useful life.</p> <p>AWC reiterated that Council will review the TAMP and will consult with the public.</p>		
5	Grant Funding - Heavy Vehicle Access Upgrades/Road Safety		
5.1	<p>Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program - Round Seven - Heavy Vehicle Access Upgrade - Gardner Street and Fowler Terrace, Price</p> <p>AWC advised that in 2020 Council received funding through the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program - Round Seven to upgrade Gardner Street and Fowler Terrace in Price for heavy vehicle access.</p> <p>This was a very competitive application and required support from the state government.</p> <p>Cr DL advised that T-Ports are starting up at Wallaroo and will provide competition to Port Giles. T-Ports have been operating successfully on the Eyre Peninsula. T-Ports operations at Wallaroo will increase heavy vehicle movements through Maitland, the main street of which is a state road. Discussion ensued regarding heavy vehicle access through Maitland and AMK advised that all Council can do is advocate to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport that they need to invest in this road.</p>		
5.2	<p>Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program - Upgrade of Regional Commodity and Freight Roads - Wauraltee Road, Mount Rat Road, Dans Road, Silo Road</p> <p>AMK advised that Council recently submitted a joint application with Barunga West Council and Copper Coast Council to the Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program to upgrade regional commodity and freight roads.</p> <p>The \$3.1 million project to upgrade Wauraltee Road, Mount Rat Road, Dans Road and Silo Road, includes shoulder work, bitumen stabilisation (heavy patch) work and sealing with a polymer seal.</p> <p>These works will increase the useful life of the roads, increase their functionality and improve the roads for road users.</p>		

	<p>AMK advised that there may not be a lot of funding available for road projects at the federal level in the future due to investments already made during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>AMK advised that moving forward Council will need to be targeted in its expenditure on roads and that Council cannot be everything to everyone.</p>		
6	Process - Delivery of Material - Council Unsealed Road Works		
	<p>AMK advised that in response to the email from BW he sounded out the Works Supervisor South and Acting Works Supervisor North for their opinions on the points raised.</p> <p>AMK advised that he agrees with the comments about making material delivery drivers use the state road network.</p> <p>AMK advised that when Council goes out to tender for material for the 2021-22 financial year some of these considerations will be incorporated into the tender documents. This may increase the cost of delivery and the cost per tonne; however, may alleviate some of these issues.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the subcontracting of material delivery and AMK advised that there are only certain things that Council can control in its contract and a subcontractor is not one of them.</p> <p>Further discussion ensued regarding the use of 30m Road Trains to deliver material and AMK advised that in principle he supports this idea; however, there are a number of things that need to be considered before this can become a reality, including, road width, obstacles within the road corridor, overtaking opportunities, swept paths at intersection level and the ability for the truck to turn around after it has delivered the material.</p> <p>In his correspondence BW flagged the use of technology to improve grader operator efficiency. AMK advised that no such technology exists. AMK provided an overview of the technology available on the CAT M series graders that Council use. As Council does not grade to a design that can control blade movement it is not possible to use this technology to its full advantage; however, Council is using some of the technology available. Council staff will continue training in this area over the next 12 months.</p>		

7	General Business		
	<p>Cr DL raised concerns that he has regarding patrol grading activities being undertaken over the drier summer months between December and March. AMK responded that he agrees that dry grading is not optimal and should only be used in certain circumstances where safety is an issue.</p> <p>GT raised the letter that he sent to Rowan Ramsay MP regarding the condition of the Spencer Highway between Maitland and Minlaton and the Upper Yorke Road between Maitland and Arthurton. This letter was shared with the Roads Working Party. GT understands that these are state roads and that there is a limit to what Council can do; however, he is wondering if the Roads Working Party can endorse this. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness for Council or the Roads Working Party to do this.</p> <p>Cr NB advised that she spoke to AT earlier today and he raised concerns regarding permits and the fact that some permit holders have previously had roads that are now being refused or having conditions placed on them. Cr NB enquired if permit renewals are being checked and KLT confirmed that when a permit is due for renewal it is checked by staff before the Road Manager Consent Decision is made. Any changes to permits and permit conditions are a result of errors made by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator or the introduction of the escort condition, which enables permit holders to access certain roads that have previously been refused, if they have an escort vehicle.</p> <p>Cr NB also advised that AT has raised concerns about tree trimming. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that these should be submitted as Customer Service Requests (CSRs) and people should be encouraged to submit such.</p>		
8	Next Meeting		
	To be advised.		

Meeting Closed: 4.45pm