



## Notes

### Infrastructure Australia Forum

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
Roxy Theatre, Bingara

#### Present:

(Co-ordinator) Infrastructure Australia	Mr Michael Deegan
(Policy Advisor) Infrastructure Australia	Mr John Austen
(Chair ARRG) Mayor Gwydir Shire Council	Cr John Coulton
(Treasurer ARRG) Deputy Mayor MPSC	Cr Sue Price
Moree Plains Shire Council (General Manager)	Mr David Aber
Regional Development Australia	Mr Nathan Axelsson
Upper Hunter Council (Deputy Mayor)	Cr Errol Bates
Bingara	Mr Rodney Brown
Country Women's Association	Mrs Roma Bundock
Coolatai	Mrs Carol Coleman
Coolatai	Mr Paddy Coleman
Biniguy	Mr Ed Cory
Gwydir Shire Council	Mrs Leeah Daley
Gwydir Group	Mrs Anne Farrow
Gwydir Shire Council	Ms Kellie Gill
North Star	Mr Wallace Gilmore
North Star	Mrs Heather Gilmore
Moree	Mr Ron Greentree
Moree	Mr Neil Greentree
Moree (Ex Councillor)	Mrs Myrna Harris
Moree	Mr Norm Harris
Gwydir Shire Resident	Mr Charles Hickson
Resident	Mrs Ruth Hickson
Cotton Australia (NSW Regional Manager)	Mr James Houlahan
Gwydir Shire Council	Mr Richard Jane
Inverell Shire Council (Mayor)	Cr Barry Johnstone
Moree	Mr Mitchell Johnstone
Moree	Mr Paul Johnstone
Moree Plains Shire Council	Mr Paul Keech
Gwydir Shire Council (Councillor)	Cr Kerry McDonald
Bingara	Mr David McDouall
Bingara	Mrs David McMurtrie
Biniguy	Mr Ross McPhie

---

AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

Bingara  
Bingara  
Glenn Innes Severn Council (Deputy Mayor)  
Regional Development Australia  
Moree  
Moree Plains Shire Council (Councillor)  
Crooble  
Delungra  
Toowoomba Regional Council (Councillor)  
Moree  
Liverpool Plains Shire Council  
Moree Plains Shire Council (Councillor)  
North Star  
North Star  
PEECE Consulting  
Double B Beef  
Moree Plains Shire Council  
Boggabilla  
Boggabilla

Mr Hugh Munro  
Mr Noman Parsons  
Cr Colin Price  
Ms Jessica Price-Purnell  
Mr Brett Schoupp  
Cr Peter Strang  
Mr Mark Sullivan  
Mr Bob Swain  
Cr Carol Taylor  
Mr David Tighe  
Mr Greg Tory  
Cr Theo Tzannas  
Mr Alan Uebergang  
Mrs Elizabeth Uebergang  
Mr John Wearne  
Mr John Whitfeld  
Mr David Wolfenden  
Mr Tony Wood  
Mrs Sally Wood

Meeting commenced 2.35pm

The Chair John Coulton welcomed Mr Michael Deegan and thanked him for travelling to attend the forum. The Chair then opened up the meeting to the floor to allow those that need to travel to speak first.

#### **1. Shirley Brian**

Mrs Brian raised the issue of the local Upper Bingara road and Gineroi road South of Bingara being in need of funding to upgrade as the school bus route travels on both roads.

Michael Deegan responded by saying that Infrastructure Australia (IA) is an advisory body only and was created to set a national profile focusing on national productivity and is currently working on a land and freight strategy looking at systemic issues that are no longer working.

The Chair called Cr Sue Price (Treasurer ARRG) and Deputy Mayor Moree Plains Shire Council to make her presentation.

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

## **Cr Sue Price**

Cr Price thanked everyone for attending and outlined the purpose of the Australian Rural Roads Group which was incorporated in March 2010 as being a nationwide body seeking genuine reform. Cr Price outlined the ARRG achievements to date as well as recent developments, reforms needed and the need for an independent National Roads Manager. Cr Price noted Australian Rural Road Group's first report "Going Nowhere" from Juturna Consulting and advised that membership has now been opened to all rural Councils. Website was launched in December last year, 2 newsletters. Working on second report into excise generated on local roads. Shortfall of 2.8 Billion dollars a year. Need an Independent National Roads Manager body, one size does not fit all.

The Chair called on Mr Richard Jane, Technical Services Director for Gwydir Shire Council to make his presentation.

## **Mr Richard Jane**

Mr Jane gave an overview of the latest developments and outlined two main areas of focus.

- Conditional assessment - focusing on local rural roads to begin with and presented a breakdown of the assessment methodology.
- Fuel Excise – traffic classifications and speeds focusing on heavy vehicles presented an overview of excise classifications.

The Chair called Mr David Aber General Manager of Moree Plains Shire Council (MPSC) to make his presentation

## **Mr David Aber – General Manager Moree Plains Shire Council**

Mr Aber presented an overview of MPSC as the most productive shire in Australia. In 2006 annual agricultural productivity of \$532 Million, over 3000km road network requiring annually \$17.6 Million to sustainably maintain the network and having a shortfall of \$10 Million adding that communities are getting involved in local government and can mount pressure groups together on real issues. Need a 9.8% increase over 3 years to sustain the sealed network. Taking the figures that Mr Richard Jane presented into asset management plans.

Mr Aber stated that a Road Improvement Committee had been formed with the community in MPS which has assisted greatly with demand management. Public meetings and surveys have also assisted with road wear mitigation and asset management. Mr Aber spoke of the need to seek alternate funding sources and mentioned the idea of a possible levy on tonnage.

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

## Recommendations

1. 10 Year asset management plan
2. Retain current level of funding as baseline including roads to recovery
3. Independent national roads portfolio Manager
4. National rural Local Roads Productivity Fund
5. Build management skills and research capacity for rural roads

The Chair called Mr John Wearne (Peece Planning)

### **Mr John Wearne**

Mr Wearne outlined that Peece was headed by (6) Directors with Peter Rufford being the Executive Director and stands for Planning, Environment, Economics, Community and Engineering. Some of the projects PEECE Consulting have been involved in with local government include the feasibility study for the \$18 Million upgrade of the Coonamble to Bingara road link (now completed) , the feasibility study in 2002 for the Parkes to Wellington road a \$10 Million fully funded by State project and, recently, the feasibility study for the proposed Tenterfield highway bypass. Currently, PEECE are involved in working with Walgett, Narrabri and Warrumbungle councils to establish the case for an upgrade of the Coonabarabran to Mungindi Road through Pilliga.

Mr Wearne thanked Cr John Coulton and Cr Sue Price for forming the ARRG. The group have a strong network with the state road and transport authorities, and both Federal and State Governments. Much of the work PEECE carries out with feasibility studies involves meeting groups of local landholders to consider basic wet weather access, school buses, medical services availability, limits to productive capacity and other equity issues.

Traditional formula funding will continue to be overtaken by strategic prioritisation. Mr Wearne highlighted the need to work more collaborative with neighboring Councils to establish strategic road linkages. Challenge lies in how best to design the submission for funding as well as establishing a strong proposal for the case itself. What the ARRG is trying to achieve is in line with Peece Consulting's objectives.

The meeting recessed for a 10 minute afternoon tea

The Chair called Mr Michael Deegan Co-ordinator Infrastructure Australia

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

### **Mr Michael Deegan**

Mr Deegan thanked Cr Coulton and Cr Price for the invitation to speak at the forum and explained that Infrastructure Australia was made up of only 6 policy advisors and two administration staff engaged with people all around the country dealing with telecommunications, water, energy and transport and working together in public and private sector partnerships. Mr Deegan ran a short DVD on the purpose of Infrastructure Australia.

Cr John Coulton thanked Mr Ron Greentree for the use of his helicopter for the aerial tour and opened the forum to the floor.

### **Mr Ben Coulton – North Star**

Mr Coulton outlined that the biggest issue for their business is rail and road infrastructure, where employees cannot be guaranteed access to schools for their children on a daily basis, and is causing towns and communities to go backwards. Mr Coulton said that his business has reached capacity due to deteriorating infrastructure.

### **Mr Tony Wood – Moree Plains Shire**

Mr Wood has seen the gradual deterioration over the last 20 years where only 12ml of rain can mean deadlines are not met. Inaccessible roads lead to an increase in the cost of cartage and buyers needing to source product elsewhere due to not being able to get the produce out after rain. Mr Wood also mentioned that (2) men have had to find work elsewhere as they couldn't guarantee access to schools.

### **Cr Barry Johnson – Mayor Inverell Shire Council**

Cr Johnson mentioned that the State and National system has been degrading over time and provided the example of typical rural road being the North Star to Yetman where the bridge failed and it took 2 years to re-open the road.

### **Mrs Mona Harris – MPS**

- Mrs Harris raised that education was suffering due to the poor roads network. Rowena Public School has 28 students bussed from East and West of the school, in the final term of last year out of 48 school days the children only attended 11 days due to the road conditions. A survey pertaining to this was conducted highlighting that by the time children arrive at the end of year 6 they have lost a whole year of school.
- Medical care and education are vital and people won't be encouraged to live in rural areas if the roads infrastructure is unreliable.

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

- Mrs Harris outlined that their business sells grain on a contract basis and if it rains the trucks cannot move the grain and their business becomes an unreliable marketer thus disrupting the whole supply chain.
- Mrs Harris highlighted that in other countries such as New Zealand, any money raised from road charges goes into a separate fund, why can't this happen in Australia?
- The trucks using the roads 20 years ago were small compared to today's' much larger trucks and paying a lot more excise due to the distances needed to travel.

#### **Mr James Houlahan – Cotton Australia**

Mr Houlahan highlighted data collected in relation to heavy vehicle use transporting including examples such as 33,600 40ft trailers will need to travel one way from farm to cotton gin in the Balonne Shire generating 260 Million dollars annually. In the industry, 70,000 40ft trailers will need to access our roads from farm to cotton gin to port. We need to look beyond historic funding sources for example; there could be a levy on tonnage etc.

#### **Mrs Ruth Hickson – West Bingara**

Mrs Hickson told the forum that she has a local business and is trying to run it to its best potential by using up to date technology and skilled staff, however it is difficult to attract and keep skilled staff if they have small children and also due to cost and standard of living, for example the wear and tear on tyres from poorly conditioned roads and the risk of accident. Mrs Hickson added that they have decided against implementing a sheep feedlot because the road is too reliable.

#### **Cr Angela Doering – GSC – Crooble**

Cr Doering raised that there is a large volume of truck traffic around the area and receives many calls as a councillor about the condition of the roads. While the ARRG is doing a good job in putting a case forward, Cr Doering encouraged organisations and the community itself to take up the issue as well. Once children finish Primary School, it is an unfortunate reality that many children will need to be sent away to school and there is a wide perception that Primary Producers are feeling disenfranchised and marginalised with the lack of infrastructure. As a result local rural populations are decreasing and government needs to take up the issue.

#### **Cr Sue Price – Moree Plains Shire**

Cr Price mentioned the current federal government funding through FAG grants and highlighted that infrastructure is a basic service and a basic right.

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

### **Patty Coleman – Coolatai**

Mr Coleman raised that his business is affected when it rains as he is unsure what to do in regards to moving grain. Mr Coleman also mentioned restricted work practices in relation to grading roads.

### **Cr John Coulton**

Cr Coulton raised that Mr Patty Coleman and Mr Ron Greentree said that they pay more in cartage because they are on a gravel road and a gentleman missed a contract at Coonamble recently due to rain. Anthony Albanese Cr Coulton at a recent meeting to come back when you can prove that a dollar spent will increase a dollar in productivity. Cr Coulton also added that the ARRG consultant is preparing an economic paper at the end of July. Cr Coulton added that a lot of support is required to help increase funding such as writing letters to the Minister.

### **Mr John Whitfeld – Double B Beef**

Mr Whitfeld mentioned that the road network is also a key component to the social network of rural people. Mr Whitfeld raised that his concerns in the Beef/livestock industry are with the welfare of the animals, the time spent transporting them on the road and the quality of the roads. Example of cattle that were trucked from Western Australia and were transported through every state except for ACT, TAS and NT. The broken road network means that cattle are subject to lengthy transport on trucks and this increases the overall cost. Due to poor roads coupled with little to no mobile coverage make running a business difficult and the road network is placed into the calculation of the sale of cattle and very fine margins at each point in the agricultural sector. The infrastructure isn't allowing business owners to be as efficient as they can. Vehicle depreciation was also one of the biggest costs noted.

### **Mark Sullivan – Crooble**

Mr Sullivan spoke of the very fragile condition of the roads that have gone back to black soil in the local area and there being a blue metal quarry that should be significant, also the issue of not being able to have road trains in the Gwydir Shire. Finding dealing with red tape hard to deal with such as dealing with the RTA.

### **Cr John Coulton – Chair**

Cr Coulton advised that the Roads and Traffic Authority will be looking into road trains in the area.

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

### **Mr Bob Swain**

Mr Swain mentioned that was a contractor for Council ripping gravel and a problem with not having the gravel close by is that the Council can only place a thin layer of gravel down that doesn't last long, could Infrastructure Australia give any guidance on road building to Council's. Wrecked numerous vehicles on the roads, funding is needed.

### **Cr Carol Taylor – Toowoomba Shire Council**

Cr Taylor outlined current roads infrastructure projects pending such as the Warrago highway, Toowoomba bypass in the Darling Downs area, where the community is captive to the highway.

1992-2008 12 deaths and 150 injuries on the range

Seeking new Toowoomba bypass for many years, 1.75 Billion Toowoomba bypass, incorporating a new range crossing will improve inland transport route, better efficient connections, add over \$300 million to darling down economy, 3800 jobs, 16000 jobs south east QLD 4 year construction period, 1.3 billion to QLD GDP, 7.9 billion of darling downs produce more efficiently. Tremendous social implications with bad roads.

### **Mr Norm Parsons – Bingara**

Mr Parsons advised the meeting that 2 years ago he had to call an ambulance after a small shower of rain that needed to travel up the Narrabri road about 20km from Bingara, the ambulance needed to make charges to try and get out.

### **Andrew Doering – Crooble**

Andrew mentioned that poor roads affect cost of freight in and out, and with 4WD vehicles being a must as well as great wear and tear on tyres. Mr Doering suggested that road trains have more freight efficiency, less impact and more efficient per tonne. We need to look at roads assets. Mr Doering said that he applauded Cr Coulton and Cr Price for the formation of the ARRG and that all industries would have a common denominator being roads. Cost production has increase by around 50% from around 7 years ago.

### **Glen Price – Moree Plains Shire**

Mr Price is a cotton grower in the Moree area and mentioned that baled cotton needs to be transported on sealed roads to avoid contamination

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

## **Heather Gilmore**

Ms Gilmore mentioned that in the last NSW budget, 30% of funding went to rural roads and 70% to city roads, she felt that this should not be per capita and a lot more should be spent on rural roads.

## **Mr Don Mack – NSW Farmers Association**

Mr Mack mentioned the rail system that once ran and that all grain is now on the road and hopes that the road does not deteriorate as the rail system has.

The Chair invited Mr Deegan to respond.

## **Mr Michael Deegan**

The challenge is all 565 local Councils, state governments and no funding.

### **Asset Management**

The Australian Rural Road Group mentioned asset management and portfolios, they are not interchangeable. Keen to get all asset management plans from all local government councils. The road system consists of property management and asset management, currently no-one is looking after the asset management side and there is no commercial structure for operation. Currently IA focuses on all 565 Council's asset management plans and working with state governments to build a portfolio approach. The portfolio approach is a broader approach and currently there is no one at the portfolio level. There is no-one at the portfolio level.

### **Market Mechanisms**

Market Mechanisms (MM) operates in volatile markets, if there is no MM for the road system to drive the innovation. The Henry Tax Review suggested that we need to revisit the whole road structure of our road pricing ranges excise, fuel etc. We need to ask what worked and didn't work in the past, and there are great risks with hypothecation. If there is a service that can be provided and paid instead of consolidated funds.

One suggestion is to move in to a private market sector arrangement requiring a fundamental change. There is a link to social outcomes and work done on roads. There is a need for a federal Minister to take on Heavy Vehicle regulation, and to have a single national HV regulator by 2013.

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

## Toowoomba Range

Has a national Land/freight strategy, 64 major submissions at the moment and is a substantial piece of work.

## Inland Rail

1000 submissions; however there is a problem where those submitting use different data, including Newell highway and rail track from Brisbane to Sydney, the data didn't match, need to understand the problem precisely.

## Funding allocation

Infrastructure NSW will have a lot of challenges especially in Sydney, there is serious energy problems for the State regarding running out of power. Commonwealth department of infrastructure allocates \$9 billion per annum in infrastructure funding needs 120 billion today

There will be 36 Billion over the next 4 years allocated from Infrastructure Australia?

The Chair opened up the meeting to the floor.

### **Mrs Roma Bundock**

Concerned that Local Councils make the same mistakes regarding roads and there is little consultation with locals.

### **Mrs Ruth Hickson**

Private Model regarding funding, would build roads differently?

### **Mrs Carol Taylor**

It is a balancing act between what can be afforded; there is 10,750 km of road in Toowoomba Shire at \$160,000 per kilometre to fix.

### **Mr Richard Jane**

Investment delivery needs to be better thought through; services and staff have been slowly eroded away.

### **Cr Sue Price**

Cr Price mentioned the \$9 Billion Road/Transport Federal Funding allocation and asked if there was any shift on perception of underinvestment in rail and roads?

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

**Mr Michael Deegan**

There is an understanding that it needs to change, the issue is which gets cut e.g. Health, Defence?

**Mr John Whitfeld**

Mr Whitfeld noted that Regional Australia lack voting numbers and asked where Regional Australia can gain leverage into the debate needing a public champion for profile building perhaps through the media and politicians.

**Mr Michael Deegan**

Mr Deegan suggested that there are other ways other than the media and notes a 1000km supply chain master plan created by a certain group of men and women with logic, facts and having a plan and solution to gain changing effect, Mr Deegan also noted his confidence in ARRG's interest in fundamental change.

**Cr Angela Doering**

Cr Doering asked how funding allocated through Infrastructure Australia?

**Mr Michael Deegan**

Infrastructure Australia does not receive funding but works through a prioritisation process with a 30-50 year vision based on demand.

**Mr Ross McPhie**

How does the new port being built effect Infrastructure Plans?

**Mr Michael Deegan**

There are always competing priorities. The private sector pays by large because they have the money. It's about scale of economy and governments think industries should be paying for their own infrastructure.

**Mr Peter Strang**

Mr Strange asked if the National Broadband Network is deserving of the funding it receives or would this be better allocated elsewhere?

---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

**Mr Michael Deegan**

Connectivity is an important opportunity but a mixed bag. No cost analysis has been performed.

**Cr Barry Johnstone**

Is concerned that Roads to Recovery program is being sidelined, and asked if more funding should be added to this program?

**Mr Michael Deegan**

Suggested that the program was a short term political ploy.

**Mr John Whitfeld**

Asked about Aviation Services?

**Mr Michael Deegan**

Advised that it does not fit into the brief and that the constitution allows for one body to deal with this.

Meeting closed: 5.20pm



---

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROAD GROUP INC**  
C/- Locked Bag 5  
BINGRARA NSW 2404

Max Eastcott (Secretary/Public Officer) 0427 240 112  
John Coulton (Chairperson) 0427 297 082  
Sue Price (Treasurer) 0417 268 398

Inquiries Phone: (02) 6724 2021  
Fax: (02) 6724 1771  
Email: [ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralroadgroup@gwydir.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)