



**G W Y D I R**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2010**

**COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM**

**BINGARA OFFICE - COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:** Cr. John Coulton (Mayor), Cr. Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Angela Doering, Cr. Peter Pankhurst, Cr. David Rose and Cr. Bob Tremain.

**Staff:** Max Eastcott (General Manager), Alan Kerr ( Engineering Services Director), Leeah Daley (Organisation Development Director, Ron Wood (Corporate Services Director), Suzanne Webber (Social Services Manager), Tanya Parker (Temp. Social Services Manager) and Andrew Cooper (Town Services Engineer)

**Public:** Mrs N Williams and one member of the public

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**OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME – MAYOR**

**APOLOGIES** Crs Claude Nichols, Kerry McDonald and Rod King

**THAT the apologies of Crs Claude Nichols, Kerry McDonald and Rod King are accepted.**

**(Moved Cr Tremain, seconded Cr Rose)**

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

**THAT the Minutes of the previous Public Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 March 2010 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.**

**(Moved Cr Doering, seconded Cr Egan)**

**PRESENTATION - Nil**

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



**Policy Number:**

**Policy Section:** Rates

**Policy Title:** Water Account Adjustments - Defective Services

**Date adopted:**

**Approved by:**

**Prepared by:** Water and Sewerage Manager

**File reference:** 32

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To provide procedures to control the processing of requests from Council's customers
2. To provide an efficient service to Council's customers;
3. To ensure that requests from customers are acknowledged courteously and investigated efficiently and effectively;
4. To maintain and enhance the public image of Council;

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

1. Once water has passed through any meter it becomes the responsibility of the rateable person and the Council will only give consideration to adjusting a water consumption because of a defective service under the following circumstances:
  - a. The defect must be such that it was not readily visible or apparent.
  - b. The Council must be satisfied that there has been immediate and effective action to make repairs.
  - c. Application must be received in writing within 30 days day of the issue of the water account
2. Any claim for adjustment, under these circumstances must be accompanied by a statement from the licensed plumber who carried out the repairs and must include:
  - a. The licence number of that plumber.
  - b. The address where the work was carried out.

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- c. The date, nature and location of the repairs.
  - d. A statement that the defect was not readily visible or apparent.
3. Where a second claim is lodged within twelve months of a previous claim, the licensed plumber must include a statement advising that the service is in good order and condition and does not require full replacement.
4. The extent of the adjustment will be determined by averaging the consumption of the affected bill. The basis of average will be:
- a. to determine the "daily" average of the three previously billed periods (total consumption divided by total days) and multiplying that daily average by the number of days of the bill to be adjusted, so as to determine the total average consumption for that bill period.
  - b. Where the basis of average prescribed under 4.a) is, wholly or in part, deemed unsuitable then an alternate basis may be determined. The officer authorised to approve the adjustment will make any determination as to the suitability and alternate basis of average.
  - c. An amended charge will be determined by applying the charge per kilolitre, of the original bill, to the total averaged consumption.
  - d. For Commercial customers discharging to sewerage the revised consumption will be used to calculate the sewerage usage charge.

The amount that is the difference between the original and amended bills will be written off, after approval of the adjustment by an officer authorised to do so.

This policy may also apply to a billing period immediately after the one that initiated the adjustment. However, the adjustment will be only from the start of the next period to the date of the repair.

Adjustments under this policy cannot be made for a period prior to the period that initiated the adjustment."



3 ASSET OPERATIONS

3.1 Local Road Works

The major construction and maintenance activities for the February - March 2010 period are detailed below.

Construction/ Rehabilitation

RR63 Segments 60/65/70/75 to be sealed late March, 1600m Section on MR133 Killarney Gap Road to commence late April.

Gravel Resheeting

RTA Reseals SR80 Flood Damage, SR15 Gulf Creek Road completed. SR44 Boundary Creek Road in progress

Self Help

Green Gables Road resheeting.

Bitumen Seals

RTA Reseals, SR12 and MR63 reseals completed.

3.2 Maintenance Works – Local, Main and Regional Roads

Edge Repairs

Nil

Maintenance Grading

SR42 Mungle Road, SR10 Yallaroi Road, SR13 Oregon Road, SR6 Getta Getta Road, SR41 County Boundary Road, SR43 Buckie Road, SR36 Baroma Road, SR63 Gil Gil Road, SR9 IB Road (MPSC), SR82 Kirewa Road, SR11 Horton Road, SR18 Gineroi Road, SR99 Riverview Road, SR31 Eulourie Road, SR55 Moreena Road.

Seal Maintenance

HW12 Gwydir Hwy, MR63 Main Rd 63, RR7705 North Star Road, RR63 Yetman Road, SR8 Gragin Road, SR4 Baroma Downs Road, SR5 Croppa Moree Road, SR7 Croppa Creek Road, SH16 Bruxner Highway, Bingara Town Streets, Upper Horton Village, SR1 Copeton Dam Road, SR2 Bundarra Road, SR3 Elcombe Road, SR23 Wearnes Road, SR56 McCuskers, SR16 Trevallyn Road, MR132 MacIntyre Road & Gulf Creek Road, MR133 Killarney Gap Road, MR134 Delungra Road.

Heavy Patching

RR63 Warialda Road

Miscellaneous Work

NIL

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Bridges

Sawpit Creek bridge on SR15 Gulf Creek Road in progress.

Culverts/Causeways

Pipe Repairs on SR41 County Boundary Road, RR7705 North Star Road, SR33 Forest Creek Road, SR40 blue Nobby Road, SR6 Getta Getta Road, SR10 Yallaroi Road, Causeway across Barrack Creek on SR22 Upper Bingara Road in progress. Culvert at Pine Tree Gully on MR133 Killarney Gap Road to commence late April.

Vegetation Control

RR63 Warialda Road, SR4 Baroma Downs Road, RR7705 Boggabilla Road, SR11 Horton Road, MR63 Cobbadah Road, MR134 Delungra Road. Upper Horton Village, MR133 Killarney Gap Road, MR63 Cobbadah Road, MR134 Delungra Road.

Slashing

HW16 Bruxner Highway, RR7705 North Star Road, HW12 Gwydir Highway, SR20 Gravesend Road, SR14 Mosquito Creek Road, RR63 Warialda Road, SR64 Gournama Road, MR63 Cobbadah Rd. Bingara Township, SR3 Elcombe Road, MR133 Killarney Gap Road, MR134 Delungra Road, Bingara Airstrip, SR15 Gulf Creek Road, SR18 Gineroi Road, SR1 Copeton Dam Road, SR2 Bundurra Road, Bingara Racetrack, SR19 Whitlow Road, SR12 Upper Whitlow Road, SR15 Gulf Creek Road, SR11 Horton Road, Upper Horton Village.

Works Orders from RTA

Culvert Repairs and cleaning.

Footpath M&R

Nil

Private Works for Councillors and Senior Staff

Nil

3.3 Roads Maintenance Council Contract – Works Orders from RTA  
Nil Report

3.4 Other Asset Services

3.4.1 The depots at Warialda, Bingara and North Star continue to be maintained.

3.4.2. Street services continued to be maintained for vehicular, pedestrian and public conveniences.

3.4.3. Stormwater drainage facilities continue to be maintained. A report conducted by consultants regarding the Warialda and Bingara Drainage studies has been received and is currently under review.

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- 3.4.4. Saleyards at Warialda and Bingara continue to be maintained  
Saleyards at Bingara have been locked with access via contacting the Ranger.
- 3.4.5. Aerodromes at Warialda and Bingara continue to be maintained and inspection done weekly.
- 3.4.6 The Plant and Workshop continued to be maintained.  
  
All plant and fleet are currently under detailed review.
- 3.4.7 Existing quarry sources are continually being utilised and future sources are being investigated as time permits with other competing projects.
- 3.4.8 The radio and television towers continued to be maintained. All channels other than SBS are now reinstated and quotes are being requested for replacement of the SBS Transmitter.

**CONCLUSION:**

The activities carried out by the Engineering Services Department are in line with the 2009/2010 Management Plan and otherwise as directed.

**CONSULTATION:**

Consultation is carried out within the Engineering Department during the monthly engineering team meetings and other relevant persons.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Policy implications are those relating to the 2009/2010 Management Plan and the Engineering Policies of Gwydir Shire Council.

**FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Including Asset management):**

The activities carried out by the Engineering Services Department are in line with the 2009/2010 Management Plan.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social and Environmental):**

The activities undertaken by the Engineering Services Department regarding social and environmental factors are targeted for best practice in line with the 2009/2010 Management Plan.

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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

**THAT the Monthly Engineering Services report be received.**

**(Moved Cr Pankhurst, seconded Cr Doering)**



## Outstanding Resolutions With Action Comments as at 29th March 2010 from Public Infrastructure Committee

Year	Ref No.	Res. No.	Decision/Action
2010			
26	2	1419	17
			Bio Diesel THAT Council notes the report. FURTHER that a suitable industry expert be asked to address a future Public Infrastructure Committee Meeting.
			A presentation will be made to the Council Meeting on 27th May 2010. The program I propose is to cover the following issues: What are biofuels - definitions, how they are sold into the market Biofuels - contribution to Australia's fuel supply Biofuels in international market - forecasts, key producers Biofuel growth in Australia - capacity vs. production Ethanol in Australia - capacity growth, production, feedstocks, plants (summary) Biodiesel in Australia - capacity growth, production, feedstocks, plants (summary) Consumer acceptance - rollout; rebranding; trends; vehicle suitability Mandating and Government policy - Federal assistance; state mandates + impact on demand, tax/excise Pricing - import parity (ethanol), benchmark pricing comments Second generation feedstocks Industry challenges Positioning of Australian Biofuel Industry Commercial factors impacting on industry The presenter will be Mike Cochran, Joint Director, APAC biofuel consultants and the cost is \$1250 (excl GST) plus travel expenses.
25	3	1441	42
			Cr. Rose - Former Lowes' Service Station Bingara Cr. Rose informed the meeting that this service within Bingara has closed and it was the most convenient way for vehicles requiring diesel to 'fill up' within Bingara after hours. It was generally agreed that the Council's staff will investigate any opportunities for the Council to deliver diesel from this closed facility.

Year	Ref No.	Res. No.	Decision/Action
<b>This matter will be investigated by the Senior Management Team</b>			
25	3	1452	55
			Hope Street Lighting THAT Council include in the 2010/11 budget funds to purchase and install one solar street light in the vicinity of 16 Hope Street Warialda. FURTHER that an investigation is carried out in regards to urban street lighting. The investigation should consider number and location of existing lights, areas that need improvement and options of full solar conversion of all existing street lights. NOTE: Cr Nichols has a particular interest in this matter and will assist the staff to select the most appropriate option.  <b>This will be implemented when funding is available.</b>
25	3	1453	56
			THAT the Monthly Town Services Report is adopted and noted. FURTHER that the comparative pool visitor data for the last three years be provided to Councillors in a future Weekly Report.  <b>The required comparative information will be placed into a future Weekly Report.</b>



**Parks:**

Council's parks continue to be maintained.

**Gardens:**

Council's gardens continue to be maintained, the Bingara Main Street has had all existing flowers removed. Flowers have been planted in Council's nursery however are not ready for planting until end of April.

The Garden in front of Council depot and dump point where planted with photinias during March. In Maitland Street on of the centre gardens has been plant with Kumquat as part of the theme for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of orange picking in Bingara.

**Sports grounds:**

Sports grounds are continuing to be maintained.

Warialda Recreation ground had the cricket pitch covered with sand during March.

**Bingara Showground:**

This Showground continues to be maintained. Bingara Central School Agricultural class is to replace a fence between the race track and cross Country area at the Bingara Showground next term, Council is going to supply the fencing material for the project.

**Play grounds:**

Council's playgrounds are being maintained with weekly inspections are carried out and maintenance as required to ensure the equipment is safe to use.

**Town Streets:**

Town streets are continuing to be maintained with Mechanical sweeping of Bingara, Warialda and Gravesend's main streets undertaken weekly.

**Litter collection:**

Litter collection is carried out daily.

**Street trees:**

Street trees continue to be maintained.  
Warialda Rail will have a dozen trees planted during April.

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**Portable Toilet Hire:**

The use of portable toilets was donated to the Gravesend Rodeo 27<sup>th</sup> February, Ponds charity camp draft 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010, Warialda Pony Club trial ride 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

The toilets have also been used at Gulf Creek and the Bingara Reservoir during the week.

**3 WATER / SEWERAGE SUPPLY (all sites)**

The water supply and sewerage schemes are being maintained. Water meters were read at the end of February and water usage bills will go out during March.

A new 100mm supply line was installed into the Warialda works depot for the road work water during February 2010. This was required as alternate sources of water were drying up.



In Queen Street Warialda the water main was extended 180m to solve a problem regarding water access to houses located behind the Motel on Gwydir Highway. The original poly service line to these houses run underneath the Motel and had several breaks.

Sewerage inlet pipe at the Bingara Sewerage treatment plant was replaced during March this was part of the Capital works program.

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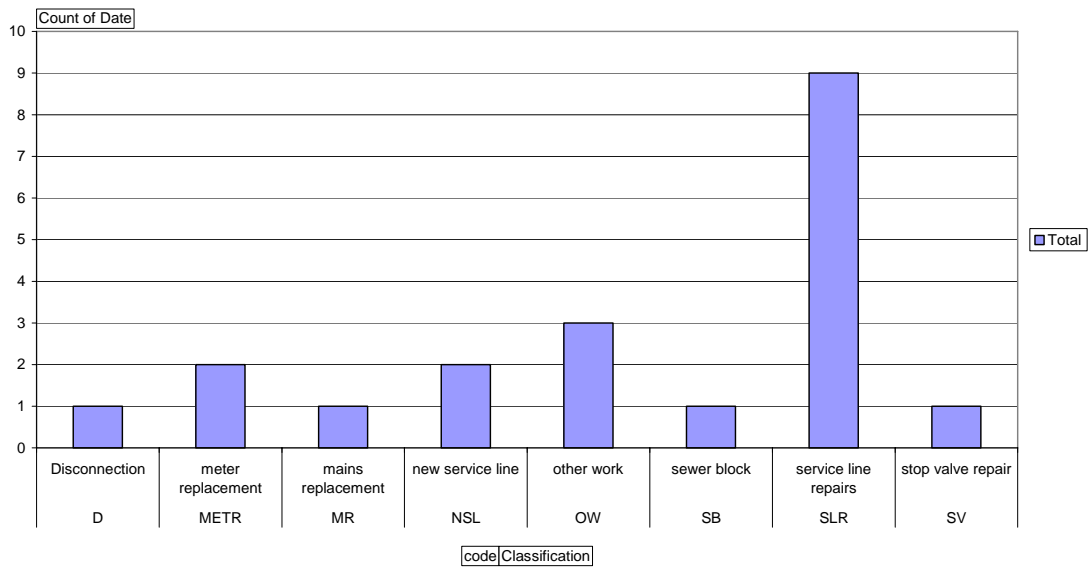
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The following graph is a summary of repairs completed for March 2010.

EPA Year (All) Cal Year 2010 Month Mar Town (All)

Gwydir Monthly Summary of Repairs

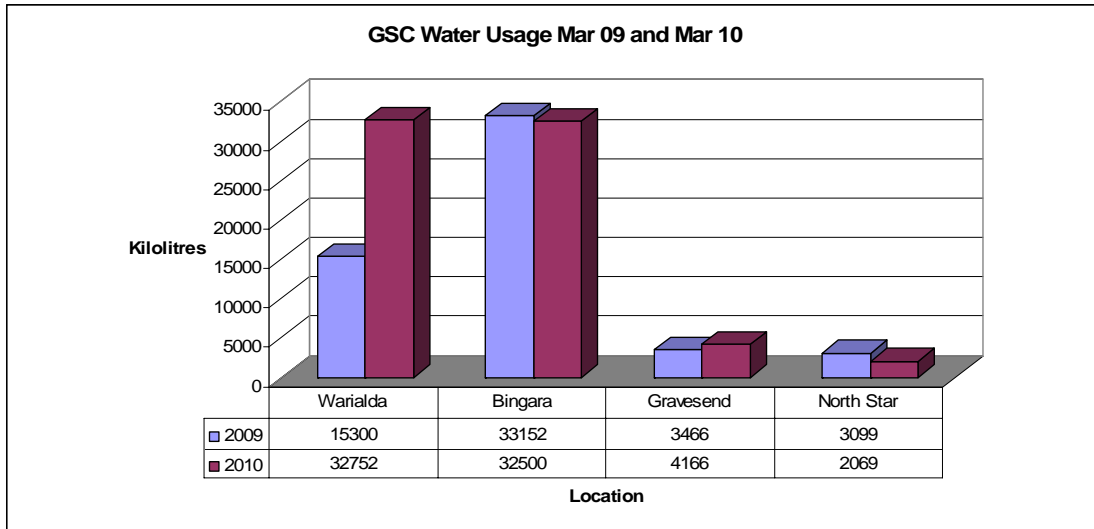


Other work includes repairs to showgrounds, cemeteries and council buildings that fall outside of core water supply or sewerage duties – for DWE reporting.

The following graph indicates the water pumping quantities for March 2009 and 2010

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**Bingara Reservoir and WTP**

The construction of the new reservoir is progressing well. The first two stages of the reservoir have been poured. The last stage is now being prepared and will be poured the second week after Easter.

Council will then install drainage at the base of the reservoir and back fill the reservoir around 1.5m. The internal pipe work will be completed by Council before the roof is fitted to the new reservoir.



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The water treatment plant has been roughly pegged out on the site. Old Keera Road was scheduled to be closed on March 22<sup>nd</sup> however this has been delayed by two weeks and this will be closed straight after Easter.

A crew from Water Treatment Australia (WTA) will then fence the entire site off before any construction commences. A meeting is scheduled to be held with representatives from WTA in Armidale on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010 to finalise design review and construction program.

**CONCLUSION:**

The activities carried out by the Town Services Department are in line with the 2009/2010 Management Plan and otherwise as directed.

**CONSULTATION:**

Consultation is carried out within the Town Services and Engineering Department during the monthly engineering team meetings and other relevant persons.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Policy implications are those relating to the 2009/2010 Management Plan and the Engineering Policies of Gwydir Shire Council.

**FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Including Asset management):**

The activities carried out by the Town Services Department are in line with the 2009/2010 Management Plan.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the report be received.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

**THAT the Monthly Town Services report be received.**

**(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr Tremain)**

**Cr Robert Tremain**

**Roadside Weed Eradication**

Cr Tremain noted that there is a significant problem with Johnston Weed along the Gwydir Highway from the Moree Plain Shire boundary to Gravesend. He requested information as to whether grants are still available for the spraying of this weed along road verges.

Cr Tremain was advised the spraying is funded from the relevant maintenance budgets and not from grants.

**Cr John Coulton**

**Gravel Resource in the North**

The issue of the availability of good quality gravel was discussed generally.

**Meeting closed 10.07 am**