

**THE MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2013 AT 5PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Councillor Higlett, Councillor Pilbeam, Councillor Hunter

Officers: Iain Stewart – Group Manager Operations, Chris Schumacher – Works Manager

APOLOGIES:

Nil

ITEM 1 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Operations Works Committee Meeting held on the 27 March 2013 were presented to Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 15 April 2013.

ITEM 3 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Committee resolved for appropriate action to be undertaken in relation to any of the items raised during business arising from the previous minutes.

ITEM 4 – WORKS INSPECTIONS

Members of the Committee inspected works on the Wolgan Valley Road Upgrade Project on Wednesday 5 June 2013. During the 2 hour inspection, Committee members witnessed the use of specially designed equipment provided by the contractor, Gracey's Earthmoving which is being used to clear blocked stormwater culverts involving the use of high pressure water. Earthworks and installation of new culverts was observed to be well advanced and the amount of unsuitable subgrade material that had been removed was also noted. Progress on the first 5km of the Upgrade Project was considered to be satisfactory.

On Wednesday 12 June 2013, members of the Committee inspected Wattlemount Road and in particular examined a section of Right of Carriageway and section of Crown Road which were legally originally proposed to be dedicated as Public Road to enable Council to perform improvement works and maintenance. There is doubt that an existing informal track used for access by the residents is in the correct location and there is also doubt as to the location of the Right of Carriageway. Resolution of the correct alignment will be an expensive, time consuming exercise and may require boundary adjustments and/or compensation. During the inspection, the Committee met by chance one of the local residents who indicated that the only support residents were seeking from Council was an annual grading of the road. It is noted that there are only three residents in this subdivision that use this particular road for access. The road in question is 2.55km long and the first 866m is a Right of Carriageway, with the balance being classified as a Crown Road not under Council's care and control. Traffic volumes on this road would be relatively low and the road was observed to be in a state that would not encourage routine grading maintenance due to the lack of a suitable road base. The Committee considered that it would be extremely difficult to justify a large capital expenditure on this particular road, not only with regard to improvements and maintenance but with regard to the dedication of this road as a Public Road based on the number of residents that are using this road as access. It may be possible to examine other options involving perhaps financial support or grants to the residents to enable them to carry

out maintenance on this particular section of road. This would appear to be a much more viable option than Council acquiring the road and maintaining the road for a limited number of residents.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Council NOT proceed with the acquisition of the sections of Right of Carriageway and Crown Road on Wattlemount Road with a view to its dedication as Public Road.
2. Council investigate other options which may enable the residents to undertake maintenance of Wattlemount Road using Council funds.

During the inspection the Committee also had a look at the Kremer Park Grandstand, the Back Cullen Road and a driveway access issue on Boulder Road at the intersection with Back Cullen Road. It was considered that the Kremer Park Grandstand is in reasonable condition and requires some basic maintenance work to enhance its condition. The Back Cullen Road was in excellent condition and in particular the trial section where the new road base was used was examined in detail and it was noted that a considerable amount of work has been done on the Back Cullen Road with regard to improvements to the drainage. The driveway access issue on Boulder Road was also examined and it was considered that the proposed location by a private resident onto Boulder Road from the block of land on the corner of Back Cullen Road and Boulder Road was inappropriate and that access should be redirected off the Back Cullen Road.

ITEM 5 – MARJORIE JACKSON SOCCER INFRASTRUCTURE

A number of complaints have been received from the Lithgow District Soccer Association concerning the state of the amenities at the Marjorie Jackson Reserve and Councillor Higlett provided a list of maintenance items following his attendance at one of their regular monthly meetings. Most of this work can be carried out on a maintenance basis and some work has already been undertaken to rectify some of the defects. The defects listed included but were not limited to:

- The need for external lighting around the buildings
- Repairs to the fencing
- Replacement of missing garbage bin
- Replacement of existing tables
- Leaking taps
- Flooding around canteen
- Fencing around dugouts needs replacing
- Cleaning of change room
- Marking of carparking spaces

ITEM 6 – EXTERNAL PLANT HIRE

The Committee was advised that advertisements have been placed in the Mercury for the hire of external plant for the remainder of the Wolgan Valley Road Upgrade Project and that these tenders will be reported back to the Works Committee for recommendation to Council at the meeting to be held on 29 July 2013.