



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year has been relatively quiet for PEECE for a range of reasons, not the least of which being the COVID-19 pandemic.

The year has also seen a greater emphasis on servicing our domestic market, and was highlighted with another study for Walgett Council, this time for the development of a road network strategy. This was a comprehensive assessment of traffic on all Council roads based on an analysis of SixMaps to ascertain the nature of the agriculture production in each sector across the Shire. The analysis was done by Bob Carstairs and was complemented with a road maintenance model developed by Peter Rufford to estimate the cost to deliver various road maintenance levels of service. The PEECE report enabled Council to review their maintenance activities within a strategic framework and provided evidence to support their road development priorities.

The question of sustainable road standards was raised to alert Council of the need to take a whole-of-life approach to the standards they can offer the community and the limitations of what they can fund from their own rate revenue for scheduled maintenance such as resealing.

Transport for NSW released details of the process for the review of road classification and the transfer of regional roads to state management. PEECE was asked to assist the Far North West Joint Organisation (comprising Cobar, Bourke and Walgett Councils but not Brewarrina) respond to the request for submissions. PEECE assisted in preparing a joint letter to the Independent Panel outlining their collective policy position. Each Council was to respond directly on proposed changes in road classification and PEECE did that for Walgett Council.

I would like to thank Executive Director Peter Rufford for his administration of PEECE over the past year, and to all of you for your continuing friendship and professionalism.

Phil Hawley
Chairman

17th September 2020