



Question on Notice WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

Council provides members of the public with the opportunity to ask questions of broad interest to Council and the community.

Questions on notice are tabled at every Ordinary Meeting of West Wimmera Shire Council. The deadline for submitting questions on notice to Council is 5:00pm on the Monday that is 10 days before the next Ordinary Council Meeting (see Council's website for meeting dates).

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council, questions will be put to the Council by the individual posing the question. The question will be answered by the Mayor or CEO, or where appropriate, Councillors or Officers of West Wimmera Shire. A maximum of 30 minutes is allocated for this process.

Question Guidelines: If the same or similar question is raised by more than one person, an answer may be given as a combined response; if time does not permit all questions registered to be answered, questions will be answered in writing or referred to the next meeting if appropriate; the Mayor, CEO, Councillors and Council Officers have the right to decline questions on the basis of prosecution/summonses/any other litigation, most appropriately addressed by other means, vague / irrelevant / insulting / improper / defamatory, answer likely to compromise his/her position, confidential or commercial in confidence.

Question on notice details provided by resident:

Name of resident	Linda Skinner
Address of resident	381 Ozenkadnock - Maelat Rd
Contact number	0428 336 788 Ozenkadnock Vic
Email	ozenkadnock@actv8.net.au
Subject	Request Road up Grade
Question	I am Requesting a Road up grade for the section of Warts Rd, being the old Maelat Rd. Road needs new Drainage & lots of Gravel on the surface
Date submitted	6/12/17
Date of Council Meeting	20 th December 2017

Linda Skinner
381 Ozenkadnook-Mortat Rd
Ozenkadnook
Vic 3413
6/12/2017

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ozenkadnook district, CFA volunteers and workers that this affects, requesting for an urgent upgrade of the Old Mortat Rd which is a continuation of Waits Rd and Excells Rd. These roads run east to west from the Ozenkadnook – Mortat Rd to the Goroke-Edenhope Rd, Karnak.

We are very concerned as we find that this section of the roads is quite dangerous, with the last two winters being very wet and the road being more frequented. We find that we don't need very much rain for it to become impassible at any time of the year. This year no one has been able to access this section of road for at least 4 months. So if there were to be a fire from a lightning strike or campers at Lake Ratzcastle which is surrounded by bush land, we have grave concerns that the fire truck will not be able to make it through on his route delaying its time of arrival as it would have to go via Goroke. The bigger danger being if the people camping, at Lake Ratzcastle had to evacuate to the west via Waits Rd or the piggery employees had to evacuate to the east via this section, driving in a frenzied panic manner on a road in the state it is in at present could result in a bad accident or loss of life.

As we have had a couple of good rainfall years, Lake Ratzcastle has become a very popular destination for camping which brings more tourists. This is a wonderful thing to have, but puts more pressure on the CFA if the situation of evacuating these people happens.

The quickest route for the Ozenkadnook and Karnak trucks to access each other's districts is via these roads which we cannot do at this stage at a reasonable speed without risk of having an accident, damaging our trucks or even getting bogged if there are thunder storms around. This route is the quickest by far to Ratzcastle for the Patyah fire truck as well.

For example at the end of October of this year, we had a fire from a lightning strike in the Morea state Forrest which is a very large parcel of bush land. The Karnak fire truck should have only taken around 15 minutes to get there but it took them at least an hour, due to the road being wet and water damaged and as you would understand these minutes can be crucial in an emergency. With the weather we have been having it is not unusual to have a lightning strike burn a hundred acres and a few kilometers away, have had 10 mls of rain.

This road is used more frequent with the start up and expansion of the free range piggery which employs four to six people. Not being able to access the piggery from the east for at least four months of the year and this year being more has meant that the piggery has not been able to collect their straw from Sam Whitehead's property, whom they have a contract with. Also it is a big disadvantage for workers if they were to live in the Karnak Goroke area. The piggery freights pigs to Echua and east of Goroke, improving the road would mean the trucks could travel out via Karnak resulting in cheaper freight rates. Grant Campbell a new local business freights all of their pigs and he has complained about the dangers of the road and his concerns, as safety in the work place is a priority. A business such as the piggery should be given every opportunity our shire can give in support to survive and grow there for offering employment for our shire.

The Ozenkadnook fire truck has already been to an emergency call out to a car accident. With the road in as poor condition as it is in the piggery workers who travel to work on this road daily, find it treacherous at times and have had a few near misses resulting in sliding off the road with no control of there vehicles. As we have had also.

On a personal note we have property at his section of the road, which we purchased three years ago expanding our farming operation. In the winter months we have not been able to access this property from the road which is the front of the property. Last year we carted grain from our paddocks down this road and if that was the situation this year we wouldn't be able to get a truck or our Header via this access. As ratepayers running a rural business we feel this limited access is a restriction of trade. Like the piggery and Grant Campbell our workers and contractors use this road frequently as it's the quickest link between our properties making it more productive, but in the current condition it is a major work safe concern.

With the intention of helping our shire to be a safe tourist destination and moving with the times to grow and prosper I am hoping you will give this request urgent consideration. I look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely



Linda Skinner

(03)55 873 513

0428 336 788

On behalf of CFA volunteers, local workers and concerned rate payers,



The Pastoral Pork Company

December 6 2017

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing letter in support of Linda Skinners request for an urgent upgrade of the old Mortat road. In my position with The Pastoral Pork Company I am responsible for overseeing the running of the pig breeding farm at 540 Waits rd.

Part of that responsibility is to be proactive in the safety and welfare of our staff and animals and I feel that the worsening state of this road over the years could put both at risk in the event of an emergency or accident.

In the event of a bad accident on that portion of road I would have grave concerns for the victim as Emergency services would probably not enter from the eastern end because of the risk to their own safety, thus costing precious time and possibly affecting the outcome.

As we try to source straw as local as possible (preferably neighbors) it has been hard to move straw along that section of road for months at a time and other sources have had to be found.

Currently I am advertising for another full time staff member and I feel it would be a great advantage to any potential applicant between Goroke and Karnak to have access to our site from the east all year round and may help us to attract local staff and may also help with transport logistics.

I feel that an upgrade to this road would have great benefit for all into the future.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Cardnell
Western Farms Manager
The Pastoral pork Company
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gvplains@bigpond.net.au