

MINUTES

BPA SUB-COMMITTEE (BALINGUP RAIL GROUP) MEETING

Balingup Community Meeting Room, Thursday, 5 February 2026

at 1.00pm

[Meeting conducted on 'Teams' system]

PRESENT: M.Lee, G. Hodge, P. Scallan, M. Copeland

APOLOGIES: D.Gordon, Cr. J. Boyle

COMMITTEE: Chair informed the Meeting that Committee member Derek Louw had passed away. Chair recorded the Committee's appreciation of Derek's work in creating a digital record of a substantial part of the Committee's accumulated documents

MINUTES: Minutes of Meeting 18 September 2025 previously circulated received as a correct record.

CORRESPONDENCE

Inwards:

19.9.25 I. Massey

8.9;13,30.10.25 P. Rogers (Rail Heritage WA)

Outwards:

18,23.9.25 I. Massey

8.9; 29.10.25 P. Rogers (Rail Heritage WA).

30.10.25 Shire of Manjimup.

BUSINESS:

1. BPA and BRG Responses to Talison December 2025 Press Release:

In December 2025 Talison issued a press release that it would not be economically feasible "at this time" for Talison to shift the transport of lithium concentrate from road to rail if the rail line became available for the carriage of freight.

The Chair advised that BPA, in its meeting on the previous evening, had resolved to require Talison to inform BPA of the steps it proposes to take to remove the unacceptable passage of 200 heavy -haulage trucks through Balingup every day.

On that day BRG had published a statement in the 'Preston Press' advising that the case for the restoration of the the South West rail line remained unaffected by Talison's decision. The BRG Feasibility Study study presented a compelling case for restoration of rail line for development of tourism and provision of a passenger rail services. The Government announcement of intent to return all freight lines to State control had included that purpose as a ground for that action.

2. Rail Heritage WA Correspondence With Minister for Transport

Rail Heritage informed BRG that it had advised the Minister that it would be able to conduct steam train excursions from Boyanup if it had access to the Capel and South West rail lines. Its approach to Arc Infrastructure for that purpose received a negative response.

3. Government Proposal to Take Over All Freight Rail Lines

Recent press articles published by the agricultural sector provided firm support for Government action in that regard. (Copies of the articles are attached to the Minutes)

4. BRG Meeting With Minister for Regional Development

Agreed that a meeting with the Minister for discussion of the prospective regional impacts of implementation of the BRG Feasibility Study be requested.

5. BRG Meeting With PTA

Agreed that BRG through the Director General of Transport seek a meeting with PTA officers for more detailed discussion on number of railcars required; service arrangements; re-fitting of A-Class railcars; introduction of battery traction system for provision of electrified service. (With regard to the latter point current advances in battery-operated railcars are outlined in an article attached to the Minutes)

6. BRG Meeting With Senator G. Sterle

Agreed that a meeting be sought for the Chair and G. Hodge to meet with Senator Sterle (Chair of Legislation, and Deputy Chair of References, Committees for Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport) to make Federal authorities aware of the BRG proposal for tourism development in the South West region of the State and the grounds the BRG Feasibility Study provides for the co-contribution of federal funds with the State to achieve that object.

7. Main Roads Department Data

Agreed that Main Roads Department be requested to supply details of the annual operating and associated costs for roadway construction and maintenance attributable to heavy-haulage traffic on South West Highway including estimates of the cost of the productivity impact that work entails.

Meeting closed at 1.45pm. Date of Next Meeting: To be advised.