



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Katrina Humphries
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MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2018 JUBILEE ROOM, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 9.27 a.m.

1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Cr Simon Murray, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr Susan Law, CEO
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Kristy McBain, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Ray Smith, General Manager
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
Blayney Shire Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, General Manager
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Darriea Turley, Mayor
Broken Hill City Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Stephen Harding, General Manager
Carrathool Shire Council, Cr Peter Laird, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr John Seymour, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager
Coonamble Shire Council, Cr Allan Karanouh, Mayor
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Abb McAlister
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Mr Allen Dwyer, General Manager
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Bill West, Mayor
Cowra Shire Council, Mr Paul Devery, General Manager
Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Michael McMahan, CEO
Dungog Shire Council, Cr Tracy Norman, Mayor
Dungog Shire Council, Ms Coralie Nichols, General Manager
Federation Council, Cr Paul Miegel, Mayor
Federation Council, Mr Adrian Butler, General Manager
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Carol Sparkes, Mayor
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Bob Kirk, Mayor
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Warrick Bennett, General Manager

Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council, Cr John Coulton, Mayor
Gwydir Shire Council, Mr Max Eastcott, General Manager
Hilltops Council, Cr Brian Ingram, Mayor
Hilltops Council, Ms Edwina Marks , General Manager
Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Liz Campbell, Mayor
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Mark Honey, Mayor
Kiama Municipal Council, Mr Kerry McMurray, General Manager
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Paul Maytom , Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager
Lithgow City Council, Cr Ray Thompson, Mayor
Lithgow City Council, Mr Graeme Faulkner, General Manager
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Roger Schirmer, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Katrina Humphries, Mayor
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Angus Witherby, Director Planning and Community Development
Moree Plains Shire Council, Ms Alice Colbran, Support Officer
Murrumbidgee Council, Cr Ruth McRae, Mayor
Murrumbidgee Council, Mr John Scarce, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Catherine Redding, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Stewart Todd, General Manager
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Oberon Shire Council, Cr Kathy Sajowitz, Mayor
Oberon Shire Council, Mr Garry Wallace, General Manager
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Shellharbour City Council, Cr Marianne Saliba, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Cr John Rooney, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr James Hayes, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Mr Matthew Hyde, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Mr Gary Lavelle, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Peter Petty, Mayor
Tenterfield Shire Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Stafford, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Mr John Bell, General Manager
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Michael Pearce, Mayor
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Greg Conkey, Mayor
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Mr Jack O'Hara, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Denis Todd, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Yass Valley Council, Cr Rowena Abbey, Mayor
Yass Valley Council, Mr Sharon Hutch, General Manager
Mr Ken Gillespie, Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, Premier and Cabinet
Mr Nick White, Office Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, Premier and Cabinet
Mr Bruce Whitehill, Office Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, Premier and Cabinet

Mr Phil Anderson, Office Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, Premier and Cabinet
Michael Kninpp, Office Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, Premier and Cabinet

APOLOGIES:

As submitted

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Mr Simon Draper, Secretary, Department of Industry

Mr Alex Young, Director, Community and Behavioural Change, NSW Environment Protection Authority

Mr David Salisbury, Executive Manager Engineering, Essential Energy and Ms Julie Briggs, REROC, CEO

Cr Linda Scott, President, Local Government NSW

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 3 August 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Uralla Shire Council / Tenterfield Shire Council).

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

NIL

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Outward

- (a) Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor Cabonne Council, advising that Cabonne Council has been admitted as a member of the Association
- (b) To Joint Organisations requesting support to Tenterfield Shire Council and the New England Joint Organisation Re Waste to Energy
- (c) Mr Ken Gillespie, Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, NSW Premier and Cabinet requesting him to facilitate a meeting to discuss the challenges and issues in securing feed funding to undertake a study into Waste into Energy
- (d) Cr Linda Scott, President, Local Government NSW, regarding Board membership of Local Government Super
- (e) Mr David Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Super, requesting that the Association be advised of the Boards decision regarding future contributions under the Defined Benefits and retirement Fund as early as possible
- (f) The Hon John Barilaro, MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business thanking him for his presentation to the 3 August meeting
- (g) The Hon Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Premier, thanking her for her presentation to the 3 August meeting and advising her of the presentation by Tenterfield Shire Council on Waste to Energy and our request to Ken Gillespie to facilitate a meeting

- (h) Cr Peter Petty, Mayor, Tenterfield Shire Council, advising him of the Associations decisions regarding Waste to Energy and that the Premier had been provided with a copy of Terry Dodds presentation
- (i) Mr Terry Dodds, Chief Executive Officer, Tenterfield Shire Council, advising him of the Associations resolutions regarding Waste to Energy

Inward

- (a) Mr David Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Super, regarding additional contributions
- (b) Hon Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Premier, thanking the Association for its letter regarding Waste to Energy
- (c) JIM Modrouvanos, A/Executive Director, Transport for NSW, regarding the Associations submission and the NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023

NOTED

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the last quarter were tabled and accepted (Dungog Shire Council / Coonamble Shire Council)

6. County Council Membership

RESOLVED That membership of the Country Mayors Association by County Councils be referred to the next meeting of the Association (Bland Shire Council / Blayney Shire Council)

7. Waste to Energy

RESOLVED that the Association write to NSW Councils requesting a maximum contribution of \$15000 to fund the Waste to Energy Feasibility Study at a local scale that is to be subject to a pro rata redistribution rebate subject to the amount collected (Parkes Shire Council /Forbes Shire Council)

RESOLVED That the Association write to the Minister for the Environment requesting that Local Government be included in the EPA's review of their Waste to Energy Policy (Goulburn Mulwaree Council / Bega Valley Shire Council)

8. SIMON DRAPER, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

The Department of Industry is responsible to five Ministers, and eleven portfolios and has a multitude of functions such as industry, primary industry, water, skills vocational education and TAFE. 99% of the State is currently impacted by drought in some way or another depending on criteria such as rainfall, soil, moisture and pasture growth. The drought fund has been increased to \$600 million plus \$500 million has been made available for relief packages such as transport subsidies, cost of living waivers and community health. The Government has received 35,000 applications. Water usage per connection has halved and 400,000 more people have access to water and sewerage programs. A specialist team has been established to work with local Government to solve critical water security issues. A

draft policy is being developed on water metering “No Meter No Pump”. The Governments objective was to create 150,000 new jobs over 4 years but 360,000 jobs have been created. More jobs were created in NSW country areas than Victoria, South Australia and Queensland country areas combined. There is a skills and relocation package of \$10,000 available and \$320 million low interest or no interest loans are available. Business Connect provides advice to small business.

9. Alex Young, Director, Community and Behavioural Change, NSW Environment Protection Authority

The purpose of the Container Deposit Scheme is to reduce drink container litter in NSW. the goal is to reduce litter by 40% by 2020. Material and Financial flows from suppliers to recyclers and network operators to the collection points. Total collection since the start last December is 864 million, average daily rate 3.38 million and highest daily rate 4.89 million. There are 688 collection points with 80.2% collected through vending machines. The aim is to provide collection point to all towns with a population of 500 or more. There have been some increases in beverage prices eg beer 4.5c, soft drinks 10.4c, water 10c and fruit juice 4.8c. There is high community support 91% and public awareness was 93%. So far \$50 Million has been paid out.

**10. David Salisbury, Executive Manager Engineering, Essential Energy
Ms Julie Briggs CEO, REROC**

Essential Energy looks after 1.38 million power poles, 840,000 customers, covers 95% of NSW ie 737,000 square kilometres of rural network and 183, 612 kilometres of overhead power lines. The role of Essential Energy is distribution and distribution costs are 37% of electricity costs. There are 163,000 street lights in 83 council areas. Southern Light a Local Government ROC’s project in southern NSW has a crucial role in promoting the Street Smart Lighting opportunity and has examined the costs of street lighting to LED to save costs. There is an opportunity to create a State solution to connect to LED and smart solution. Traditional lighting to LED to connected luminate to small pole as hub of services. These solutions can be applied to other opportunities in tourism, agriculture, mining and transport. The next step is to obtain a funding decision from the NSW Government

11. Mr Steve Orr, Premier and Cabinet

Mr Orr advised that Ken Gillespie and his Regional Infrastructure team would finalise their operations in December with the State election to be held in March 2019. A Department of Premier and Cabinet Regional Team will be formed and with this restructure in the Premiers Department regional NSW will be given a stronger presence with bigger teams to work with regional NSW

12. Cr Linda Scott, President, Local Government NSW

LGNSW will change dates of their Board meetings so that they do not clash with country Mayors meeting dates. The Annual conference was a success. LGNSW launched the Local Government Drought Fund in Forbes. The billion \$ Safe and Secure Water Program red tape removal is welcomed. It was pleasing to get the message to Conference from the Government and Opposition that "No one size fits all". Cost Shifting Report was released in Bellingen this week. LGNSW as one organization is working well. LGNSW is currently recruiting for a new Chief Executive. LGNSW has changed the way appointments are made to Boards.

13. 8 March 2019 Meeting

RESOLVED That Country Mayors Association in conjunction with LGNSW arrange a question and answer session on the 8 March 2019 at Parliament House between the leaders of the major NSW Political Parties and the Mayors and General Managers of NSW Councils (Coonamble Shire Council / Blayney Shire Council)

14. Street Smart Lighting

RESOLVED That the Association write to the Premier and the Opposition Leader expressing support of the Street Smart Lighting program developed by Essential Energy and ROC's in southern NSW and request that financial support be provided to allow the project to proceed (Shellharbour City Council / Bland Shire Council)

15. Local Government Superannuation

A MOTION WAS MOVED 1. "That Country Mayors Association express its concerns to Local Government Superannuation (LGS) at the continuous demand on all Councils in NSW for additional contributions which often exceeds more than 1% of Councils general rate take beyond the normal percentage on superable salary for the Defined Benefit Plan (DPB).

2. That Local Government Superannuation be requested to undertake an independent audit on the investment strategy to give confidence to stakeholders that the returns on superannuation funds are appropriate to the risk portfolio.

3. Country Mayors Association requests that Local Government Superannuation to cease the additional contributions on the defined benefit plan immediately as the assets associated with the scheme now exceed the liabilities

4. That Country Mayors' Association requests that LGNSW ensure Industry applicants for any external Board positions be apolitical and not members of any political parties or political organisations.

5. That Country Mayors' Association requests Local Government Superannuation to amend its constitution immediately to reflect the APRA recommendation that the Board be made up of three union representatives, three industry representatives and three independent representatives with the chair coming from the independents."

(Goulburn Mulwaree/ Bega Valley Shire Council)

Board be made up of three union representatives, three industry representatives and three independent representatives with the chair coming from the independents.”

(Goulburn Mulwaree/ Cowra Shire Council)

CARRIED ON THE CASTING VOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

16. Regional Infrastructure Office

RESOLVED That the Association write to Ken Gillespie thanking him and his team for the support and assistance given to Country Mayors (Moree Plains Shire Council / Temora Shire Council)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.02pmpm.

Cr Katrina Humphries
Chair – Country Mayor’s Association of NSW