



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Katrina Humphries
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MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2019 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 9.40 a.m.

1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Cr Peter Bailey
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Bobby Burke, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Kristy McBain, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Dominic King, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Ms Liz Jeremy, General Manager
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
Blayney Shire Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr John Seymour, Mayor
Coonamble Shire Council, Cr Allan Karanouh, Mayor
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Abb McAlister
Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Michael McMahon, CEO
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Gulgandra Shire Council, Cr Ash Walker, Deputy Mayor
Gulgandra Shire Council, Mr David Neeves, General Manager
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Carol Sparkes, Mayor
Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council, Cr John Coulton, Mayor
Gwydir Shire Council, Mr Max Eastcott, General Manager
Hilltops Council, Cr Brian Ingram, Mayor
Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Liz Campbell, Mayor
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Mark Honey, Mayor
Kyogle Council, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor
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
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Katrina Humphries, Mayor
Moree Plains Shire Council, Ms Libby Carter, Integrated Planning and Reporting
Manager
Murray River Council, Cr Christopher Bilkey, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Catherine Redding, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Stewart Todd, General Manager
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Oberon Council, Cr Kathy Sajowitz, Mayor
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Mr Tim Overall, Mayor
Shellharbour City Council, Cr Marianne Saliba, Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council, Mr Stephen Dunshea, CEO
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Cr Peter Beer, Mayor
Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Mr Peter Bascombe, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Mr Steve Firth, Director Administration and Finance
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Peter Petty, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Stafford, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Michael Pearce, Mayor
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Ms Anne Moddero, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Denis Todd, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Wentworth Shire Council, Cr Melisa Hendrics, Mayor
Wentworth Shire Council, Mr Ken Ross, General Manager
LGNSW, President, Cr Linda Scott
LGNSW, Chief Executive, Tara McCarthy

APOLOGIES:

As submitted

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Mr Rob Rogers AFSM, Deputy Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service, and Mr
Cory Shackleton, Director Community Resilience, NSW Rural Fire Service
Mr Matt Fuller, Acting Deputy Secretary, Regional and Outer Metropolitan,
Transport for NSW and Peter Ryan, Senior Manager, Major Property Development
and Corporate Real Estate, Corporate Services, Transport for NSW
Mr Gary White, Chief Planner, Planning, Industry and Environment

2. Mr Rob Rogers AFSM, Deputy Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service and Mr Cory Shackleton, Director Community Resilience, NSW Rural Fire Service

So far this season there has been 5,350 bush and grass fires across the state since 1 July with 494,028 hectares burnt with 23 fires reaching Emergency Warning level and 33 fires reaching Watch and Act level. There have been 801 aircraft taskings across the state and 2.373 million litres of retardant dropped. 6,003 out of area personnel have been deployed and 594 interstate personnel deployed. 420 houses, buildings or facilities have been destroyed and 216 damaged. Lack of water is affecting some aerial fire fighting operations particularly helicopter bucketing. To assist landholders a Special Fire Permit will be available this season to assist with the disposal of livestock. Legislative changes since 2002 have resulted in greater emphasis on bush fire protection in the development approval process and bushfire land maps guidelines released. A bush fire prone area is designated under legislation. There are three categories of Bush Fire Prone Land in NSW with buffer zones ranging from 30 metres to 100 metres. If a bush fire risk management plan applies to a council area, council must request the NSW RFS Commissioner to designate land considered to be bush fire prone. A revised 2019 PBP will be published shortly and adopted by legislation in early 2020. Grassland deeming provisions introduced through PBP 2019 are

59m APZ – No bushfire protection measures

20m APZ – BAL 12.5 – Apply other BPM's

Less than 20m APZ – Full site assessment – Determine BAL – Apply other BPM's

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 2 August 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Kyogle Council / Uralla Shire Council).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Waste Levy Taskforce

That it be noted that the Waste Levy Taskforce supports motion 3 LGNSW conference Waste and Recycling

Prioritisation of Electricity Grid Connections

RESOLVED That Minister Kean be asked for clarification and answers on how prioritisation of electricity grid connections are to be achieved (Bellingen Shire Council/ Glen Innes Severn Council)

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Outward

(a) Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, thanking him for his presentation to the 2 August meeting

(b) Hon Mark Coulton MP, Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government, Assistant Trade and Investment Minister, thanking him for his presentation to the 2 August meeting

- (c) Geoff McKechnie APM, Assistant Commissioner, Commander, Western Region NSW Police Force, thanking him for his presentation to the 2 August meeting
- (d) Mr Richard Colbran, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Rural Doctors Network, thanking him for his presentation to the 2 August meeting
- (e) The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government, regarding the \$50 limit on gifts under the Model Code of Conduct
- (f) Cr Linda Scott, President, Local Government NSW, advising that Country Mayors supports the removal of the minimum per capita amount grant under the Local Govt Financial Assistance Act 1995
- (g) Executive Officer, Local Government Grants Commission, advising that Country Mayors supports the removal of the minimum per capita amount grant under the Local Govt Financial Assistance Act 1995
- (h) Mr John Cleland, Chief Executive Officer, Essential Energy, expressing opposition to the announced 182 job cuts in regional NSW
- (i) The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government, forwarding copies of letters sent to the Premier and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services opposing RFS increased contributions
- (j) Cr Linda Scott, President, local Government NSW, forwarding copies of letters sent to the Premier and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services opposing RFS increased contributions
- (k) The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, requesting a reply to our letter opposing the RFS increases to take affect from the 2019-2020 year
- (l) The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, requesting that Benefit Cost Ratio analysis be removed for funding programs
- (m) Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, advising that the Association does not support the funding hierarchy recommended by IPART's review of Local Government Costs

Inward

- (a) Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government, regarding a Waste Levy Taskforce
- (b) Bruce Miller, Chair of Board, Local Government Super, regarding the Defined Benefits Scheme
- (c) Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, regarding the Emergency Services Levy
- (d) Andrew Lewis, Executive Director, Energy Strategy, Planning, Industry and Environment regarding prioritization of electricity grid connections at substations
- (e) Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government, regarding acceptance of gifts and benefits under the Model Code of Conduct
- (f) Hon Minister Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Industry and Trade regarding royalties for regions
- (g) Essential Energy regarding workforce reshaping
- (h) Melanie Gibbons, MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Families, Disability, and Emergency Services, regarding the Emergency Services Levy for 2019-20
- (i) Essential Energy regarding proposed workforce reductions

NOTED

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the last quarter were tabled and accepted (Bathurst Regional Council / Parkes Shire Council)

7. Mr Matt Fuller, Acting Deputy Secretary, Regional and Outer Metropolitan, Transport for NSW and Peter Ryan, Senior Manager, Major property Development and Corporate Real Estate, Corporate Services, Transport for NSW

There is a 10 year blueprint and long term vision "Future Transport 2056". The vision comprises Core Values, Strategic Priorities, Those We Create Value For, and Primary Outcomes. Strategic priorities include Working in Partnership, Data Driven Decision Making, Technology and Innovation, Financial Sustainability, Place Based Integrated Service Design, Enabling the Mobility Ecosystem and Evolution at Work. They are looking at connecting regions in different ways. The Transport Department has been reorganized with a regional focus with divisions of Customer Strategy and Technology, Greater Sydney and Regional and Outer Metropolitan under the Secretary Transport for NSW. Regional and Outer metropolitan Division has 4,100 employees and a budget of \$10.9 billion. Regional NSW is a test bed for NSW for new and innovative transport options including new intercity and regional rail fleets and working towards zero with road safety.

8. Mr Gary White, Chief Planner, Planning, Industry and Environment

Planning for the future must start with an understanding of the context for which we are planning. We are consuming more than twice what we can sustain. Government policy will play an important role in developing new ways. As populations grow wealthier demand will rise for services and experiences. To maximise the opportunities to take Australia forward towards 2060 the CSIRO have identified Industry, Urban, Energy, Land and Culture. The NSW Government is committed to improving the planning systems through reforms to the EPA Act and a comprehensive regional planning framework. The planning system in NSW is becoming more strategic focused and outcomes orientated. Strategic planning is future orientated and presents a narrative or set of circumstances for the future. Rules for developing ought to be rational, they ought to be simple, they should be prohibitive and prescriptive and they should be stable. The rules should be calibrated at the most appropriate assessment level from strategic planning, planning delivery platforms, infrastructure delivery and projects and DA's. An overarching local strategic plan will include Land Use Vision, a Succinct Planning Context, Planning Priorities, and a Monitoring and Reporting Program. A competent planning system relies on political will, competent professionals, good data and monitoring, appropriate capacity and resources, shared responsibilities across government and evidence based policy and good legislative framework

9. IPART Review of Reporting and Compliance

Deferred to next meeting

10. Additional Land for National Parks

Cr Sajowitz, Oberon Council brought to members attention the letter all councils would have received from Minister Matt Kean dated 2 October, regarding increasing the size of the National Park system by 200,000 hectares, and seeking councils advice on land acquisition proposals, and suggesting that all concerned councils should respond to the letter

11. Crown Land Review

RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association write to the Minister for Lands requesting information on the progress of the Crown Lands Review and the next steps to be taken and requesting that Councils that are impacted by the review be notified immediately and the Minister be invited to the next meeting of Country Mayors to be held in March 2020 (Orange City Council/Hilltops Council)

12. Murray Darling Basin Plan

The Country Mayors association to organize a meeting on the afternoon of 6 March 2020 following the Country Mayors meeting with invitations being extended to Minister for Water, Water NSW, and Commonwealth Water Environmental Holder and others

13. Disaster Hardship Provisions

RESOLVED That Country Mayors write to the Minister for Environment, the Honourable Matt Kean, and the CEO of Essential Energy, asking them to review the hardship provisions in terms of bushfire and other disaster affected properties, to ensure continuity of service to rural communities and easing the related infrastructure-replacement financial burden on residents affected by disaster. and a copy of the letter be forwarded to members and the Insurance Council (Kyogle Council/Tenterfield Shire Council)

14. FAG Grants Guest Speaker

Chair of NSW Grants Commission, and Tim Hurst Office of Local Government be invited to a future meeting to discuss Minister Coultons remarks regarding FAG grants

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.50pm.

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