



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Ken Keith OAM
PO Box 337 Parkes NSW 2870
02 6861 2333
ABN 92 803 490 533

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 5 AUGUST 2022 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.31 a.m.

1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Mr Aaron Jones, Acting General Manager
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Mr Anthony McMahan, CEO
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Steve Allan, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Ms Liz Jeremy, General Manager
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker, General Manager
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
Broken Hill City Council, Mr Jay Nankivell, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Charlie Sheahan, Mayor
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Mr Glen McAtear, Deputy General Manager
Dubbo Regional Council, Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Murray Wood, CEO
Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Chris Royslance, Deputy Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Gilgandra Shire Council, Cr Doug Batten, Mayor
Gilgandra Shire Council, Mr David Neeves, General Manager
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Rod Banham, Mayor
Glen Innes Shire Council, Mr Dennis McIntyre, Acting General Manager
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Bob Peter Walker, Mayor
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Aaron Johansson, CEO
Griffith City Council, Cr John Doug Curran, 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 Margaret Roles, Mayor
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Neil Reilly, Mayor
Kiama Municipal Council, Ms Jane Stroud, General Manager
Kyogle Council, Cr Kylie Thomas, Mayor
Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor
Lachlan Shire Council, Mr Greg Tory, General Manager
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Greg Verdon, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Mick Tobin, Acting General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Neville Schenka, Mayor
Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Narromine Shire Council, Ms Jane Redden, General Manager
Oberon Council, Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Cr Narelle Davis, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Mr Hamish McNulty, Interim General Manager
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Russell Webb, Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Mrs Elizabeth Smith, Director of Administration and Finance
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Crouch, Deputy Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Kate Jessep, General Manager
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor
Wagga Wagga City Council, Mr Peter Thompson, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Weddin Shire Council, Cr Craig Bembrick, Mayor
Weddin Shire Council, Ms Noreen Vu, General Manager
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Ms Lisa Miscamble, General Manager
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Mr Scott Phillips, CEO
OLG Ally Dench, Executive Director
OLG Karen Purser
Mark Honey

APOLOGIES:

As submitted

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- (a) Darriea Turley, President, LGNSW
- (b) The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, Minister for Homes
- (c) Ms Amy Dumbrell, Acting Director, Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and Dr Louisa Mamouney, Acting Executive Director, Biodiversity Credit Supply Fund and Taskforce
- (d) Mr Justin Clancy MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health
- (e) Mr Greg Warren MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Veterans and Shadow Minister for Western Sydney

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 27 May 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Temora Shire Council / Gwydir Shire Council).

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

NIL

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Outward

- (a) The Hon Jim Chambers MP, Treasurer, stressing that funding for Local Government should remain at the levels of the previous government and preferably at a higher level
- (b) The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister, stressing that funding for Local Government should remain at the levels of the previous government and preferably at a higher level
- (c) Mr Chris Minns MP, Leader of the Opposition NSW, urging bi-partisan support to ensure all 44 recommendations of the Legislative Council Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW are adopted
- (d) The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier NSW, urging bi-partisan support to ensure all 44 recommendations of the Legislative Council Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW are adopted
- (e) The Hon Wendy Tuckermann MP, Minister for Local Government, seeking urgent amendment to clause 34 subsection 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021
- (f) The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, seeking urgent amendment to clause 34 subsection 2 of the Environmental

Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety)
Regulation 2021

- (g) Ms Anna Bowden, Head of Social Impact, Royal Far West, thanking her for her presentation to the 27 May 2022 meeting
- (h) The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water, Minister for Hospitality and Racing, thanking him for his presentation to the 27 May 2022 meeting
- (i) The Hon Wendy Tuckermann MP, Minister for Local Government, thanking her for her presentation to the 27 May 2022 meeting
- (j) The Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Police, thanking him for his presentation to the 27 May 2022 meeting
- (k) Adjunct Professor, Ruth Stewart, Commissioner, National Rural Health Commission, thanking her for her presentation to the Health Forum on the 26 May 2022
- (l) Mr Richard Colbran, Chief Executive officer, NSW Rural Doctors Network, thanking him for his presentation to the Health Forum on the 26 May 2022
- (m) Mr Ryan Park MP, Shadow Minister for Health, Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Shadow Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast, thanking him for his presentation to the Health Forum on the 26 May 2022
- (n) The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for Mental Health, thanking her for her presentation to the Health Forum on the 26 May 2022
- (o) The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for Mental Health, forwarding to her the list of participants suggestions to move forward with Regional and Rural Health
- (p) The Hon Dominic Perrotet MP, Premier NSW, inviting him to present to next meeting to be held on the 5 August 2022
- (q) The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, inviting her to present to next meeting to be held on the 5 August 2022
- (r) Mr Edward Cavanough, Executive Director and Director Policy, McKell Institute, thanking him for participating in the Executive Committee meeting held on the 9 June 2022 and inviting him to be a presenter at the Skills Forum on the 4 August 2022
- (s) The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister, regarding the deployment of overseas doctors
- (t) The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care regarding the deployment of overseas doctors
- (u) The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Regional Development and Local Government regarding continuous funding for the Building Better Regions program
- (v) Cr Linda Scott, President ALGA, seeking support for the continuance of the Building Better Regions program
- (w) Cr Darriea Turley, President, LGNSW, seeking support for the continuance of the Building Better Regions program

Inward

- (a) Mr Marcus Ray, Group Deputy Secretary, Planning and Assessment regarding employment zones reform

- (b) Mr Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary, Planning Policy, regarding clause 34 subsection 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021
- (c) The Hon Dugald Sanders MP, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Western NSW, regarding standards for breeding dogs
- (d) The Hon James Griffith MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, regarding the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme
- (e) The Hon Dominic Perretot MP, Premier NSW, advising that the Government is currently considering the recommendation of the Legislative Council Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW
- (f) Leeton Shire Council, forwarding letter from LGNSW to the Treasurer, Minister Cooke MP, Auditor General, and Minister Tuckerman MP, regarding treatment of RFS assets
- (g) Letter from the Department of Planning and Environment to the Auditor General regarding the treatment of RFS assets
- (h) Riverina Joint Organisation regarding the proposal to introduce a Domestic Waste Charge peg

NOTED

5. President Cr Darriea Turley, LGNSW Update

Cr Turley provided a report on the work of LGNSW since the last meeting including Annual Conference 2022, Local Government Week and Awards Dinner, Emergency Services Levy and Rural Fire Service Assets, State Budget, Upper House Inquiry into floods, and advocacy into Parliamentary Inquiry into elections held under COVID 19 conditions, Domestic Waste Charges Review, addressing council staff shortages, ePlanning and NSW Planning Portal, rural and regional health and recent advocacy wins

6. Mr Tom O'Dea, Head of NBN Local NSW

There are 21 NBN professionals looking after Regional and rural shareholders. NBN is a Government Business Enterprise which sells to telecommunication providers and is accountable to the Federal Government. NBN has delivery partnerships with contractors and subcontractors. It is the provider that supplies the modems of varying quality. Householders often place the modems in their homes that are not efficient. NBN's purpose is to lift digital capability at a local level. On the ground NBN have Community Engagement Managers, business leads and community ambassadors. Part of their staff engagement is that staff have to live in the area they serve. The focus is delivering digital capability, developing regional infrastructure, supporting regional performance and integration within local communities. 12.1million homes are connected, 8.5million are connected to a plan and 76% have 50mbps wholesale speed. In regional Australia 3.4million premises are connected. \$750million is being invested in upgrading the fixed wireless network and extending the range of the fixed wireless network with benefits of extended coverage, faster speeds, improved busy home speeds, and enhanced data levels. NBN needs to get the message out and needs insights, opportunities and the voice of customers from councils.

7. The Hon Anthony Roberts, Minister for Planning, Minister for Homes

The government is committed to having diversity of housing. Regional housing pressures have been caused through migration and more people are staying in the regions and the need for housing intensifies. The 2022 budget housing package includes \$500million to unlock land and \$174million to support key workers moving to the regions. The Housing Strategy 2041 has been developed and there are lessor assessment times. A regional Housing Taskforce has been set up to examine the barriers to the provision of housing and affordability in the regions and all their recommendations have been accepted. \$34million has been set aside over 4 years to implement the Taskforce recommendations. A Regional Housing Flying Squad has been created to assist regional councils. Under the next phase of the Accelerated Housing Infrastructure Fund \$120million has been set aside for high growth regional areas. The shortage of Planners in regional areas is being addressed by allowing councils to outsource the assessment of housing DA's to consultants. The Regional Housing Flying Squad program is be considered for a twelve month extension. Agritourism is a booming industry and the government is helping farmers to diversify their businesses. Certain agritourism activities will be listed as exempt or complying development. All of the nine Regional Plans are being reviewed responding to impacts and linked to other State strategies. Tribute was paid to the leaders of the flood affected areas and an Independent Inquiry report will be released soon. \$150million will be available to build and replace social houses and \$10million allocated to replace police homes. Money is being allocated to close the GAP. There is always going to be challenges with new technology such as the planning portal.

8. Financial Report

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

9. Presentation of Emeritus Mayor Award by Cr Darriea Turley, President LGNSW

Cr Darriea Tulley presented retired Mayor Mark Honey, Kiama Municipal Council, with his Emeritus Mayor certificate and pin

10. Introduction of the Country Mayors Lapel Badge

Cr Firman Executive member outlined the purpose of the lapel pins to promote the Country Mayors Association and to recognize the professionalism of its members. The lapel pins were handed out to attending Mayors. Those not attending will be given their pins at future meetings

11. Ms Amy Dumbrell, Acting Director, Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and Dr Louisa Mamouney, Acting Executive Director, Biodiversity Credit Supply Fund and Taskforce

The Biodiversity Offset Scheme has had a history since 1995 with a shift to method based in 2007 and in 2014 an offset policy for major projects became compulsory. In 2016 the Biodiversity Conservation Act was passed and in 2020 the Australian Government endorsed the scheme. In 2021 the Integrated Improvement and Assistance Program commenced and in 2022 the review of LMBC commences. The Biodiversity Scheme aims to avoid, minimize and offset the impacts of development on biodiversity consistent with the principles of ecological sustainable development. It is required under DA's. \$550million Biodiversity credits have been traded and 36,000 hectares of land protected. The scheme is being improved by refining it, and scaling up, through a strategy to increase credit supply, identifying pain points, a local government support program, additional assessors and a help desk. The Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund and Taskforce have identified that credits are too hard to attain and expensive and that buyers and sellers are hard to identify. Problems need to be resolved to make a significant difference in the coming months by fast tracking of Biodiversity credits, operate a credit supply fund and enhance conservation benefits. It can be made easier by targeting support, streamlining processes, provide upfront support, simplifying the BSA agreement, opportunities to connect, more information, addressing barriers and communication and engagement.

RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association make representations to the NSW Government on the gross failings of the Biodiversity Scheme, the inadequacies of the review to address the real problems of the scheme, and the ongoing economic hardship and loss of development of regional NSW (Narromine Shire Council / Gilgandra Shire Council)

12. Mr Justin Clancy MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health

Mr Clancy thanked CMA for its insights into regional and rural health and the wellbeing of our communities. There is no quick fix for regional and rural health but the 2022 State budget has provided a significant boost to operational and capital expenditure including the allocation of additional staff with \$883million over 4 years to attract regional and rural workers. Tailored programs are to be introduced to take up positions and increased training opportunities. The elective surgery waitlist will get additional funding over the next 2 years. Hospital and health facility upgrades have been important for health outcomes and in the next 4 years there will be \$3billion spent on capital infrastructure including staff accommodation in regional NSW. \$740million over 5 years will be spent on palliative care covering an extra 600 nurses and other staff, and social care is to have a virtual connection to provide equity and care and there will be virtual care access to health specialists. A virtual intensive care unit has been announced in Broken Hill for remote NSW. Travel and accommodation support has been expanded in the budget. A new Regional Health Division was established in April this year and will look at the recommendations of Legislative Council report and other issues. The new Advisory Panel will be working on the Regional Health Plan which has had 1,200 face to face meetings held to develop it. The draft plan will be available for comment in September this year.

13. Mr Greg Warren MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Veterans, and Shadow Minister for Western Sydney

Mr Warren thanked Country Mayors for the opportunity to meet with members. He advised that he had written to the Emergency Services and Local Government Ministers regarding the treatment of RFS assets and advised there needs to be a legislative change. There needs to be changes made in respect to Joint Organisation funding and legislative requirements and that both issues were on labors radar.

14. Scholarship Sub Committee of the Executive Committee

RESOLVED that NSW Country Mayors Association adopt an Inprinciple position with implementing a suitable Scholarship program, to assist in addressing skills shortages in our communities and further
That the NSW CMA Executive be authorised to compile Criteria and Structure of Scholarship programme, to report back to NSW CMA for final endorsement.
(Gunnedah Shire Council / Temora Shire Council

15. Suggestions for positive change for Regional and Rural Health

- (1) Local Health Districts need to introduce measures to hold on to internees
- (2) Develop a system to get overseas doctors into are communities
- (3) Support UNE, CSU, and SCU to establish new medical schools
- (4) Investigate administration and boundaries of Health Districts
- (5) Have Primary Care nurses connected to hospitals
- (6) Indigenous Training of indigenous people for their communities
- (7) Advocacy approach and strategy to be developed by Country Mayors
- (8) Ensure the State Government reports on the progress of the Inquiry
- (9) The Commonwealth Government to explain what they are doing in respect of the Inquiry
- (10) Thank those that have worked hard under a difficult situation
- (11) Councils build health plans
- (12) The issue is workforce. Where is the workforce and where do you get it
- (13) Travel allowances to be simplified
- (14) Need bipartisan support of the 44 recommendations and continuation of Minister for Regional Health (Letters have been sent to the Premier and Leader of the Opposition)
- (15) Re-establish Hospital Boards

RESOLVED that the suggestions be left in the hands of the Executive to monitor and followup (Parkes Shire Council / Gunnedah Shire Council

16. Wakefield Park Development

Goulburn Mulwaree Council advised of Wakefield Park Raceway's appeal to NSW Land and Environment Court against consent conditions imposed. The appeal was upheld but the Court imposed stricter noise management conditions that impact on the definition of an event which could make the raceway unviable

17. Demerger Proposal of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council

RESOLVED that Country Mayors write a letter to the Boundaries Commission supporting their decision which recommends the demerger of the councils should proceed (Parkes Shire Council / Gunnedah Shire Council)

18. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 18 November 2022

NOTED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.40pm.

Cr Ken Keith OAM
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW