



Country Mayors Association Inc of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Ken Keith OAM
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MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2022 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.32 a.m.

1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Ballina Shire Council, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Steve Allan, Mayor
Berrigan Shire Council, Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker General Manager
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
Blayney Shire Council, Mr Mark Dicker, General Manager
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael Lyon, Mayor
Byron Shire Council, Mr Mark Arnold, General Manager
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr David McCann, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager
Coonamble Shire Council, Cr Tim Horan, Mayor
Coonamble Shire Council, Mr Ross Earl, Acting General Manager
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Dungog Shire Council, Cr John Connors, Mayor
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, Cr Troy Arandale, Deputy Mayor
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Bob Peter Walker, Mayor
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Aaron Johansson, CEO
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council, Cr John Coulton, Mayor
Hilltops Council, Cr Margaret Roles, Mayor
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor

Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Leo Hauville, 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
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Ms Joanna Sangster, General Manager
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Greg Verdon, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager
Murray River Council, Cr Christopher Bilkey, Mayor
Murray River Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor
Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor
Port Stephens Council, Mr Tim Crosdale, General Manager
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Paul Ell, Deputy Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Russell Webb, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Mr Gary Lavelle, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Bob Crouch, Deputy Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Christine Valencius,, Director Corporate and Community
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Mr Barry Omundson, General Manager
Warren Shire Council, Cr Milton Quigley, Mayor
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
ALGA, Cr Linda Scott, President
Office of Local Government, Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director
Office of Local Government, Ms Karen Purser, Manager Engagement

APOLOGIES:

As submitted

SPECIAL GUESTS

(a) Cllr Linda Scott, President, ALGA

- (b) Clr Darriea Turley Am, President, LGNSW
- (c) Mr Craig Carmody, CEO, Port of Newcastle
- (d) Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government
- (e) Ms Carmel Donnelly PSM, Chair, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) NSW

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 5 August 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Lachlan Shire Council / Kiama Municipal Council).

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

NIL

4. Mr Craig Carmody, CEO, Port of Newcastle

Mr Carmody thanked councils for their support which made a historic difference in seeking the removal of the financial penalty to build the container terminal. Newcastle is the largest port on the east side of Australia and the only port to access inland rail. The port currently is only being 50% utilized. Coal is 70% of the ports income and by 2030 50% of income will come from non coal. Special mention was given to the support from the member of Northern Tablelands, Lake Macquarie, Upper Hunter and the Treasurer Matt Kean. The Bill has passed parliament and is awaiting the Governors assent. The container terminal will cost \$2.4billion to build and will be fully automated on 90 hectares and will take 5 years to get to operational status. The northwest and central west are the ports catchment areas and intermodals are planned for Moree, Narrabri, Gunnedah and Tamworth which will result in lower freight costs, use direct rail to the port, an opportunity to establish storage and packing facilities and be a rail heavy port.

5. Clr Linda Scott, President, ALGA, Update

Clr Scott reported on wins from the Federal Budget, the replacement of the building Better Regions Fund with Growing Regions Program and the Precincts Partnership Program, the new Housing Accord, the Independent Inquiry into Australia's Response to COVID 19, Regional Banking Closures and new Childcare Legislation, the National State of the Assets Report and the Final Report-SGS-Local Government -Productivity-Research Report

6. Clr Darriea Turley Am, President, LGNSW, Update

Clr Turley AM provided a report on the work of LGNSW since the last meeting including the Annual Conference 2022, and Severe Flooding in NSW and gave an advocacy update on Statewide Roads Emergency, the Federal Budget, IPART Rate

Peg 2023/24 and review of Methodology, RFS Assets, and Agritourism Reforms
The Association had advocacy wins with Pothole Funding, IPART Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges, Standard Conditions of Consent Implementation, New Cemetery Licensing Scheme and Unlocking Homes Program

4. Membership

RESOLVED that Byron Shire Council and Lismore City Council be admitted as members of the Association (Gunnedah Shire Council / Singleton Council)

5. Immediate Past President

RESOLVED that notice of 2 months be given to members to change the Associations Constitution to provide for the position of Immediate Past President to be a member of the Executive (Gunnedah Shire Council / Goulburn Mulwaree Council)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Outward

- (a) Mr Tom O'Dea, Head of NBN Local NSW, thanking him for his presentation at our meeting held on the 5 August 2022
- (b) Cr Jacob Cass, Centre Manager, Parkes Country Universities Centre, thanking him for his presentation at our Skills Forum on the 4 August 2022
- (c) Cr Rick Firman thanking him for his participation in the Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (d) The Hon Fiona Hash, National Commissioner for Rural Education, thanking her for her presentation at our Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (e) The Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, thanking him for his presentation to our Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (f) Mr Edward Cavanough, Executive Director and Director Policy, McKell Institute, thanking him for his presentation at our Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (g) Mr Tim Crakanthorp MP, Shadow Minister for Skills and TAFE and Shadow Minister for Tertiary Education, thanking him for his presentation at our Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (h) The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, thanking him for his presentation at our meeting held on the 5 August 2022
- (i) Ms Amy Dumbrell, Acting Director, Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and Dr Louisa Mamouny, Acting Executive Director, Biodiversity Credit Supply Fund and Taskforce, thanking them for their presentation at our meeting held on the 5 August 2022
- (j) Mr Justin Clancy MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, thanking him for his presentation at our meeting held on the 5 August 2022
- (k) The Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Police, requesting a meeting to discuss regional and rural policing
- (l) The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier, extending an invitation to attend and present at our meeting to be held on the 18 November 2022
- (m) Mr Chris Minns MP, Leader of the Opposition, extending an invitation to attend and present at our meeting to be held on the 18 November 2022

- (n) The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, extending an invitation to attend and present at our meeting to be held on the 18 November 2022
- (o) The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, requesting a review of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme to overcome current difficulties being experienced in regional and rural NSW
- (p) The Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, requesting a review of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme to overcome current difficulties being experienced in regional and rural NSW
- (q) Mr Vik Naidoo, Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer, TAFE NSW, outlining the Skills Forum suggestions for positive change and as the officer responsible for emerging market opportunities seeking ways to work together to improve skills acquisition in regional and rural NSW
- (r) The Chief Executive Officer, Australian Local Government Association, seeking a meeting to discuss the overturning by the Board of the adopted resolution to conduct a review of the Financial Assistance Grant Act 1995
- (s) The Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, seeking a meeting with him to discuss skills issues that affect regional and rural NSW
- (t) The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories requesting a review of the FAD's ACT
- (u) The Hon Andrew Gee MP, Shadow Minister for Regional Development, local Government and Territories requesting support for a review of the FAG's Act
- (v) The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government advising that the Association does not believe that councils are owners of RFS assets and that councils should maintain their position not to include them in their accounts if they wish to do so
- (w) Clr Linda Scott, President, ALGA forwarding copy of the letter to Minister McBain regarding a review of the FAG's Act

Inward

- (a) The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care regarding the Distribution Priority Area (DPA) changes
- (b) The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health regarding regional and rural health initiatives
- (c) Cr Darriea Turley AM, President LGNSW, regarding The Building Better Regions Fund
- (d) Craig Carmody, CEO, Port of Newcastle, regarding the development of Newcastle Deepwater Container Terminal
- (e) Julie Briggs, CEO, Riverina JO, forwarding copy of correspondence sent to the Premier regarding construction times for major infrastructure works
- (f) Julie Briggs, CEO, Riverina JO, forwarding correspondence to Minister Roberts regarding introduction of Local Activation Precincts
- (g) Gwydir Shire Council thanking Country Mayors for our continuing efforts in respect of RFS Asset ownership
- (h) Cr Darriea Turley AM, President LGNSW to Clr Ken Keith OAM, on behalf of the LGNSW Board, Executive, our staff and members, thank you for your dedicated and highly respected service leading the CMA, and we look forward to continuing our strong alliance with the association.

NOTED

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

8. Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government

The Minister thanked the Association for the opportunity to speak to members and advised that major efforts were going into advocacy for the rural roads emergency but current funding is not touching the surface. Approaches are being made to the Commonwealth Government for assistance. Legislation has passed for a Reconstruction Authority and there has been a focus on sustainability and input into the IPART rate increase. Legislation is to be enacted on misconduct after a consultancy period. The Emergency Services Levy will need to be increased

The General Meeting adjourned at 10.45am for the Annual General Meeting and resumed at 11.07am

9. Ms Carmel Donnelly PSM, Chair, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) NSW

IPART have been asked to investigate and make recommendations on:

1. options to set the rate peg methodology to ensure it is reflective of inflation and costs of providing local government goods and services
2. options to stabilise volatility in the rate peg and options for capturing more timely changes in council costs and inflation
3. alternate data sources to measure changes in councils' costs
4. options for capturing changes in councils' costs caused by external factors outside councils' control
5. the effectiveness of current Local Govt Cost index approach
6. the effectiveness of the population growth factor in achieving its intended purpose.

The current rate components are Rate Peg, Change in LGCI, Population Factor, Productivity Factor and Other Adjustments

Key issues so far are reflecting changes in inflation and costs, accuracy and predictability, accounting for new services and responsibilities, is the population factor working as intended, is climate change driving up costs and reducing complexity. The final report is expected to be available in May 2023. Workshops will be held at Wagga Wagga, Sydney, and Tamworth as well as online specifically for regional and rural and metropolitan

The General Meeting was adjourned at 11.52am for Annual General Meeting election results and resumed at 11.54

10. Presentation

Clr Jamie Chaffey Chairman, thanked outgoing Chairman Clr Ken Keith for his contribution to the Association and to the Executive Committee and for his

leadership over the past two years and Clr Rick Firman Vice Chairman, presented a gift to Clr Keith on behalf of the members of the Association

11. CMA State Election Priority – March 2023

The Executive have endorsed a discussion paper on the March 2023 State Election Priorities and Clr Chaffey Chairman outlined the “Asks” that the Association proposes to put to political leaders in the leadup to the State election in respect to

Skills and Education

Health Services

Roads and Transport

Water Security

Housing

Crime, Law and Order

Telecommunications Blackspot Coverage

Disaster Preparedness and Funding

A number of suggestions were received by members such as comparing Bocsar crime statistics with other states with more police, reviewing why police are not coming to Regional and Rural NSW and to add the Red Fleet

It is important that Country Mayors get the Governments and Oppositions responses to the “Asks”

RESOLVED that the Country Mayors Association adopt the discussion paper in principle and members be asked for feedback to be received by the Secretariat by the 2 December 2022 (Gunnedah Shire Council / Gilgandra Shire Council)

12. Hon Adam Marshall MP

Mr Marshall thanked members for their efforts in supporting the Port of Newcastle container terminal. The change was made in a bipartisan way. He stressed that Country Mayors will have a lot of influence in getting changes for the benefit of Regional and Rural NSW. There are a lot of opportunities to get commitment from political parties. Speak to parliamentarians and get change

13. Bland Shire Council RFS Assets

A motion was moved by Bland Shire Council / Inverell Shire Council that Country Mayors forward a letter to all NSW MP's asking for their position on the RFS assets and how the depreciation should be handled

An amendment was moved by Gunnedah Shire Council / Lachlan Shire Council that a letter be written to all political parties asking their position on the RFS assets and how the depreciation should be handled

The amendment was put and was lost. The motion was put and was carried

RESOLVED that a media release be prepared on the RFS assets (Goulburn Mulwaree Council / Bland Shire Council)

14. Scholarships Sub Committee Report

RESOLVED that the Scholarships Sub Committee Report on providing a scholarship to an existing CMA member staff be adopted (Temora Shire Council / Gunnedah Shire Council)

15. Use of Building Better Regions Fund Round 6

RESOLVED that Due to the removal of the Federal Building Better Regions Fund and the criteria for the new Growing Region Program (yet to be released) members of the Country Mayors Association call on the Federal Government to establish a supplementary round of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund. This supplementary funding will assist Local Councils to fund the renewal and replacement of roads and community infrastructure damaged by weather events over the past two years.(Goulburn Mulwaree Council / Bland Shire Council)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.05pm.

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