



Draft Minutes - Board Meeting

Date: 19 May 2023
Time: 8.30am
Venue: Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo

ATTENDEES:

Derek Francis	General Manager Bogan Shire Council
Clr Glen Neill	Mayor Bogan Shire Council
Ross Earl	Acting General Manager Bourke Shire Council
Clr Barry Holman	Mayor Bourke Shire Council
Clr Vivian Slack-Smith	Mayor Brewarrina Shire Council
Murray Wood	CEO Dubbo Regional Council
Clr Mathew Dickerson	Mayor Dubbo Regional Council
David Neeves	General Manager Gilgandra Shire Council
Clr Doug Batten	Mayor Gilgandra Shire Council
Brad Cam	General Manager Mid-Western Regional Council
Clr Des Kennedy	Mayor Mid-Western Regional Council
Jane Redden	General Manager Narromine Shire Council
Clr Craig Davies (Chair)	Mayor Narromine Shire Council
Sally McDonnell	Secretariat Narromine Shire Council
Clr Jane Keir	Mayor Walgett Shire Council
Gary Woodman	General Manager Warren Shire Council
Clr Milton Quigley	Mayor Warren Shire Council
Roger Bailey	General Manager Warrumbungle Shire Council

GUESTS:

The Hon Tara Moriarty, MLC	Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Western NSW
Rebecca Fox	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
Dugald Saunders, MP	Local Member for Dubbo Electorate
Roy Butler, MP	Member for Barwon
Megan Winter	General Manager, Basin Plan Implementation
Marcus Finn	Federal Department of Water
Peter Thomas	Regional Engagement Officer, Lachlan-Macquarie Region
James McKechnie	Director, External Engagement - Charles Sturt University Dubbo
Damien Limberger	Associate Head of Rural Medicine and Professor in Medicine – School of Rural Medicine, Charles Sturt University



1 WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at 8.34am.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was made by the Chair.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for:

David Kirby	General Manager Brewarrina Shire Council
Bob Stewart	Administrator Central Darling Shire Council
Greg Hill	General Manager Central Darling Shire Council
Peter Vlatko	General Manager Cobar Shire Council
Clr Peter Abbott	Mayor Cobar Shire Council
Paul Gallagher	General Manager Coonamble Shire Council
Clr Tim Horan	Mayor Coonamble Shire Council
Hugh Percy	Acting General Manager Walgett Shire Council
Clr Ambrose Doolan	Mayor Warrumbungle Shire Council

RESOLVED Roger Bailey/Clr Batten, that the apologies received be accepted.

2023/01

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AWC BOARD MEETING HELD 16 MARCH 2023

RESOLVED Jane Redden/Murray Wood that the minutes of the AWC Board Meeting held on 16 March 2023 be adopted.

2023/02

David Neeves joined the meeting at 8.36am

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Chairs Report

RESOLVED Brad Cam/Clr Glen Neill that the information be noted.

2023/03

6.2 Future Meeting Dates

Meeting	Date
GMAC (Narromine)	7 July 2023 (Chair – Walgett)
BOARD (Dubbo)	11 August 2023
GMAC (Narromine)	10 November 2023 (Chair – Narromine)
BOARD (Dubbo)	8 December 2023
GMAC (Narromine)	9 February 2024 (Chair – Mid-Western)
BOARD (Dubbo)	8 March 2024

RESOLVED Clr Kennedy/Clr Holman that the future meeting dates be accepted.

2023/04

6.3 Regional Local Government Training Facility

Doug Moorby provided an update in relation to the proposal for a regional training facility. Having liaised with other organisations to obtain Funding Case Proposals, Balmoral Group was the most suitable with a fee of \$18,500.

RESOLVED Roger Bailey/Brad Cam that the Alliance of Western Councils Board authorise engagement of the Balmoral Group to complete the Funding Case per the attached proposal.

2023/05

6.4 Orana Water Utilities Alliance Committee Meeting No 27

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Brad Cam that the information be noted.

2023/06

6.5 Emergency Services Levy

Discussion was held in relation to the recently announced increases to the Emergency Services Levy.

It was noted that LGNSW is seeking the support of Councils across NSW, to help them advocate for the Government to take urgent action. There is a draft Mayoral Minute template available.

RESOLVED Clr Batten/Clr Holman that the Alliance of Western Councils refer the issue to the Country Mayors Association.

2023/07

6.6 Update on Housing Plus Proposal

Brad Cam, as Chair of Housing Plus, provided an update on the proposal and advised that they will be meeting with the new Minister soon.

RESOLVED Clr Slack-Smith/Roger Bailey that the Alliance of Western Councils provide a letter of support to Housing Plus.

2023/08

6.7 Other General Business

Discussions were held on other general business, noting the following:

- Brad Cam advised that plans are again being considered to build another dam at Dixon's Long Point. Seen as a viable proposal for drought proof of the Macquarie, potentially offering half the capacity of Burrendong Dam.
- Clr Davies provided an update on the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BDOS), advising that there will be a recommendation put forward to the review board and he is confident that there will be changes. Clr Davies also noted that he would forward contact details to the group for Dr Louisa Mamouny, Executive Director Credit Supply Taskforce BDOS. Dr Mamouny has asked those Councils who believe they have been negatively affected by the cost of credits to contact her to have them reviewed.

6.8 Phone Service in Rural Areas

Discussion was held regarding the substandard phone service still occurring within many of our Shires.

RESOLVED Clr Neill/Clr Batten that Alliance of Western Councils request an update from Telstra on the status of improvements.

2023/09

7 PRESENTATIONS

7.1 The Hon Tara Moriarty, MLC – Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Western NSW

The Chair welcomed Minister Moriarty to the meeting and provided an overview of the Alliance of Western Councils and its objectives.

Discussions were then held around the table offering the group an opportunity to introduce themselves and provide feedback to the Minister. The following topics were raised:

- The negative effect that the Sixty day dispensing of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines will have on Rural Pharmacies. Although this is a Federal Scheme, it was noted that the support of State Government would be appreciated.
- Water Security and the importance of Burrendong Dam raising the Full Supply Level to 120% for Flood Mitigation and Drought Proofing.
- Weeds are proving a challenge around our regions at present, especially Hudson Pear. The Minister noted that they are well aware of the issue and there is money set aside to assist and a Biosecurity plan to be implemented.
- Concerns were raised in relation to the increase of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and the impact it will have on our Councils.

7.1 The Hon Tara Moriarty, MLC – Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Western NSW (Cont'd)

- It was requested that the Minister for Local Government come along to one of our meetings given there has been no response in relation to dissolving the Orana Joint Organisation. Also, to be discussed is AWC not being recognised as an Association.

Clr Dickerson joined the meeting at 10.20am

- Concerns were raised with regard to the minimum age for criminal responsibility being raised from 10 to 14, along with the increase in Rural Crime and the repeat offenders continually being let back into the community.
- The pressures being faced by Aged Care facilities is making them impossible to run and as a result they are closing in small towns with the elderly then ending up in hospitals.
- Western Area Health is 40% understaffed across this region and there is a struggle to attract essential workers to our towns. Childcare and Teacher shortages are among the other challenges currently being faced by our Shires.
- Regional Growth Fund was also raised, with the Minister indicating that there is a pause on some funding at the moment while the budget is reviewed across the whole Government. The budget has been delayed until September, however the Minister is willing to work with Councils on individual needs.
- There needs to be a greater focus on Regional Development in our areas and attracting people to our Shires.

7.2 Dugald Saunders MP – Local Member for Dubbo

The Chair welcomed Mr Dugald Saunders, MP and the following items were discussed:

- Dugald explained his new role as Leader of the Nationals and his plans to continue advocating for Regional NSW.
- Emergency Services Levy was again discussed with Dugald confirming that the role of the opposition is to ensure that the Government understand what is important to Regional Councils.
- Shortfalls in funding are being experienced with projects still not finished and, in some cases, not safe. With project prices having increased Councils are unsure on how to proceed. It was suggested that Councils need to ensure that they are working with the relevant departments to advise them of the challenges.
- Dugald advised that he will be employing new staff and contact details will be communicated when they start, but for now please contact Jane Diffey with any questions.

7.3 Roy Butler, MP – Member for Barwon

The Chair welcomed Mr Roy Butler, MP who provided an update on his electorate. The following items were discussed:

- Roy has met with The Hon Tara Moriarty, MLC and is looking forward to working with her, along with other Ministers who are also expressing interest in visiting our regions.
- Should see some changes in Parliament soon in relation to Biodiversity Offset Scheme.
- Top priorities include:
 - Health, and ensuring we have the facilities and the staff to run them.
 - Immigration, 490 and 491 Visa declines
 - Education, Teacher shortages
 - Housing, without housing you can't grow population.
 - Childcare
 - Roads
 - Weeds, e.g. Hudson Pear
 - Emergency Services Levy
 - Next generation Pools
- Water Security was raised as another priority. Roy informed that group that he has liaised with the Minister for Water and explained the need to understand which supplies are at greatest risk and ensure it remains as priority for the Government.
- It was requested by the group that Roy advocate for Regional NSW in relation to the Emergency Services Levy and RFS Budgets.
- A number of the Councils present advised they are still waiting on approvals from Natural Disaster Recovery applications.

7.4 Marcus Finn, Federal Department of Water and Megan Winter, General Manager, Basin Plan Implementation – Murray Darling Basin Authority

Marcus provided an overview of the department and their responsibilities. Megan then provided an update on the Basin Plan Implementation noting the following:

- The Basin Plan is progressing well, with water sharing plans an important instrument.
- Floodplain Harvesting continues with better regulation and improved licensing.
- The Basin Plan is to be reviewed every 10 years.
- With Climate Change, town water supply is a priority.
- Peter Thomas, Regional Engagement Officer, Lachlan-Macquarie Region was also in attendance at the meeting. Any questions members may have can be directed to Peter who can pass the information onto the relevant department.



**7.5 James McKechnie, Director, External Engagement - Charles Sturt University Dubbo
Damien Limberger, Associate Head of Rural Medicine and Professor in Medicine
– School of Rural Medicine, Charles Sturt University**

Professor Damien Limberger delivered a presentation to the group about the Charles Sturt University School of Rural Medicine.

- The purpose of this program is to train students to become high quality rural doctors.
- With the aim to create a generation of medical professionals by taking local people, training them over 5 years across the region with the intent that they remain in Regional NSW and the communities they train in. A Brochure was provided was provided to the group (**Attachment No.1**).
- Seeking Councils support in establishing one of these Schools in our Region and also provide introductions in their Shires, along with welcoming students into their communities and assist with accommodation needs and local knowledge.
- It was agreed that all Councils would be pleased to provide a letter of support for this initiative.

7.6 Tour de OROC

As Ben O'Brien was unable to attend, Clr Dickerson provided a brief overview of the new concept for the Tour de OROC, following an email that had been previously forwarded to everyone. The idea of the new concept is to showcase the Rural communities. They have cut the distance allowing time for the riders to enjoy the towns they visit and be 'tourists'. Also, hoping to attract new riders with shorter distances. Seeking support from the communities involved to assist.

8 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed 12.58pm.



Charles Sturt
University

A young woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue and white striped medical shirt and a stethoscope, smiling warmly. She is standing outdoors in a grassy area with trees in the background. A dark blue banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

School of
Rural Medicine

Being a doctor is all about giving back. To people and communities.

The impact of these medical services is particularly important in rural and regional Australia. As Australia's largest regional university, giving back to regional and rural communities is something we're passionate about.

Our purpose

At Charles Sturt University's School of Rural Medicine, we aim to train students with the skills required to work as a rural doctor. With a focus on rural generalist medicine, students will develop an understanding of the different role rural doctors provide in primary and acute care settings - and highlight their importance in the functioning of our healthcare system.

Having a community and patient-centred approach to rural generalist medicine means communities get adequate access to health services and have their healthcare needs met.

Every community is different. And their health care needs are different. That's why we aim to create a generation of medical professionals who are equipped with the knowledge and experience to inspire and champion the health of our rural and remote communities.

Looking ahead

Our vision is simple – to become a nation where every rural and remote community has sufficient doctors to meet their health needs.

To bring this dream to life, we train rural students to become outstanding rural doctors through principles we've developed and adopted:

- training that's aligned with community and health service needs
- early exposure to rural and remote clinical placements
- early exposure to general practice and rural generalism
- establish training pipelines that align with rural postgraduate training
- longitudinal rural generalist placements
- longitudinal connection to rural communities and regions.

About us

The Charles Sturt University School of Rural Medicine has worked to establish a rural medical school to train students to become high-quality rural doctors.

We're committed to training doctors who have the clinical skills that our rural and remote communities need. That's why our Doctor of Medicine has been based on the foundations of rural generalist medicine and is supported by specialty training rotations.

We aim to develop a strong and sustainable rural workforce by selecting students of rural origin – providing all clinical training in rural and remote locations and distributing students on placements within the region over the duration of the five-year course.



A joint venture for rural medical education

Our School of Rural Medicine has been developed as a mutual venture with Western Sydney University as part of a Joint Program in Medicine (JPM).

The JPM is a five-year undergraduate degree resulting in a Doctor of Medicine, allowing students to enter the workforce as medical interns in both Australia and New Zealand.

While the two universities share common learning objectives and assessments, the School of Rural Medicine delivers its own program contextualised through the lens of rural and remote communities.

Students learn through experience and immersion in a broad range of hospital and community-based services – all with a rural and remote focus. The curriculum emphasis:

- equity issues for rural and remote communities
- inequities in health and health service access
- living and working in rural and remote communities
- public health issues
- remote health
- social determinants of health.

“Exposure to rural health disparities has motivated me to be the best doctor I can be to ensure I competently provide medical care as a rural practitioner when I complete my degree.”



Eve West

Charles Sturt
medicine student



The Rural Generalist Placement Program

The School of Rural Medicine has devised the Rural Generalist Placement Program which includes a network of Clinical Schools that allows students to study and work in rural and regional locations. The program extends over the full five years of the Doctor of Medicine degree.

Not only do students learn and work within the Clinical Schools, but they are also seconded to regional base hospitals for training in specialist disciplines and for pre-internship placements. They return each year to the same rural and regional community – allowing them to build their relationships and connections with community and experience the attraction of permanently locating to these areas.

It's a unique model. It encourages students to see the potential and the importance of a career in rural medicine. It not only produces outstanding rural practitioners, but it also forms the foundation for future research and research partnerships.

Year 1

Clinical Sciences 1

2 week general practice and rural hospital placement

Year 2

Clinical Sciences 2

2 week general practice and rural hospital placement

Year 3

Applied Clinical Sciences 1

1 year rural generalist placement in general practice and rural hospital

Year 4

Applied Clinical Sciences 2

Paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry, general practice, emergency medicine, oncology and palliative care

Year 5

Applied Clinical Sciences 3

Medicine, surgery, Indigenous health, emergency medicine, aesthetics and intensive care and general practice



"I really care about the rural experience, and Charles Sturt University does as well – they don't just pay lip service to it. I wanted to study in a small cohort and be surrounded by like-minded people who are passionate about working in the regions."



Heidi Annand

Charles Sturt
medicine student

Clinical Schools

We've established a network of nine Clinical Schools in rural locations across New South Wales and northern Victoria. Each Clinical School offers a unique experience for students and forms a regional hub and services the surrounding communities.

Clinical Schools are where the majority of learning in Years 3-5 take place. Students go out to our partner hospitals and clinics, and experience hands-on learning with real patient situations – immersive learning at its best.



Central Tablelands Clinical School

[Bathurst](#)

Bathurst is located on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people, and is Australia's oldest inland colonial settlement, thanks to the discovery of gold in the region during the early 1850s. Its rich heritage combined with the excitement of the V8 Supercars and local sporting competitions makes Bathurst a great place to live, study and work. There are plenty of restaurants and cafes – all of which make the most of the local produce – giving you plenty of places to explore and catchup with friends. Bathurst is just over three hours' drive from Sydney, making it easy to get out of town for the weekend if you're looking to explore.



Central West Clinical School

[Parkes](#), [Forbes](#), [Grenfell](#) and [Cowra](#)

The Central West region of NSW is located on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people, and is renowned for its food, wine and excellent agricultural produce. The towns of Parkes, Forbes, Grenfell and Cowra are rich in natural resources and are full of heritage buildings, gorgeous river banks and leafy parks. Explore the history of the towns, visit the great galleries in the area, and make the most of the superb country pubs that are putting high-quality food and wine at the forefront.



Orange Clinical School

[Orange](#)

Orange is a thriving country town as rich in heritage as it is in award-winning restaurants, wineries, bike tracks, boutique shops, and bustling markets. With plenty of picnic shelters, walking trails and even a dormant volcano, there are a variety of walks and breathtaking views to enjoy on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. Famed for its cool climate wine, delicious local produce, vibrant seasons and walking trails, there is something for everyone when you live, study and work in Orange.



Hastings Macleay Clinical School

[Kempsey](#), [South West Rocks](#), [Port Macquarie](#) and [Wauchope](#)

The Mid North Coast of NSW boasts a subtropical climate full of beaches, waterways and a hinterland of forest and farms, and is located on the traditional lands of the Dunghutti, Gumbaynggir and Birpai people. With national parks and state forests aplenty, there is plenty to explore through hiking and mountain bike riding. Full of fashion boutiques, stylish homewares stores and cool cafes, bars and restaurants, the Mid North Coast has everything you could want – all while keeping its laid-back charm.



Mallee Clinical School

Swan Hill and Deniliquin

Swan Hill and Deniliquin are renowned for their Murray Downs location, fresh local produce, epic landscapes, native wildlife and First Nations heritage. The beautiful and remote area is located on the traditional lands of the Wamba Wamba, Latji Latji, Tatti Tatti, Waddi Waddi and Barapa Barapa people. With plenty of waterskiing, wakeboarding, fishing, bushwalking, cycling and golf available at your fingertips, there is plenty to do and see. Only a 3.5 hour drive to Melbourne, Swan Hill and Deniliquin are close enough to taste the lights of the city whilst making the most of all the benefits that country living has to offer.



Murray Clinical School

Albury, Beechworth, Corryong, Corowa and Finley

Located within the historic area of the Murray River, these charming towns boast a delicious food scene, endless outdoor activities and a thriving arts culture. With snowfields, the Snowy Mountains, Kosciusko National Park and Rutherglen wine region all just a short drive away, you are within reach of all the action. These towns have a vast history, and are located on the traditional lands of the Bangarang, Dhudoroa, Jaitmathang, Min-jan-buttu, Ngarigo, Wavereoo, Wolgal and Wiradjuri people. Enjoy strolling through the weekend markets, eat in the charming pubs and make the most of Murray Clinical School's location.



Murrumbidgee Clinical School

Facilities in Griffith, Hay, Lake Cargelligo and Hillston

Experience striking outback sunsets, rich agricultural heritage and towns full of history on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. Many food and wine crops are produced in the area, meaning you get to experience the highest quality local produce that's on offer (think oranges, cherries, potatoes, almonds, walnuts and more!). Explore the great plains of Hay, meander along the Lachlan River in Hillston, water ski on Lake Cargelligo or experience some of the best Italian food on offer in Griffith.



Northern Rivers Clinical School

Macksville, Nambucca Heads, Bowraville, Belligen and Coffs Harbour

Discover the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr people with its rainforest drives, white beaches, amazing restaurants and vibrant local markets. Dine at an eclectic range of cafes and restaurants whilst experiencing the vibrant creative arts scene in relaxed seaside and river towns. Explore the uncrowded waterways and national parks of the area, with opportunities for fishing and boating, kayaking and surfing, whale watching and scuba diving, and hiking and mountain biking. There's plenty on offer when you join the Northern Rivers Clinical School.

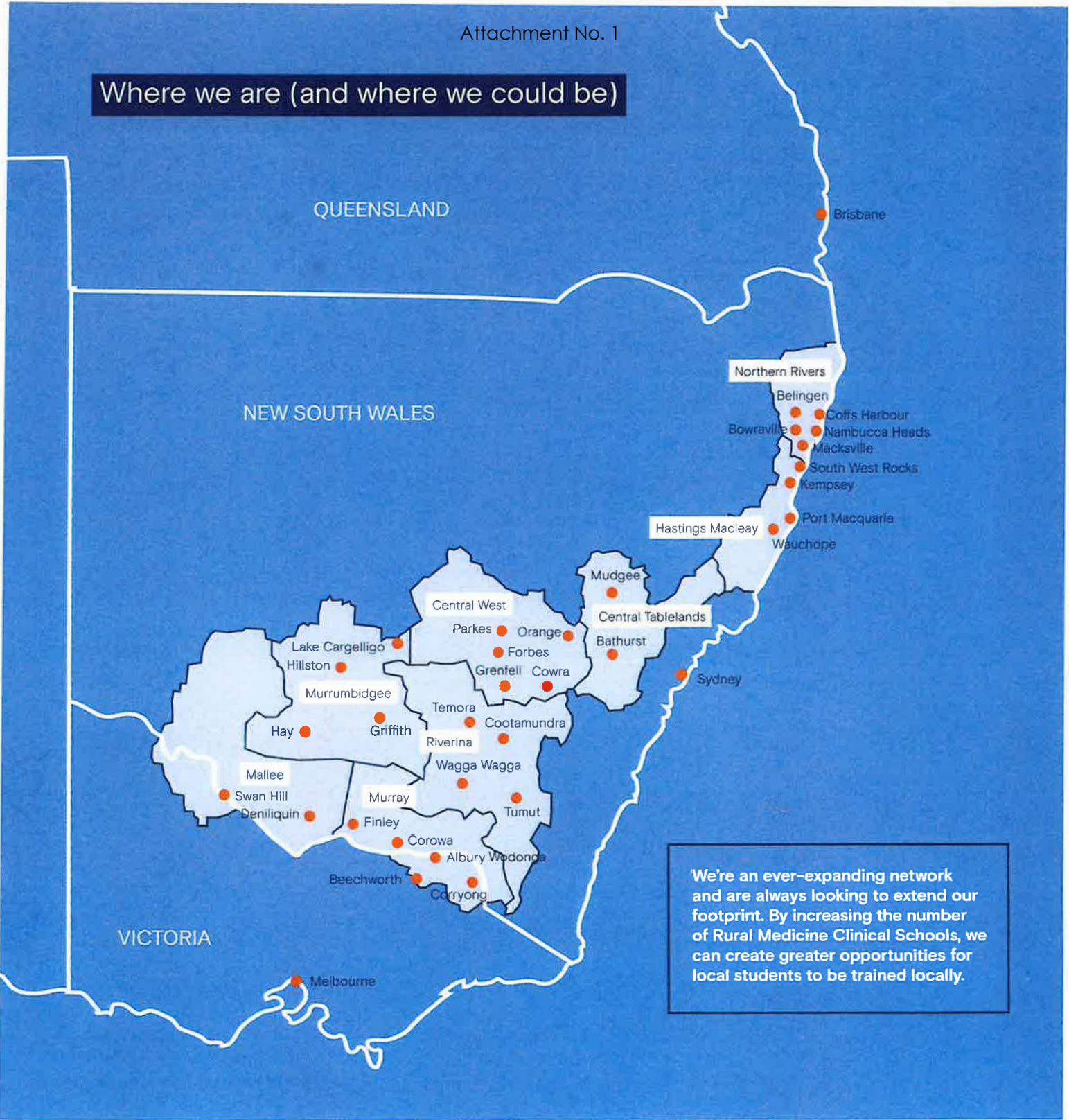


Riverina Clinical School

Temora, Wagga Wagga, Tumut, Cootamundra and Gundagai

The Riverina is home to the Murrumbidgee River and its waterways and is located on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. Find an amazing array of food trails, natural wonders and charming towns in Australia's food bowl. Explore the celebrated Tumut River Brewing Co, visit the birthplace of Sir Donald Bradman in Cootamundra, experience the historic town of Gundagai and discover the largest inland city in NSW in Wagga Wagga. There are few better places to slow down and embrace the country lifestyle than the Riverina.

Where we are (and where we could be)



We're an ever-expanding network and are always looking to extend our footprint. By increasing the number of Rural Medicine Clinical Schools, we can create greater opportunities for local students to be trained locally.

Partner with us

We're looking for practices to partner with us to invest in a small number of students. You'll get the chance to forge relationships with our students and their training – and they'll get to contribute to general practice and rural generalism in your community.

Contact the Charles Sturt School of Rural Medicine

+61 2 6365 7611

science-health.csu.edu.au/schools/medicine

