



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc

Chairperson: Cr Jamie Chaffey
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MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2023 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.31a.m.

1. Chairmans Welcome

2. Acknowledgement to Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past and present and emerging. We are committed to providing communities in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are included socially, culturally and economically.

3. Acknowledgement of Parliamentarians

The Chairman acknowledged the attendance of several Shadow Ministers and Members of Parliament as observers.

4. ATTENDANCE:

Albury City Council, Cr Kylie King, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Tod Redwood, Deputy Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Ballina Shire Council, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Mr Anthony McMahon, CEO
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Jo Cook, Deputy Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Mr Mark Griffioen, General Manager
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
Bogan Shire Council, Cr Glen Neill, Mayor
Bogan Shire Council, Mr Derek Francis, General Manager
Bourke Shire Council, Cr Barry Hollman, Mayor

Bourke Shire Council, Ms Leone Brown, General Manager
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy mayor
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael York, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Coffs Harbour City Council, Cr Paul Amos, Mayor
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 Hein Basson, General Manager
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Bill West, Mayor
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Murray Wood, CEO
Dungog Shire Council, Cr John Connors, Mayor
Dungog Shire Council, Mr Gareth Curtis, General Manager
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, 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 Rob Banham, Mayor
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Troy Arandale, Deputy Mayor
Greater Hume Council, Cr Tony Quinn, Mayor
Greater Hume Council, Ms Evelyn Arnold, General Manager
Griffith City Council, Cr John Doug Curran, Mayor
Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor
Hay Shire Council, Cr Carol Oataway, Mayor
Hay Shire Council, Mr David Webb, General Manager
Hilltops Council, Cr Margaret Roles, Mayor
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor
Junee Shire Council, Cr Neil Smith, 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, CEO
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
Lismore City Council, Cr Steve Krieg, Mayor
Lismore City Council, Mr John Walker, General Manager
Lithgow City Council, Cr Maree Statham, Mayor
Lithgow City Council, Mr Craig Butler, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Gary Murphy, General Manager
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Greg Verdon, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager
MidCoast Council, Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor
MidCoast Council, Mr Adrian Panuccio, General Manager
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor

Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Nick Tobin, General Manager
Murray River Council, Cr Christopher Bilkey, Mayor
Murray River Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager
Murrumbidgee Council, Mr John Scarce, General Manager
Muswellbrook Shire Council, Cr Steve Reynolds, Mayor
Muswellbrook Shire Council, Derrick Finnigan, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Robert Williams, General Manager
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Cameron Lander, Deputy Mayor
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
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
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Mr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, CEO
Shellharbour City Council, Cr Chris Homer, Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council, Mr Stephen Dunshea, CEO
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor
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, Mr Gary Lavelle, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Mr Alex Waldron, General Manager
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Kate Jessep, General Manager
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Phil Hood, Acting General Manager
Warren Shire Council, Cr Milton Quigley, Mayor
Warren Shire Council, Mr Gary Woodman, 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 Damien Thomas, Director Advocacy
LGNSW, Mr Shaun McBride
LGNSW, Bronwen Regan
ALGA, Cr Linda Scott, President
OLG, Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary
OLG, Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development
RAMJO, Ms Yvonne Lingua, CEO
CNSWJO, Ms Jenny Bennett

The Hon Leslie Williams - Shadow Minister for Women, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and Aboriginal Affairs
The Hon Wendy Tuckerman – Shadow Minister for Local Government
The Hon Aileen McDonald – Shadow Minister for Youth Justice
The Hon Scott Farlow – Shadow Minister for Planning & Public spaces, Housing and Cities
The Hon Bronnie Taylor – Shadow Minister for Regional Health
The Hon Gurmesh Singh – Shadow Minister for Tourism, Emergency Services and North Coast
The Hon Adam Marshall – Member for the Northern Tablelands
The Hon Kevin Anderson – Shadow Minister for Gaming, Racing, Arts and Heritage
The Hon Wes Fang – Shadow assistant Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Mr Michael Kemp – Member for Oxley
Ms Tanya Thompson – Member for Myall Lakes
Mr Dave Layzell MP

APOLOGIES:

As submitted Additional apologies received on behalf of Cr Narelle Davis, Mayor Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Mr James Davis, General Manager, Junee Shire Council and Mr David Sherley, General Manager, Bathurst Regional Council

SPECIAL GUESTS:

The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth and Minister for the North Coast
Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Regional Health
Carmel Donnelly, Chair, IPART
The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources
The Hon Sam Farrow MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water and Shadow Minister Minister for Crown Lands

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 9 March 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved Singleton Council Mayor, Councillor Sue Moore
Seconded Forbes Shire Mayor Councillor Phyllis Miller

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

NIL

7. ALGA Update Report

Cr Linda Scott, President, presented her report advising that the Association focused on the Federal budget and advising that Local Government was currently receiving 0.5% of tax instead of the 1.5% tax being sought. There is a 75% hole in FAG Grants which is not being able to be filled. Councils are to receive \$3.1 billion in Financial Assistance Grants over the next twelve months but it is disappointing the government have not delivered on its pre-election promise for "fair increases." Other budget funding was \$484 million in Roads to Recovery funding • \$60 million over three years in supplementary road funding for South Australian councils • \$200 million Thriving Suburbs Program (local governments eligible to apply) • \$150 million Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (local governments eligible to apply) • \$120 million Black Spot Program • Additional \$13.5 million round of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program • \$236 million over 10 years for flood warning infrastructure (rain gauges) • \$10 million for a national waste education campaign. Other subjects addressed were NSW Housing Affordability Reforms, Growing Regions Grants, Disaster recovery Funding, New Bank Closure Protocols, and National General Assembly. A copy of the report was included in the business paper.

RESOLVED That the report be noted

Moved Lachlan Shire Council Mayor, Councillor John Medcalf
Seconded Parkes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ken Keith

8. LGNSW Update Report

Cr Darriea Turley, President, provided up to date advice regarding the ESL subsidy advising that the subsidy was not allocated this year and a review of the models are to be undertaken. Cr Turley requested Councils to write to their local members and the Minister. The report covered Emergency Services Levy, Red Fleet Update and the IPART Review of Rate Peg Methodology NSW State Election, Cost Shifting Survey, Federal Budget with NSW to Receive \$951.4Million in Financial Assistance Grants and other assistance with Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Skills, Aged Care, Flood and River Gauges, Rental Assistance and Sustainable Urban Development. A copy of the report was included in the business paper.

Resolved That the report be noted

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Tamworth Regional Council Mayor, Councillor Russell Webb

9. Membership

RESOLVED that Bogan Shire Council, Greater Hume Shire Council and MidCoast Council be admitted as members of the Association.

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Steve Reynolds

Membership pins were presented to the new members admitted at the 9 March meeting and this meeting and to other members that had not received them.

10. Retirement of Mr Gary Lavell, General Manager, Temora Shire Council

Deputy Chairman Cr Rick Firman thanked Mr Lavell who retires on the 30 June, for his 28 years of service to Temora Shire Council and for his contribution to the Country Mayors Association.

11. Correspondence

Outward

Mr Andrew Clennell, Sky News Political Reporter	Thanking for being master of ceremonies at the "Meet the Leaders Forum" on the 21 February 2023
Cr Neil Smith, Mayor, Junee Shire Council	Advising that Junee Shire Councils application for membership was approved at the General meeting held on the 9 March 2023
Cr Steven Reynolds, Mayor Muswellbrook Shire Council	Advising that Muswellbrook Shire Councils application for membership was approved at the General meeting held on the 9 March 2023
Cr Barry Holman, Mayor, Bourke Shire Council	Advising that Bourke Shire Councils application for membership was approved at the General meeting held on the 9 March 2023
Cr Nuatali, Lord Mayor, Newcastle City Council	Thanking her for hosting the welcome function on the 8 March 2023 and updating her on Newcastle's application for associate membership of the Country Mayors Association
Mr Craig Carmody, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Newcastle	Thanking him for hosting the Country Mayors meeting on the 9 March 2023 and updating him on the Port of Newcastle's application for associate membership of the Country Mayors Association
The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier	Congratulating him on his elevation to the position of Premier and offering an open invitation to address our members at future meetings
The Hon Timothy Crakanthorp MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE, and Tertiary Education, The Hon Daniel Mookhay MLC, Treasurer, The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government, The Hon Rose Jackson MLC,	Congratulating them on their elevation to the Ministry outlining the CMA's priorities and offering an opportunity to address our members at a future meeting

<p>Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, and Youth, The Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health and Regional Health, and The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW and Western NSW</p>	
<p>Department of Fair Trading</p>	<p>Notifying them of the change to the Constitution to create the position of Immediate Past Chairman</p>
<p>The Hon Damien Tudehope, MLC, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and Treasurer, The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Ms Eleni Petinos MP, Shadow Minister for Finance and Sport, Mr Gurmesh Singh MP, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Emergency Services and North Coast, The Hon James Griffin MP, Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change, Customer Service and Digital Government. The Justin Clancy MP, Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Ms Kellie Sloane MP, Shadow Minister for Environment, The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Shadow Minister for</p>	<p>Congratulating them on their elevation to the Shadow Ministry outlining the CMA's priorities and offering an opportunity to address our members at a future meeting</p>

Gaming, Racing, Arts and Heritage,
The Hon Leslie Williams MP, Shadow Minister for Women,
Mr Mark Coure MP, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism,
The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Opposition Leader,
Leader of the Liberals,
Mr Mark Taylor MP, Shadow Minister for Corrections and Western Sydney,
The Hon Matt Kean MP, Shadow Minister for Health,
The Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads,
The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Shadow Minister for Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion, Homelessness and Youth,
The Hon Paul Toole MP, Shadow Minister for Police,
Ms Robyn Preston MP, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Medical Research,
The Hon Sam Faraway MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads,
The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning and Western NSW,
The Hon Scott Farlow MLC, Shadow Minister for Planning

<p>and Public Spaces, Housing, Cities, Hunter and the Central Coast, The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water and Crown Lands, Mr Tim James MP, Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building, The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and Small Business, The Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC, Shadow Minister for Youth Justice, The Hon Alister Henskens MP, Shadow Attorney General, The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Health, Trade and Seniors.</p>	
Mr Phillip Donato MP, Member for Orange	Congratulating him on his election to State Parliament and seeking a meeting with him on the 25 May 2023
The Hon Yasmin Catley MP, Minister for Police and Counter- terrorism	Congratulating her on her appointment as Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism and seeking a meeting with her on the 25 May 2023
Mr Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon	Congratulating him on his election to State Parliament and seeking a meeting with him on the 25 May 2023

Inward

Department of Fair Trading	Advising that the changes to the Constitution having the Immediate Past Chairman as a member of the Executive Committee has been registered
Mr Greg Warren MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, and	Regarding the CMA priorities for the next election (Copy Attached)

Shadow Minister for Western Sydney	
Mr Robert Borsak MLC, Shooters and Fishers and Farmers Party NSW	Advising that they will hold the Government to account regarding Regional NSW (Copy Attached)

Media Releases

Regional NSW Doing the Heavy Lifting
Local Government March to the Wall

RESOLVED THAT THE INFORMATION BE NOTED

Moved Kyogle Council Mayor, Councillor Kylie Thomas
Seconded Mayor, Councillor

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the last quarter were tabled and accepted

Moved Weddin Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Craig Bembrick
Seconded Junee Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Neil Smith

13. The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth and Minister for the North Coast

The Minister hoped that this meeting would be the start of ongoing conversations with Country Mayors. She undertook to give clear and honest and direct answers to matters referred to her. Collaboration can be fruitful between government and councils. Water authorities are aware that councils in regional and rural areas are water utilities and need support through a partnership with the government and state water authorities, based on honesty to provide a more reliable water supply. The government wishes to lift the quality of town water supplies. Housing shortages particularly housing for key workers needs to be addressed. If any council has land that can be developed for housing please lets talk.

The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

The Minister has already had meetings with several councils. Integrated plans that look at people first are important. Reclassifications of roads is a great opportunity. Unfortunately in 2019 it was unfunded and in some cases councils have had to wait up to 8 years for their reclassification. Things have now moved on. Disaster Recovery funding has changed the way councils are looking at reclassifications so priorities are changing. The Government wants to give councils the cash now rather than having to wait. The city was getting \$5 for every \$1 that the country was getting in road funding. This has now been addressed and regional NSW will be getting double what it is now plus emergency repair funds.

Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Regional Health

Closing the gap for aboriginal health regional health is a priority. The NSW Government is committed to regional NSW and wants it to have parity with metropolitan areas. Dr John McGirr MP has been appointed Chairman of a select committee to oversee Rural Health Inquiry recommendations and the financial implications. The Health workforce is a high priority with the intention of employing 1,200 additional nurses and 500 paramedics. Those studying Health Care Degrees can receive a \$4000 subsidy per year for 4 years providing they comply with work requirements. The threat of workforce burnout is real and a taskforce has been established and has commenced work looking at the needs of health staff. Access to health care has improved using technology in country areas. The Rural Generalist Service supports country GP's.

The presentations were followed by Question and Answers from members

14. Carmel Donnelly, Chair, IPART

The Ratepayer Review Terms of Reference commenced 30 August 2022, followed by an issues paper and workshops with a draft report due early June 2023 and a final report to the Minister in August 2023. There have been 96 submissions and 2881 resident/ratepayer respondents. Council feedback has included abolishing rate pegging, current model doesn't support council financial sustainability, labour cost changes should be based on the Local Government award and other suggestions. Ratepayer submissions included affordability and cost of living and Councils financial affordability, and Councils financial management and efficiency. Affordability of rates is the most important consideration and residents have positive views about the services provided by councils. Council technical workshops propose the rate peg should include change in base costs, population factor, ESL factor, productivity factor and other adjustments which IPART are looking at as options.

15. The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources

The leader of the Nationals introduced his Shadow Minister Team who are representing NSW on the cost of government. Funds committed by the previous Coalition Government are unspent and still available and the opposition is working to keep those funds for the purpose for which they were allocated. They are putting the money where their mouth is.

The Hon Sam Farraway MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

The Coalitions top commitment is the state of the roads and in opposition they want to highlight what programs should be continued and not be diverted. The Minister this morning did not mention betterment. The Coalition in Government had significantly more funds allocated to regional NSW including \$1.6billion to improve the road system, compared to the current government. It is understood that the Seniors Travel Card and Regional Apprenticeship and University Travel Card will be chopped in the September budget.

The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water, and Shadow Minister for Crown Lands

Hosted 5 Cootamundra summits which has helped her to understand the Local Government sector. The Government has introduced an amendment to the Sydney Water Act and regional and rural NSW's 1.8 million water customers have been left out. Water NSW was also left out of the proposed legislation. The Opposition is now putting forward a number of amendments and the legislation has currently been removed. Water infrastructure and water planning is being deferred. It is critical that funding be provided for water services projects. A lot of work on priorities for Crown Land needs to be done.

The presentations were followed by Question and Answers from members

15. Scholarship Program Update

RESOLVED That the amended Scholarship program be adopted

1. The NSW CMA Scholarship be allocated to the finalist Runner-up Council of the A R Bluett Memorial Award Winner (Rural/Regional Category)
2. Implement for 2023 at November AGM
3. The Council must be a current, Financial Member of NSW CMA
4. In the first year, that a \$5,000 Scholarship be offered to a Trainee/Apprentice/Degree of a Member Council (NSW CMA) amplifying the 'Grow our Own' Staff position NSW CMA Members have.
5. This Scholarship would assist with expenses such as accommodation, tools, textbooks, travel, and other relevant costs associated with their TAFE, University or similar courses relating to their employment at their respective member Council.
6. Scholarship funds will be presented in full to the recipient at the AGM in November.
7. Should the Runner Up of the Bluett Award not be a current financial member of NSW CMA, they be given the opportunity to join (enhancing membership numbers).
8. The inaugural Scholarship be funded out of NSW CMA reserves. Subsequent years, to be determined (eg: special Scholarship Levy added to existing membership fee)
- 9.. A Special Plaque to be presented, acknowledging the Scholarship Recipient (NSW CMA logo, Recipient's name and date etc). The Recipient would also present to the NSW CMA Members about their career and how the funds may assist. Further, the Recipient to be invited back at another future meeting of NSW CMA, to present a written report to the Members, on how the Scholarship actually assisted them during the year. This places responsibility on the Recipient and should only enhance the Members commitment to continuing with the concept of awarding a Scholarship.
10. It is expected that the Runner-up Council will pay for the travel accommodation costs associated with the scholarship recipient to attend appropriate meetings of the Country Mayors Association.
11. A caveat be placed on the Scholarship Recipient that if the Recipient discontinues their course/s, the Scholarship ceases, effective at the time of advice. If they discontinue studies within six months from presentation of scholarship unexpended funds to be returned to CMA.

12. The Scholarship Sub-Committee conducts a review, after the first year of awarding a Scholarship and make recommendations to the Executive and members on potential improvements/restructuring that may be required

Moved Forbes Shire Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconder Parkes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ken Keith

16. Aligning Membership Criteria of CMA with LGNSW

A MOTION was moved by Forbes Shire Council seconded by Singleton Council that the CMA membership be aligned with the LGNSW Regional and Rural membership.

The motion was LOST

17. Country Mayors Association Associate Members

RESOLVED That the following new clauses be added to the Constitution
6. Those Councils, for Profit Organisations and not for Profit Organisations that are not eligible under clause 3 and 3a. Clause 4 conditions apply to obtain Associate Membership

7. Associate Members will not have voting rights at Annual General Meetings or at any other time a membership vote is taken

8. Associate Members will be encouraged to attend, Annual General Meetings, forums, study tours and any other events that promote CMA's objectives

Clause 10 be amended by the inclusion of the words "Associate Membership of for Profit Organisations shall be set at 200% of the full fee and not for Profit Organisations shall be set at 75% of the full fee" after the words "full fee in line four"

Moved Parkes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ken Keith
Seconded Singleton Council Mayor, Councillor Sue Moore

18. Rural Councils Victoria Forum Echuca 14 July

Rural Councils Victoria have extended an invitation to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to attend their Forum at Echuca as complimentary Guests. The Executive Committee have resolved that any costs incurred be paid by the CMA

RESOLVED That the information be noted

Moved Junee Shire Mayor, Councillor Neil Smith
Seconded Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Steve Reynolds

19. Review of Pensioner Rebate Subsidy

RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association advocate to the State Government for a more realistic and timely indexing process for pensioner concessions and rebates to assist pensioners in paying their Council rates and

charges. This advocacy is to include increased funding support from the State Government for the cost of providing pensioner rebates

Moved Ballina Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Cadwallader
Seconded Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Steve Reynolds

20. Daylight Saving

RESOLVED That Day Light Saving be reduced to four months of the year starting on the first weekend in November and finishing in the last weekend in February to be implemented no later than November 2023.

Moved Lachan Shire Council Mayor, Councillor John Medcalf
Seconded Kyogle Council Mayor, Councillor Kylie Thomas

21. Gifts for Future Presenters

The Executive Committee has received quotations for the supply of Country Mayors ties, scarf's and pens and has agreed to purchase 50 ties and scarf's at a cost of \$3,185.00 and 100 pens with logo and engraving for \$850.00. Invited guests will be offered a gift for attending our meetings and members are encouraged to purchase these items at cost.

RESOLVED that the information be noted

Moved Narromine Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Craig Davies
Seconded Kyogle Council Mayor, Councillor Kylie Thomas

22. The Accounting Treatment of RFS Assets

RESOLVED That the NSW Country Mayors Association

1. Confirms its strong position that local councils do not control RFS assets and therefore should not have to account for RFS assets in their financial statements

2. Rejects outright NSW Treasury's current policy position that the State Government does not control the RFS assets and that Local Government therefore does

3. Rejects and dismisses any argument that vesting under the RFS Act equates to control in terms of accounting standards (where 'substance over form' sees control in the accounting sense sitting squarely with the RFS)

4. Rejects outright the Auditor General's position that she must audit in accordance with Treasury's policy position instead of Australian Accounting standards, noting also that the AG is supposed to be independent of government, not a voice for government

5. Writes to the Premier of NSW and the NSW Parliamentary Accounts Committee to ask that they

(i). immediately investigate the basis behind all 40 Councils' qualified financial statements for YE 21/22 (especially given that nothing changed in YE 21/22 from prior years when absolutely NO Councils were qualified for having accounting policies that did not account for RFS assets), and

(ii). Immediately investigate statutory remedies that enshrine in legislation the reality regarding control of RFS assets, being that RFS assets are entirely controlled by the NSW RFS.

Moved Leeton Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Tony Reneker
Seconded Lachlan Shire Council Mayor, Councillor John Medcalf

23. CMA November Meeting

CMA meeting dates are organized around Parliamentary sitting days. Our August meeting complies with those dates but the 3 November does not as the sitting days are the 21-23 November 2023

RESOLVED That the AGM and General Meeting in November be held on the 24 November 2023

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Leeton Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Tony Reneker

24. Launch of Country Mayors Association Website

The Chairman advised that in accordance with the CMA resolution of the 9 March 2023 the website has now been developed and is online "nswcountrymayors.com.au" and invited all to connect. The Chairman walked through each of the tabs of Publications, Media, Events, Advocacy, Members, Annual Survey and Contacts. The website will be updated regularly.

25. Survey Results

The priority survey forwarded to members closed on Friday 19 May 2023. The results are as follows

Q1 - 90% of our members responded to the annual survey

Q2 - New top five issues as ranked by our members are;

1. Financial Sustainability
2. Housing
3. Labour Shortages
4. Transport and Roads
5. Health

Q3 - New top five emerging issues as ranked by our members

1. Planning
2. Disaster Preparedness
3. Renewable Energy
4. Water Security
5. Infrastructure – Crime, Law and Order

Q4 - At full value more than 2,000 positions vacant over 71 Regional Councils in NSW

Q5 - 85% of our members that completed the survey have in the past two years or will within the next five years undertake a Special Rate Variation

Q6 - 39 responses to our request for further advocacy positions

26. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 4 August 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.26pm.

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW