



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

Chairperson: Cr Jamie Chaffey
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Minutes

General Meeting

FRIDAY, 4 August 2023 Theatrette, Parliament House, Sydney

The meeting opened at 8.30am

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:

Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Ballina Shire Council, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Mr David Sherley, General Manager
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Steve Allan, 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
Bourke Shire Council, Cr Barry Hollman, Mayor
Bourke Shire Council, Ms Leone Brown, General Manager
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy Mayor
Broken Hill City Council, Mr Jay Nankivell, General Manager
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael Lyon, Mayor
Byron Shire Council, Mr Mark Arnold, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Ms Heather Nicholls, Acting General Manager
Cessnock City Council, Cr Jay Suvaal, Mayor

City of Newcastle, Cr Nuatali Nelmes, Lord Mayor
Cobar Shire Council, Cr peter Abbott, Mayor
Cobar Shire Council, Mr Peter Vlatko, General Manager
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Leigh Bowden, Deputy Mayor
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Mr Steve McGrath, General Manager
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Murray Wood, CEO
Eurobodalla Shire Council, Cr Mat Hatcher, Mayor
Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor
Federation Council, Ms Jo Shannon, Director Corporate and Community Services
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, Mr Bernard Smith General Manager
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Peter Walker, Mayor
Greater Hume Council, Cr Tony Quinn, Mayor
Greater Hume Council, Ms Evelyn Arnold, General Manager
Griffith City Council, Cr Glen Andrezza, Deputy 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 Catherine Egan, Deputy Mayor
Hay Shire Council, Cr Carol Oataway, Mayor
Hay Shire Council, Mr David Webb, General Manager
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor
Inverell Shire Council, Mr Paul Henry, General Manager
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
Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Paul Phillips, Deputy Mayor
Lachlan Shire Council, Mr Greg Tory, General Manager
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor
Lismore City Council, Cr Steve Krieg, Mayor
Lismore City Council, Mr Jon Gibbons, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Gary Murphy, General Manager
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Ian Marston
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager
MidCoast Council, Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor
MidCoast Council, Mr Adrian Panuccio, General Manager
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
Murray River Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager
Muswellbrook Shire Council, Cr Steve Reynolds, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Robert Williams, General Manager
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Neville Kschenka, 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 Lauren Trembath
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor

Orange City Council, Mr David Waddell, CEO
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, CEO
Richmond Valley Council, Cr Robert Mustow, Mayor
Shellharbour City Council, Cr Chris Homer, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Cr Narelle Davis, 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, Ms Melissa Boxall, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Mr Phillip 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
Weddin Shire Council, Cr Craig Bembrick, Mayor
Weddin Shire Council, Mr Brendan Hayes, Director Environmental Services
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Ms Lisa Miscamble, General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council, Cr Matt Gould, Mayor
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Ms Susy Cenedese, Acting Director Advocacy
LGNSW Ms Bronwen Regan, Director Strategy and Governance
OLG Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary
OLG Ms Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development
OLG Ms Tina Baldock, Principal Projects Officer

Parliamentarian Attendance

The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Leader of the opposition
The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources
The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Health, Shadow Minister for Trade, Shadow Minister for Seniors
The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning, Shadow Minister for Western NSW
The Hon Sam Farraway MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
The Hon Leslie Williams MP, Shadow Minister for Women, Shadow Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Shadow Minister for Gaming and Racing, Shadow Minister for the Arts and Heritage
The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Crown Lands
The Hon Wes Fang MLC, Deputy Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council and Shadow Assistant Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Mr Gurmesh Singh MP, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Shadow Minister for the North Coast

Mr Michael Kemp MP, Member for Oxley
Ms Tanya Thompson MP, Member for Myall Lakes
Mr Richie Williams MP, Member for Clarence

Apologies:

As submitted

Special Guests:

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage

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

Mr Simon Draper, CEO, NSW Reconstruction Authority

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

The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Small Business

5. The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage

The Minister wants to work together and harness our energies. NSW has been affected by natural disasters that need to be addressed. The Government is committed to climate change and legislation is to be introduced later this year to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050. The Net Zero Commission, an independent body is to report to parliament and will be the architect on how the government is progressing. There will be a transition from coal to other energy sources over the next 5 to 10 years. This will attract investment. There will be many planning and co-ordination challenges and there is a need to work closely with local government. The Government has concerns on how the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme has operated over the past 5 years and the Minister will table a report by the end of August together with a Land Services Review which will be considered together. The Government is preparing for El Nino and is working on water sharing plans where local government needs to work with the government.

6. The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Western NSW

The Minister acknowledged the work being undertaken by local government. The Government is committed to supporting local government and is seeking thriving regions and in accordance with the communities expectations. The Minister wants to hear directly from councils on their concerns. Regional Roads is a significant issue and funds have and will continue to be committed. People are the Governments number one priority with stamp duty concessions being introduced, speed cameras being not now hidden, access to employment and services are being improved, housing supply and affordability is being focused on, the lot of young people is being improved, people are being encouraged to stay in the regions and businesses are being supported to create local jobs. Bio science is protecting the economy from Bio-Diversity threats. There are 36% of homes in

the State that do not have mobile coverage and 16500klm of roads have no or marginal coverage and fixing this is a priority.

7. Mr Simon Draper, CEO, NSW Reconstruction Authority

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is a new agency having been created over the last 4 years. Issues are changing and local and historical knowledge is being challenged. The job is to be with communities before and after disasters and when they occur they have to react quickly. The Authority works under two Ministers Planning and Emergency Services. The organisations functions are still being established. There are four functions – Prevention – State and local mitigation plans are needed to be rebuilt in a serviceable way – Preparedness – making sure community leaders are well set up – Recovery – people need to know they will be supported and – Funding – the huge task of adaptation and its expenditure. Everyone likes a bossy co-ordinator. The Authority needs to push programs but local co-ordination is essential as the resulting assets reverts to them

8. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 26 May 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved Singleton Council Mayor Councillor Sue Moore
Seconded Narrabri Shire Council Mayor Councillor Ron Campbell

9. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

10. ALGA Update Report

Cr Linda Scott, President, reported on the 2023 National General Assembly and Regional Forum which included more than 450 local government leaders from across the country, the return of the Australian Council of Local Government, the early payment of Financial Assistance Grants with the 2023-24 allocation bought forward to councils in 2022-23, the fast tracking of disaster funding, the establishment of the Community Energy Upgrades Fund for local governments, Growing Regions Grants, regional bank closure protocols and advised that registrations are now open for the National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure congress to be held in Canberra from 6-7 September

RESOLVED That the report be noted

Moved Temora Shire Council Mayor Councillor Rick Firman
Seconded Parkes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Ken Keith

11. LGNSW Update Report

Cr Darriea Turley, President, congratulated the winners of the Local Government Awards, advised of the launch of the Parliamentary Friendship Group for Local Government, announced that David Reynolds CEO Hills Shire has been appointed CEO of LGNSW, advised that the MOU with CMA was being reviewed in accordance with the agreement and congratulated Shadow Minister Wendy Tuckerman on the Review of the Rate Pegging Methodology. The written report included information on LGNSW Annual conference which will be held from 12-14 November 2023 with motions to be submitted by 15 September 2023 and reported on the IPART Review of rate pegging methodology, the Emergency Services Levy burden in 2023/24, the Red Fleet and OLG's requirement that it be supplied with strategies to ensure RFS mobile assets are not assets of the RFS, the Select Committee to examine the recommendations of the Upper House Inquiry into Rural and Regional Health, the single employer model for GP's and emergency department doctors in rural and regional NSW, the LGNSW Water Management Conference in Parkes, the advanced payment of Financial Assistance Grants, Planning Cadetships and more support for community recovery post disaster.

RESOLVED That the report be noted

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Bega Shire Council Mayor

12. Membership

RESOLVED that Cessnock City Council and Wollondilly Shire Council be admitted as members of the Association and that the City of Newcastle and Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils be admitted as Associate members of the Association.

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Blayney Shire Council Mayor Councillor Scott Ferguson

13. Correspondence Outward

The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, The Hon Jihad Dib MP, Minister for Emergency Services, and The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads	Requesting that the Emergency Services Levy subsidy be restored to Local Government throughout MSW and that CMA be granted a position in a newly formed advisory panel
The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water and Shadow Minister for Crown Lands,	Thanking them for attending and participating in the 26 May meeting and

<p>The Hon Sam Farrow MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads</p> <p>The Hon Dugald Saunders, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>	<p>extending an open invitation to attend future meetings</p>
<p>Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health</p> <p>The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads</p> <p>The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health and Youth</p>	<p>Thanking them for attending and participating in the 26 May meeting and advising that CMA looks forward to working with them as a consultative partner in the future</p>
<p>Ms Carmel Donnelly Chair Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal</p>	<p>Thanking her for presenting at the 26 May meeting and inviting her to present her findings at a future CMA meeting after adoption of the report</p>
<p>The Hon Tim Crakanthorp MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education and Minister for the Hunter</p> <p>The Hon Duncan Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources</p> <p>The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and Shadow Minister for Small Business</p>	<p>Inviting them to be presenters at the 4 August meeting</p>
<p>The Hon Michael Daley MP, Attorney General</p>	<p>Requesting a reduction in hours for daylight saving</p>
<p>The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government</p>	<p>Requesting that RFS assets not be recognized as Local Government assets and be treated in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice</p>
<p>The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government</p>	<p>Requesting an increase in the Pensioner Rebate Subsidy</p>
<p>The Public Accounts Committee of NSW</p> <p>The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier</p>	<p>Requesting immediate investigation into the basis behind Councils qualified financial statements for the YE 21/22 due to the accounting for RFS assets</p>
<p>Department of FairTrading NSW</p>	<p>Application for changes to the Constitution as per resolution 26 May 2023</p>
<p>Mr Ashley Albury, A/Deputy Secretary, Local Government, Office of Local Government</p>	<p>Forwarding Country Mayors response to the qualified audit opinion issued by the NSW Audit Office regarding RFS Assets</p>

Inward

<p>The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government</p>	<p>Regarding the NSW Governments discontinuation of the 2023/24 Emergency Services levy contributions</p>
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Local Government NSW	Annual Conference motion – real estate agents
Dr Amanda Cohen MLC Greens	Address to Legislative Council on Council issues
The Hon Sam Faraway MLC Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads	Congratulating the Association on a successful 26 May meeting and forwarding a copy of a Notice of Motion to Parliament regarding attendance by parliamentarians at the meeting
Director Planning and Environmental Health Division, Ballina Shire Council	Forwarding copy of letter to Minister for the Environment requesting a Review of NSW Littering Fines (Copy Attached)
Cr Darriea Turley AM, President, LGNSW	Forwarding copy of letter to Auditor General regarding Audit costs for Local Government
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast	Accepting her invitation and providing a response on the draft terms of reference to the Joint Committee into Protecting Regional Water Utilities from Privatisation and thanking her for the opportunity

Media Releases

Don't Touch our Water
Is there a future for Local Government in NSW?
Country Mayors Investing in our Youth

Network Meetings

The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Crown Lands	Do we need Constitutional Protection from Privatisation for our Local Water utilities
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast	Do we need Constitutional Protection from Privatisation for our Local Water utilities
Commonwealth Regional Education Commissioner The Hon Fiona Nash	Addressing the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report and seeking members feedback

RESOLVED That the information be noted

Moved Bourke Shire Council Mayor Councillor Barry Hollman
 Seconded Parkes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Ken Keith

14. Financial Report

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

Moved Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Councillor Russell Fitzpatrick
 Seconded Forbes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Phyllis Miller

15. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Mayors

Cr Rick Firman Deputy Chairman CMA thanked Mayors Peter Abbott, Cobar Shire Council, Cr Neil Smith, Junee Shire Council and Cr Ron Campbell Narrabri Shire Council for their commitment to Local Government during their years of service and those present were presented with a Country Mayors Association pen.

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

The previous Government was responsible for the Regional Growth Fund and the Snowy Hydro Fund which allocated funds to NSW Statewide. The Opposition do not want programs commissioned by them to be cannibalised. Strategic Country Communities funding is under review, there are questions being raised regarding Resources for Regions and the Department of Regional NSW and the Department Regional Health are under review. Housing solutions such as modular housing need to be found and profit share power benefit schemes need to be introduced. Pot hole funds of \$50million are available and some councils have not taken up the opportunity to participate. Seniors and apprentice travel cards have been suspended and a petition against their suspension is being organised.

17. The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Small Business

The Review into Rate Pegging Methodology out. The security of local government funding in the September budget is in doubt. The Code of Conduct recommendations were supported by the previous government but there has been no word on what the government is doing. The Emergency Services Levy changes are extremely important and could be taken to the next election.

18. The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Leader of the Opposition

Regional NSW is very important to the Opposition and that is why 13 Shadow Ministers out 26 are from regional and rural areas. Regional people are doing it tough due to natural disasters. The Opposition is putting rural NSW front and centre and they are holding the Government to account on cost of living. Councils need to advocate with them. Infrastructure projects are being axed or held back. The Opposition will ensure that the government keeps its election promises.

19. Hosting Non-Metropolitan Meetings of CMA

RESOLVED that the information be noted

Moved Narromine Shire Council Mayor Councillor Craig Davies

Seconded Tamworth Regional Council Mayor Councillor Russell Webb

20. Memorandum of Understanding with NSW Rural Doctors Network

RESOLVED That the proposal to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with NSW Rural Doctors Network be endorsed.

Moved Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor Councillor Steve Reynolds
Seconded Tamworth Regional Council Mayor Councillor Russell Webb

21. Update Health Forum Wagga Wagga 14/15 September 2023

Cr Rick Firman Deputy CMA outlined the events for the Health Forum which is being held in conjunction with Murrumbidgee Local Health District. There will be a Civic Reception hosted by Wagga Wagga City Council on Thursday 14 September between 6.00pm – 7.30pm and the Forum on the 15 September at the upgraded Wagga Base Hospital. There is a strong agenda with Ministers and Shadow Ministers invited although Health Minister Park is unable to attend but will be represented by his Parliamentary Secretary. Dr Joe McGirr, Richard Colbran and Professor Ruth Stewart, National Rural Health Commissioner will be presenters.

22. Land Banking

A MOTION was moved That the Country Mayors Association support Murray River Councils lot yield scheme including public land to resolve the longstanding issue that will benefit every regional council to meet the NSW Governments Housing 2042 agenda.

Moved Murray River Shire Council General Manager Mr Terry Dodds
Seconded Byron Shire Council Mayor Councillor Michael Lyon

An AMENDMENT was moved That the NSW Government be requested to investigate the issue of Land Banking

Moved Bland Shire Council Mayor Councillor Brian Monaghan
Seconded Shellharbour City Council Mayor Councillor Chris Homer

The AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND WAS LOST

An AMENDMENT was moved That the lot yield scheme be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration with a motion to be submitted to the 24 November 2023 meeting of the Association.

Moved Tamworth Regional Council Mayor Councillor Russell Webb
Seconded Parkes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Ken Keith

The AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND WAS CARRIED

23. CMA State Priorities Document

The Chairman has undertaken advocacy with Ministers and Shadow Ministers so that they are aware of the issues and concerns of Regional and Rural NSW that needs to be addressed in the September State Budget

24. Parliamentary Friendship Group for Local Government

The President LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, made mention of the launch of this group in her address. The group comprises members of parliament and former members of parliament that can be used to get local government priorities to the attention of the Government and Shadow Government.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.40pm

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW

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