

8 June 2022

Rural Health Inquiry

Following the tabling in Parliament of the Legislative Council Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW on 5 May 2022, the Country Mayors Association of NSW organised a Rural Health Forum in Sydney on 26 May 2022.

“The forum was well attended and presenters the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for Mental Health; Mr Ryan Park, Shadow Minister for Health and Mental Health; Mr Richard Colbran, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Doctors Network; and Adjunct Professor, Ruth Stewart, National Rural Health Commissioner of Australia were excellent,” said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan.

“It was very refreshing to hear that both Minister Taylor and Shadow Minister Ryan agreed that it was of the utmost importance that the consideration and debate on this very important matter of Regional and Rural Health should be approached on a bipartisan basis and should be brought before Parliament as early as possible,” Cr Doolan explained.

“The Inquiry found what everybody in regional and rural NSW knows, that health and hospital services in country NSW are below standard when compared to the service levels experienced by those residing in metropolitan areas,” said Cr Doolan.

Cr Doolan is urging all regional and rural councils to get behind the efforts of the Country Mayors Association of NSW in its efforts to ensure that all 44 recommendations of the Inquiry are adopted by Parliament, by writing to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition requesting favourable outcomes by adopting the Inquiry’s recommendations that will ensure a marked improvement in the delivery of all aspects of health care to country NSW residents.

“This is our opportunity to redress the deficiencies in regional and rural health delivery. We cannot let our communities down,” concluded Cr Doolan.

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