



# Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Katrina Humphries  
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## MINUTES

### GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 8 MARCH 2019 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.30 a.m.

#### 1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Cr Simon Murray, Mayor  
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Graeme Hanger, Mayor  
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Kristy McBain, Mayor  
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Dominic King, Mayor  
Bland Shire Council, Mr Ray Smith, General Manager  
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor  
Blayney Shire Council, Ms Tiffany Irlam, Chief Financial Officer  
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Marion Prowne, Deputy Mayor  
Broken Hill City Council, Mr Jay Nankivell, Acting General Manager  
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor  
Cabonne Shire Council, Ms Heather Nicholls, Acting General Manager  
Carrathool Shire Council, Cr Peter Laird, Mayor  
Carrathool Shire Council, Mr, Rick Warren General Manager  
Cessnock City Council, Cr Bob Pynsent, Mayor  
Coffs Harbour City Council, Cr Denise Knight, Mayor  
Coffs Harbour City Council, Mr Stephen McGrath, General Manager  
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr John Seymour, Mayor  
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager  
Coonamble Shire Council, Cr Allan Karanouh, Mayor  
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Abb McAlister, Mayor  
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Mr Phillip McMurray, Acting General Manager  
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Bill West, Mayor  
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Ruth Fagan  
Cowra Shire Council, Mr Paul Devery, General Manager  
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Ben Shields. Mayor  
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Greg Mohr  
Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Michael McMahon, CEO

Dungog Shire Council, Cr Tracy Norman, Mayor  
Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor  
Federation Council, Cr Shaun Whitechurch, Deputy Mayor  
Federation Council, Mr Adrian Butler, 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 Carol Sparkes, Mayor  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Bob Kirk, Mayor  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Warrick Bennett, General Manager  
Griffith City Council, Cr John Dal Broi, 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 John Coulton, Mayor  
Gwydir Shire Council, Mr Max Eastcott, General Manager  
Hilltops Council, Cr Brian Ingram, Mayor  
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor  
Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Liz Campbell, Mayor  
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager  
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Mark Honey, Mayor  
Kyogle Council, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor  
Kyogle Council, Mr Graham Kennett, General Manager  
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Paul Maytom , Mayor  
Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager  
Lithgow City Council, Cr Ray Thompson, Mayor  
Lithgow City Council, Mr Graeme Faulkner, General Manager  
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Andrew Hope, Mayor  
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Ron Van Katwick, General Manager  
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Roger Schirmer, Mayor  
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager  
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Katrina Humphries, Mayor  
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Lester Rogers, General Manager  
Murrumbidgee Council, Cr Ruth McRae, Mayor  
Murrumbidgee Council, Mr John Scarce, General Manager  
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Catherine Redding, Mayor  
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Stewart Todd, General Manager  
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor  
Oberon Shire Council, Cr Kathy Sajowitz, Mayor  
Oberon Shire Council, Mr Garry Wallace, General Manager  
Orange City Council, Cr Reg Kidd, Mayor  
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Barbara Newton, Deputy Mayor  
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor  
Port Stephens Council, Cr Sarah Smith, Deputy Mayor  
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Mr Tim Overall, Mayor  
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor  
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor  
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr James Hayes, Mayor  
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor  
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Stafford, Mayor

Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Mr John Bell, General Manager  
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Michael Pearce, Mayor  
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Greg Conkey, Mayor  
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor  
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Denis Todd, Mayor  
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager  
Wentworth Shire Council, Cr Melissa Hendrics, Mayor  
Yass Valley Council, Cr Rowena Abbey, Mayor  
Yass Valley Council, Ms Sharon Hutch, General Manager  
LGNSW, Cr Linda Scott, President

**APOLOGIES:**

As submitted

**SPECIAL GUESTS:**

Mr Richard Colbran, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Rural Doctors Network

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 2 November 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Singleton Council Council / Blayney Shire Council).

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

NIL

**4. RICHARD COLBRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NSW RURAL DOCTORS NETWORK**

The issues around the health workforce are serious and important. The State is struggling with sustaining a workforce in rural NSW. We cannot run away from the fact that communities need to be engaged and in this councils have a role to play. Eighty percent of funds are allocated to crisis issues and we ask councils to engage the network in their local issues. Drought has increased the workload of rural doctors and these doctors need support. "Rural Health Together" has been launched to assist health workers. There are scholarships and grant opportunities of \$3.5 million available but doctors don't have the time to participate. There is a need to encourage young doctors to go to the bush and any work experience in country towns needs to be a great experience.

**5. Membership**

RESOLVED that Port Stephens Council and Wentworth Shire Council be admitted as members of the Association (Shoalhaven City Council / Singleton Council)

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

## Outward

- (a) Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Heritage requesting that Country Mayors be part of the review of the EPA's Waste to Energy Policy
- (b) Mr Ken Gillespie, Regional Infrastructure Coordinator thanking him for his service and friendship and wishing him well in his future endeavours
- (c) Mr David Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Super, advising that the Boards decision to continue with additional contributions for the Defined Benefit Plan is unacceptable to our member councils
- (d) The Hon Gladys Berejiklian, Premier, advising that the Country Mayors Association supports the "Southern Lights" project and supporting funding for the project
- (e) Mr Michael Daley MP, NSW Leader of the Opposition advising that the Country Mayors Association supports the "Southern Lights" project and supports funding for the project
- (e) Mr David Salisbury, Executive Manager Engineering, Essential Energy, thanking for his presentation to the 2 November meeting
- (f) Mr Alex Young, Director, Community and Behavioural Change, MSW Environment Protection Authority thanking him for his presentation to the 2 November meeting
- (g) Mr Simon Draper, Secretary Department of Industry, thanking him for his presentation to the 2 November meeting
- (h) To all Regional and Rural Councils, requesting councils to give consideration to financially supporting the Waste to Energy feasibility study

## Inward

- (a) Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, advising avenues available for the Southern Lights proposal
- (b) Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage regarding the Waste to Energy policy review
- (c) Cr Linda Scott, President, LGNSW, regarding the Defined Benefits Scheme contributions and the appointment of a skills based board
- (d) Dr Liz Develin, Deputy secretary, Energy, water and Portfolio Strategy, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, regarding funding contributions from solar farms
- (e) Simon Draper, Secretary, Department of Industry, responding to questions asked at the 2 November meeting
- (f) Councils advising that they are unable to contribute to the Waste to Energy feasibility study
- (g) Bathurst Regional council advising that they are prepared to contribute \$5,000 to the Waste to Energy feasibility study
- (h) Glen Innes Severn Council advising that they are prepared to contribute \$15,000 to the Waste to Energy feasibility study
- (i) Cr Susai Benjamin, Blacktown city Council wanting a dialogue of interested rural Mayors to discuss the employment opportunities in rural areas of NSW as a few Country Mayors have expressed frustration by local businesses in being able to get workers
- (j) Murray River Council advising that they are prepared to contribute \$15,000 to the Waste to Energy feasibility study

NOTED

**7. FINANCIAL REPORT**

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the last quarter were tabled and accepted (Forbes Shire Council / Lockhart Shire Council)

**8. Closing of Target Stores in Country Towns**

Target are closing stores in a number of towns in country NSW. Those councils affected are to meet at the conclusion of today's meetings to organize a united opposition.

**9. Sustainable Renewable Energy Projects**

RESOLVED that a motion urging both the Federal and State Governments to support sustainable renewable energy projects and asking the State Government to amend legislation to allow Local Government the opportunity to develop renewable energy projects be referred to the next meeting for discussion. (Lockhart Shire Council / Cowra Shire Council)

**10. DEFINED BENEFITS SCHEME**

RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association have further consultation with Local Government Super regarding the Defined Benefits Scheme contributions and the matter be referred to the next meeting together with reports from Goulburn Mulwaree Council and LGNSW (Goulburn Mulwaree Council / Hilltops Council)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25am.

Cr Katrina Humphries  
Chair – Country Mayor's Association of NSW