



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Ken Keith OAM
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MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2021, LGNSW BOARD ROOM, LEVEL 8, 28 MARGARET STREET,
SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.30 a.m.

1. ATTENDANCE IN PERSON

Cr Jamie Chaffey, Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr Liz Campbell, Kempsey Shire Council
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Peter Petty, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Michael Pearce, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Kate, Jessop, General M

Attendance via Teams

Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Ray Smith, General Manager
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Darriea Turley, Mayor
Broken Hill City Council, Mr Jay Nankivell, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Carrathool Shire Council, Mr, Rick Warren General Manager
Cobar Shire Council, Cr Peter Abbott, Mayor
Cobar Shire Council, Mr Peter Vlatko, General Manager
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr John Seymour, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Abb McAlister
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Mr Phil McMurray, General Manager
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Bill West, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager

Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Bob Kirk, Mayor
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Warrick Bennett, General Manager
Griffith City Council, Cr John Dal Broi, Mayor
Hay Shire Council, Cr Jenny Dwyer, Mayor
Hay Shire Council, Mr David Webb, General Manager
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Mark Honey, Mayor
Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor
Lachlan Shire Council, Mr Greg Tory, 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 Craig Butler, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Roger Schirmer, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager
Murrumbidgee Council, Cr Ruth McRae, Mayor
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Neville Schenka, Mayor
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Oberon Council, Cr Kathy Sajowitz, Mayor
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Parkes Shire Council, Mr Kent Boyd, General Manager
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor
Shellharbour City Council, Cr Marianne Saliba, Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr James Hayes, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Mr Matthew Hyde, General Manager
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Greg Conkey, Mayor
Warren Shire Council, Mr Gary Woodman, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Wentworth Shire Council, Cr Susan Nichols, Mayor
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator
LGNSW, Cr Linda Scott, President
LGNSW, Mr Scott Phillips, CEO

APOLOGIES:

As submitted

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator,
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Mr Joseph Rahme, Senior Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, NSW Telco
Authority

2. Cr Linda Scott, President, LGNSW Update

Cr Scott provided a report on opportunities where they might exist including
Advocacy Wins, Advocacy Updates, Opportunities for Collaboration and Upcoming
Events

3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 28 May 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Tenterfield Shire Council / Gunnedah Shire Council).

4. Membership

RESOLVED that Cobar Shire Council, Walgett Shire Council, Weddin Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council be admitted as members of the Association (Tenterfield Shire Council / Goulburn Mulwaree Council)

5. Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

The Natural Resources Access Regulator has been operating for three and half years and has the role of review of the conduct and enforcement of water in NSW. The regulator ensures that licensees are aware of the conditions of the license. Past enquiries have shown that compliance has been ineffective and under resourced. There is a statutory mandate to be an efficient regulator of water and to establish public confidence, to be outcomes focused and accountable with ensured independence. They are a statutory body subject to oversight by the Ombudsman. They have undertaken 4,500 investigations with 1,300 enforcement actions resulting in 32 prosecutions with 14 convictions. Most operators are fair and compliant operators. Noncompliance is generally not keeping records in log books or works and meters with old or broken seals. There are however willful and reckless contraventions of the Water Management Act. Noncompliance is not based on location or type of water usage but unawareness of compliance conditions. Councils are large holders of licenses and need to ensure that the approvals and license conditions that are set are appropriate. It is hoped that councils will work with NRAR with the roll out of the nonurban metering framework. Some of the conflict with NRAR in approving or not approving licenses is due to restrictions imposed under the Act.

6. Mr Joseph Rahme, Senior Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, NSW Telco Authority

NSW Telco Authority operates and manages the Public Safety Network to deliver radio communications for frontline responders. They coordinate and align whole - of-government connectivity programs and priorities to deliver improved connectivity across the State. The NSW Government is investing \$1.4billion to expand and enhance the PSN through the Critical Communications Enhancement Program. The program will increase the networks coverage to reach 85% of the states landmass and 99.7% of the population. Key programs are Public Safety Mobile Broadband, Mobile Black Spot Program and Connecting Country Communities. The objective is to get the five emergency service providers on to the one network by December 2024.

7. Correspondence

Outward

- (a) The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, calling on the State Government to continue its commitment to Tele-Health in Rural and Remote Communities
- (b) The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government, regarding compliance with Emergency Services legislation

- (c) Cr Linda Scott, President, LGNSW, regarding signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in conjunction with the 2021 LGNSW Conference
- (d) The Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Social and Community Housing, calling on the Federal Government to create a National Housing Plan that can support the work of local councils
- (e) The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, asking for a reduction in daylight saving hours
- (f) The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government, seeking assistance to changes to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012
- (g) The Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Places, seeking assistance to changes to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012
- (h) The Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, seeking assistance to changes to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012
- (i) Mr Shane Fitzsimmons, Commissioner Resilience NSW, thanking him for his presentation to the 28 May meeting
- (j) The Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, thanking her for her presentation to the 28 May meeting
- (k) The Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, requesting an independent authority prepare a report on river monitoring in the Murray-Darling Basin
- (l) The Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, requesting the engagement with Joint Organisations to address water security and investment in infrastructure
- (m) The Hon Mark Coulton MP, Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government, requesting increased funding to regional and remote communities for provision of detoxification and rehabilitation facilities
- (n) Hon Keith Pitt MP, Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia, asking for support in having National Water Quality Management Strategy adopted by all governments
- (o) The Hon Keith Pitt MP, Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia, seeking support for whole of government additional funding for bulk water supply projects
- (p) The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, seeking consideration to changing the distribution of Medicare payments to General Practitioners
- (q) The Hon Greg Hunt MP, requesting the reversal of the decision to deduce the Skilled Migration Program
- (r) The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, calling on the government to act as a matter of urgency to update regulations in relation to the NSW Animal Welfare Code
- (s) The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, requesting support for the creation of a new Ministry of Regional Health
- (t) The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, calling on him to support improved patient transport options in rural and remote NSW
- (u) The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, follow up letter regarding the establishment of new Ministry of Rural Health

- (v) The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, Minister for Regional Health, Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Development, introducing CMA and our advocacy efforts
- (w) Press Release on Regional and Rural Health Minister sent to members for distribution
- (x) Press Release on ESL sent to members for distribution
- (y) Press Release on COVID to local media and Commonwealth and State members
- (z) Letter to non member councils inviting them to attend November meeting and to join the Association
- (aa) Letter to Councils that have not been able to attend recently outlining recent lobbying efforts
- (bb) Letter to Councils that have not been able to attend recently outlining recent lobbying efforts
- (cc) Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier, introducing Country Mayors Association
- (dd) Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, reacquainting him with Country Mayors
- (ee) Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier, requesting support for the creation of a new Ministry of Regional Health and outlining the problems affecting mayoral elections
- (ff) Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, requesting support for the creation of a new Ministry of Regional Health and outlining the problems affecting mayoral elections

Inward

- (a) The Hon Mark Coulton MP, Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government, regarding Financial Assistance Grants
- (b) The Hon Scott Farlow MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer and for COVID Recovery regarding Environmental Services Levy
- (c) The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government regarding Emergency Service Levy contributions
- (d) (The Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, social and Community Housing regarding affordable housing
- (e) The Hon David Coleman MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, regarding mental health facilities
- (f) The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, regarding Minister Regional Health
- (g) The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, Minister for Regional Health, Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Development, regarding Access to Health Services
- (h) The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic and sexual Violence, regarding Daylight Saving
- (i) The Hon Michael McCormack MP, regarding Local Government Assistance Act
- (j) The Hon Michael McCormack MP, regarding Regional Recovery Partnership
- (k) The Hon Michael McCormack MP, regarding Local Government Assistant Act

NOTED

8. Financial Report

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the period to 30 September 2021 were tabled and accepted (Tenterfield Shire Council / Shellharbour City Council)

9. Constitution

RESOLVED that the amended Constitution as distributed to members on the 2 June 2021 in accordance with Clause 33 of the Constitution together with the following amendments be adopted

- (a) That Clause (2) read "To further the interests of rural and regional Councils by advocating and lobbying on relevant State & National issues, by working with State & Federal Governments and other appropriate organisations to further the interests of our members and to act as an information sharing forum".
- (b) That clause 11 read "The Association shall have an Executive Committee"
- (c) That clause 12 read "Membership of the committee shall consist of the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Secretary and up to a maximum of eight ordinary members"
- (d) That clause 12 (b) read "The Executive Committee may convene a meeting through video streaming or phone/tele conference as determined by the Chairman"
- (e) that clause 17 read "The rules governing the conduct of council meetings as contained in the Local Government Act 1993 and regulations, the Code of Meeting Practice and the Model Code of Conduct for local councils in NSW shall apply to meetings of the Association (Temora Shire Council / Gunnedah Shire Council)

10. Proposed Employment Zones Framework

RESOLVED That the NSW Government's proposed employment zones framework not apply to regional areas because:

- (a) It will redirect limited Council resources away from priority tasks to undertake a large body of work for which there is no identified need or benefit;
- (b) It does not consider potential negative impacts on regional economies whose competitive advantage is reliant on natural assets and overall lifestyle appeal;
- (c) It does not support the hierarchy of centres and will undermine the orderly economic development of regional areas;
- (d) It has a narrow metropolitan focus which fails to consider the economic opportunities of rural and regional specialisations including agriculture, tourism, aquaculture, health care and social assistance, forestry and food manufacturing. (Bega Valley Council / Goulburn Mulwaree Council)

11. Waste Management Facilities

RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association oppose the Energy from Waste (EfW) infrastructure in its current form and request that it not be advanced until

- (a) It is amended at least, to include metropolitan locations for (EfW) facilities
- (b) It is extensively exhibited for public and Councils' feedback before any decision is made to advance a regulation or other provisions to bring it into effect (Goulburn Mulwaree Council / Lithgow City Council)

12. Financial Assistance Grants Fairer Criteria and Distribution

MOTION WITHDRAWN

13. Reintroduction of Rural Council Model

RESOLVED That LGNSW calls upon the State Government to introduce a model for rural councils to impose commensurate governance and oversight by the State Government (Hay Shire Council) / Forbes Shire Council)

14. Cost Shifting

RESOLVED That the NSW Country Mayors Association calls upon the State Government to undertake an urgent review into the cost shifting from the State to Local Government, particularly in the areas of emergency services, external audit, crown land management, planning, companion animals, underground petroleum storage systems and now COVID 19 Health Order Compliance (Hay Shire Council / Forbes shire Council)

15. Inability of Small Councils to make Co-Contributions for Project and Grant Applications

RESOLVED That the NSW Country Mayors Association advocates to the Australian and State Governments on a fairer grant system for small and rural councils, to ensure they are not disadvantaged compared to better resourced councils in terms of ability to provide co-contributions to either comply with the grant conditions or to be competitive against other submissions (Hay Shire Council / Tenterfield Shire Council)

16. Need for more appropriate Application of Speed Zones and Better Considered Consultation with Local Councils

RESOLVED (a) That a review of how the speed zoning guidelines are applied, most especially in regards to 50km/hr limits outside built up areas and (b) greater regard for local council knowledge, including improved engagement, when identifying safety risk and safety investment priorities and when introducing new speed limits (Leeton Shire Council / Singleton Council)

17. Mayoral and Councillor Allowances

Mr Viv May Interim Administrator Wingecarribee Shire Council declared a pecuniary interest as he is a member of the Local Government remuneration Tribunal

RESOLVED That CMA approaches all political parties to seek a bi partisan approach to bringing mayoral and Councillor allowances in rural NSW to reflect a midpoint between Qld and Vic (Narromine Shire Council / Gunnedah Shire Council)

18. Project Funding

RESOLVED That this matter be deferred to the March Meeting (Temora Shire Council / Tenterfield Shire Council)

19. MOU Between Country Mayors and LGNSW

RESOLVED That the MOU as distributed to members be adopted with the addition that clause 2.3 be amended to exclude "and ends four years from the commencement date" (Gunnedah Shire Council / Tenterfield Shire Council)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.26am

Cr Ken Keith OAM
Chairman Country Mayors Association of NSW