



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Ken Keith OAM
PO Box 337 Parkes NSW 2870
02 6861 2333
ABN 92 803 490 533

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 27 MAY 2022 AUDITORIUM, CLUB YORK, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.35 a.m.

1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
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
Bega Valley Shire Council, Mr Anthony McMahon, CEO
Berrigan Shire Council, Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor
Berrigan Shire Council, Mr Matt Hansen, Deputy CEO
Bland Shire Council, Mr Ray Smith, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr David McCann, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Charlie Sheahan, Mayor
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Mr Glen Atear, Acting Deputy General Manager
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Bill West, Mayor
Cowra Shire Council, Mr Paul Devery, General Manager
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Murray Wood, General Manager
Edward River Council, Cr Peta Betts, Mayor
Edward River Council, Mr Phil Stone, General Manager
Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Rod Banham, Mayor
Glen Innes Shire Council, Mr Craig Bennett, General Manager
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Bob Peter Walker, Mayor

Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Matt O'Rourke, Acting 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
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council, Cr John Coulton, Mayor
Gwydir Shire Council, Mr Max Eastcott, 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
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
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Ms Joanna Sangster, General Manager
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Nick Tobin, Acting General Manager
Murray River Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Neville Schenka, Mayor
Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager
Oberon Council, Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
Orange City Council, Mr Dave Waddell, General Manager
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Jason Linnane, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Mr Gary Lavelle, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Bob Crouch, Deputy Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Kate Jessep, General Manager
Warren Shire Council, Cr Milton Quigley, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
LGNSW, Mr Scott Phillips, CEO
ALGA Cr Linda Scott, President
Office of Local Government, Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development

APOLOGIES:

As submitted

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Cr Linda Scott, President, ALGA

The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government

The Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales,
Minister for Police

The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water, Minister for Hospitality
and Racing

Mr Scott Phillips, CEO, LGNSW

Ms Anna Bowen, Head of Social Impact, Royal Far West

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 11 March 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Inverell Shire Council / Warrumbungle Shire Council).

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

4. Cr Linda Scott, President, ALGA

Cr Scott thanked councils for campaigning Local Government issues in the recent Federal election. The change in government is working to ensure commitments are met and that Labor Party policy is implemented. ALGA has secured commitments for fair funding of Federal Assistance Grants, the Commonwealth Government will match the \$500 million coalition extension to the \$2.5billion Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program and invest a further \$250million, it will provide \$200million for disaster mitigation funding which will be based on application, will provide \$400million for mobile phone coverage in rural and regional areas and to return Local Government to the National Cabinet. ALGA's advocacy priorities are a climate change partnership, affordable housing partnership and circular economy waste innovation and reduction.

5. Health Forum

RESOLVED

1. That following the Country Mayors Health Forum, Country Mayors write to the Premier and Opposition leader thanking them for their representation at the forum through the Minister for Regional Health the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC and the Shadow Minister for Health Ryan Park and recognise their bipartisan commitment to agreeing to address the rural and regional health issue across regional NSW

2. That Country Mayors seek commitment from the Premier and the leader of the Opposition to implement the recommendations of the Legislative Council Inquiry into the Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote New South Wales

3. That the Country Mayors Executive Committee develop a further set of targeted health related priorities to advocate to both State and Federal Governments to address (Bega Valley Shire Council / Gunnedah Shire Council)

6. The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government

The Minister is pleased to have been appointed and wants to be a strong advocate for Local Government. She has discussed the 2022/23 rate variation with IPART and was able to get the variation resolved. There are challenges with the Environmental Services Levy but additional resources have been provided and additional funding has been pushed through for increased costs incurred by councils. The government has supported flood affected communities in northern NSW and has introduced a support program for skills for councils most in need. The OLG priorities are Sustainability and an IPART review. Some councils are not sustainable and there is a need to get those councils to be able to provide services to their communities. The Minister does not want the Office of Local Government reduced down to small numbers. A conduct review is to take place as there are a number of issues around the State. Joint Organisations are calling for more resourcing and a consultation process is to commence shortly.

7. The Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Police

If regional NSW is going well then NSW is going well. The Minister wants to knock on the doors of the new Commonwealth Ministers to make sure regional and rural NSW is not forgotten. He will stand up for rural NSW. The Minister wants communities first and wants a government that responds to emergencies. Regional NSW has become a great place to live and government investment has transformed communities. Lots of projects are being undertaken not only large but also small such as overtaking lanes and the replacement of timber bridges. Regional Growth is funding 2700 projects across the State. Improved facilities support other services such as tourism and recreation opportunities. The Regional Job Creation Fund is creating 7,000 jobs in regional NSW, and Resources for Regions is supporting communities affected by mining, while connectivity for phone coverage although not a State responsibility is being supported by the government. Policing was a role he took on because additional police are required in rural NSW and he wants to ensure that it gets its fair share of police resources. The State government wants to work with Local Government and wants to do projects in partnership with Local Government

8. The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water, Minister for Hospitality and Racing

The Minister can understand the frustration with dealing with government departments and invites us to contact his office if there is frustration in cutting through the red tape. There are 233 Safe and Secure water projects that are being undertaken. The State has gone from running out of water to a plentiful supply causing different challenging issues. The Water Efficiency Program fixes leaks. The Crown Reserve Improvement Fund has an additional \$7million. There is \$29million available for improvements to racetracks and \$72million for showground maintenance upgrades. Crown land needs to be unlocked for social and affordable housing. The Department can work with land claims at a local level and it is open to working with them.

9. Mr Scott Phillips, CEO, LGNSW

Mr Phillips provided a report on the work of LGNSW since the last meeting on advocacy priorities and updates including Domestic Waste Management Charges Review, Emergency Services Levy and Rural fire Service Assets, ePlanning and NSW Planning Survey, and Housing and outlined advocacy wins such as the 2022-2023 rate peg determination, extra finance to cover the ESL increase for 2022-23, the new report on rural, regional and remote health crisis, the parliamentary inquiry into the conduct of elections held under COVID-19 conditions, flood relief for councils and funding for modular housing package for flood affected communities

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Outward

- (a) The Hon Sam Farraway MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads thanking him for his presentation to the 11 March 2022 meeting
- (b) Mr Simon Hunter, Executive Director Strategy and innovation, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, thanking him for his presentation to the 11 March meeting 2022
- (c) The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier, inviting him to present at the 27 May 2022 meeting
- (d) The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, regarding the inclusion of RFS Assets in a council balance sheet
- (e) The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing inviting him to present at the 27 May 2022 meeting
- (f) The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, following up the Associations letter to Minister Stokes regarding employment zones
- (g) The Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Police, inviting him to present at the 27 May 2022 meeting
- (h) The Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage regarding impacts on rural NSW by the Bio Diversity Offset Scheme
- (i) The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for Mental Health, regarding the holding of a Rural Health Forum

Inward

- (a) Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director, Local Government, Office of Local Government NSW, regarding Joint Organisations and the Rural Council Model
- (b) Cr Rick Firman OAM, Chairman, Riverina JO, regarding the IPART Peg Methodology
- (c) El Smith, Director of Administration and Finance, Temora Shire Council, regarding the IPART Peg Methodology

NOTED

11. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

12. Ms Anna Bowen, Head of Social Impact, Royal Far West

Royal Far West has a long history with rural NSW and although based in Sydney many staff are from country areas. Rural communities are doing it tough and rural children are worse off developmentally than their city counterparts due to environmental and social reasons. Royal Far West provides 750 children with pediatric services, it has a bushfire program and a flood intervention program. They are getting smarter and more effective in recognizing what works. The royal far west is affected by the workforce shortage so are backing that up with telehealth.

13 Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021

RESOLVED that Country Mayors seek to meet with the NSW Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Planning to seek an urgent amendment to the Environmental Planning and Assess (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021 (Murray River Council / Tenterfield Shire Council)

14. New Commonwealth Government Programs

RESOLVED That Country Mayors requests that the new Commonwealth Government commit to or enhance the Local Governments programs of the previous government (Armidale Regional Council /Bega Valley Shire Council)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.05pm.

Cr Ken Keith OAM
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW