



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc will be held on **Friday 5 November 2021**, as a "Teams" Meeting from **LGNSW Boardroom, Level 8, 28 Margaret Street, Sydney**, at the conclusion of the General Meeting

Agenda

1. **Attendance Roll Call**
2. **Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6 November 2020 (Copy Attached)** ✓
Recommendation That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 6 November 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record
3. **Matters Arising from Minutes** ✓
4. **Chairman's Report (Copy Attached)**
Recommendation That the Chairman's report be received and noted
5. **Secretary's Report – Financial Report. July 2020 to June 2021 (Copy Attached)**
Recommendation That the financial reports for the 2020/21 year be accepted
6. **Appointment of Returning Officer**
Recommendation That the appointment be adjourned to the March 2022 meeting
6. **Election of Office Bearers**
 - (a) Chairman
 - (b) Vice Chairman
 - (c) Secretary (usually the General Manager of the Chairman)
 - (d) Executive

(Under Clause 25 of the Constitution the Association shall hold an Annual meeting in November of each year, at which meeting the Association shall

- (a) Appoint a Chairman to hold office for the ensuing 12 months
- (b) Appoint a Vice Chairman to hold office for the ensuing 12 months
- (c) Appoint a Secretary to hold office for the ensuing 12 months (generally the General Manager of the Chairs Council)

- (d) Determine the annual membership fees for the Association
- (e) Elect up to six Executive Committee Members to hold office for the ensuing 12 months (The Executive Committee comprises Chairman, Deputy Chairman and 6 Committee members) If Clause 25 of the Constitution is amended as recommended by the General Meeting 5 November 2021 it will be "Elect up to eight Executive Committee Members to hold office for the ensuing 12 months (The Executive Committee comprises Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and up to 8 Committee members)"

Recommendation from the Executive Committee That the election of office bearers be adjourned to the March 2022 meeting

7. Setting of Annual Membership Fees

It is recommended that the fees for the 2022 calendar year remain at \$750 for Councils with a population of 10,000 and over, and Councils with a population of less than 10,000 paying 75% \$562.50

8 Appointment of Secretariat

Recommended that Allan Burgess trading as Alkanat Consulting be appointed the Secretariat

9. Setting of Meeting Dates for 2022

Suggest meetings be held on 11 March (rather than the 4 March as the LGNSW Special Conference is 28 February to 2 March) 27 May, 5 August and 4 November
Recommendation That the meeting dates for 2022 be 11March, 27 May, 5 August, and 4 November

10. Adjournment of Annual General Meeting

Recommendation That the Annual General Meeting be adjourned to the March 2022 meeting for the appointment of the Returning Officer and the election of Office Bearers for the 2022 year

Cr Ken Keith OAM
Chairperson – Country Mayors Association of NSW



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COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMANS REPORT 2021

2021 has been another year of disruptions with severe flooding particularly in the Mid North Coast and North Coast, and of course the Delta strain of COVID 19, causing lockdowns in many regional areas and in Sydney preventing travel within the State.

Meetings were held in November, March and May but the August meeting had to be cancelled due to the lockdowns. We always endeavor to invite Ministers, Senior Bureaucrats or industry leaders whose organisations impact our local rural communities. Presenters during the year included

- Professor, Mary O'Kane, NSW Independent Bushfire Inquiry
- Peter Duncan AM, Member Independent Panel for the Road Classification Review and Transfer
- Hon Mick Veitch MLC, Shadow Minister for Industry and Trade, Rural Roads, Rural Affairs and Western NSW
- Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research
- Mr David Salisbury, Executive Manager Engineering and Mr Geoff Burgess, Head of Strategic Council Partnerships, Essential Energy
- Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing
- Mr Shane Fitzsimmons, Commissioner, Resilience NSW

and of course Cr Linda Scott, President, Local Government NSW each meeting provided us with an update on issues being addressed and advocacy undertaken on behalf of Councils in NSW

I am very keen as your Chairman to have a strong and active Executive Committee who are committed to concentrating on the issues facing rural local government. A survey of members earlier this year identified issues of importance to country councils in NSW. The largest single issues are

- Water Security
- Access to Health Services
- Financial Assistance Grants
- Skills and Education
- Road Funding
- Telecommunication Blackspots Coverage
- Cost Shifting and
- Inability of small councils to make contributions for projects and grant applications

Member Councils were asked to submit motions in respect of Water Security and Access to Health Services, and these were considered at the 28 May 2021 meeting. Letters were forwarded to the responsible departments both State and Commonwealth, outlining actions that

we believed should be undertaken by governments. Financial Assistance Grants and Skills and Education are currently in the process of being considered.

The survey responses from members has been used by both CMA and LGNSW to agree to a division of responsible advocacy's between Country Mayors and LGNSW and those areas that are hybrid that is a function of both. A memorandum of Understanding between the two Associations is being prepared and should be available for consideration in the new year.

A review of the Country Mayors Association Constitution has been undertaken during the year and the amendments are to be considered at todays meeting. When agreed to, the new draft Constitution will be forwarded to the Department of Fair Trading for endorsement.

There are 22 regional and rural Councils that are not members of CMA. A letter has been forwarded to them introducing Country Mayors and extending an invitation to them to attend a meeting and become members. The four applications for membership to be considered today are a result of that letter and hopefully there will be further applications to come. The admission of these four councils will raise our membership to 74 councils.

I would like to thank member councils for their continued support of our Association and hope that you found membership rewarding. To those delegates that are not contesting the elections in December we wish you well into the future. To those contesting the elections the best of luck.

A special thank you goes to members of the Executive Committee – Mick Pearce, Liz Campbell, Jamie Chaffey, Rick Firman, Sue Moore, Peter Petty, and Kathy Sajowitz who have put in a lot of time and effort attending eight Executive Meetings during the year and steering the path forward for the Association. Thanks also to Katrina Humphries the former Chairperson for her support, and Liz Campbell for organizing the Thursday night social evenings.

Cr Ken Keith OAM
Chairman



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Ken Keith
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NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc will be held on **5 November 2021**, as a “Teams” meeting at **LGNSW Boardroom, Level 8, 28 Margaret Street, Sydney, at 8.30am.**

Agenda

- 1. Attendance Roll Call**
- 2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting 28 May 2021 (Copy Attached)**
Recommendation That the minutes of the General Meeting held on the 28 May 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate re
- 3. Matters Arising from Minutes**
- 4. 8.40am Cr Linda Scott, President, LGNSW Update (Copy Attached)**
- 5. Membership**
Application has been received from Cobar Shire Council, Walgett Shire Council, Weddin Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council to join the Association
Recommendation: That Cobar Shire Council, Walgett Shire Council, Weddin Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council be admitted as members of the Association
- 6. 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 (Copy Attached)
- (b) The Hon Scott Farlow MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer and for COVID Recovery regarding Environmental Services Levy (Copy Attached)
- (c) The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government regarding Emergency Service Levy contributions (Copy Attached)
- (d) (The Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, social and Community Housing regarding affordable housing (Copy Attached)
- (e) The Hon David Coleman MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, regarding mental health facilities (Copy Attached)
- (f) The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, regarding Minister Regional Health (Copy Attached)
- (g) The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, Minister for Regional Health, Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Development, regarding Access to Health Services (Copy Attached)
- (h) The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic and sexual Violence, regarding Daylight Saving (Copy Attached)
- (i) The Hon Michael McCormack MP, regarding Local Government Assistance Act (Copy Attached)
- (j) The Hon Michael McCormack MP, regarding Regional Recovery Partnership (Copy Attached)
- (k) The Hon Michael McCormack MP, regarding Local Government Assistant Act (Copy Attached)

Recommendation That the outwards and Inwards correspondence be noted

- 7. 9.00am Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment**
- 8. 10.00am Mr Joseph Rahme, Senior Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, NSW Telco Authority**
- 9. Financial Report (Copy Attached)**
Recommendation That the financial reports for the period to xxxxx were tabled and accepted

10. Constitution (Copy Attached)

In accordance with clause 33 of the 2014 Constitution, notice of suggested amendments were forwarded to members on the 2 June 2021 providing more than 2 months notice of amendments. The following suggestions have been received

- (a) The Objective should read as follows
To promote the interests of regional and rural local government by being a credible strong voice that advocates on regional issues forum
- (b) Clause 11 there is no need to mention "Committee of Management". Just refer to the Executive Committee
- (c) Clause 12 is confusing for the maximum number of members on the Executive with Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Why not just change the number of other members to 7
- (d) Clause 12b should delete Teams and Zoom and replace with "video streaming" as a generic term as there will be other platforms introduced in time
- (e) Somewhere after clause 17 the constitution should make reference to the Code of Meeting Practice and stop the raising of General Business without notice which often introduces long winded resolutions that no one can really follow

Recommendation 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 suggested 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"

11 General Business

- (a) Proposed Employment Zones Framework (Bega Valley Shire Council) (Copy Attached)
 - (b) Waste Management Facilities (Goulburn Mulwaree Council) (Copy Attached)
 - (c) Financial Assistance Grants Fairer Criteria and Distribution (Hay Shire Council) (copy Attached)
 - (d) Reintroduction of Rural Council Model (Hay Shire Council) (Copy Attached)
 - (e) Cost Shifting (Hay Shire Council) (Copy Attached)
 - (f) Inability by Small Councils to Make Co-Contributions for Project and Grant Applications (Hay Shire Council) (Copy Attached)
 - (g) Need for More Appropriate Application of Speed Zones and Better Considered Consultation with Local Councils (Leeton Shire Council) (Copy Attached)
 - (h) Mayoral and Councillor Allowances (Narromine Shire Council) (Copy Attached)
 - (i) Project Funding (Shoalhaven City Council) (Copy Attached)
- Recommendation That the General Business items be referred to the March 2022 meeting for debate

12 Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting to be determined by the AGM (11 March 2022 recommended)

Country Mayors Association Meeting - 5 November 2021

Local Government NSW update

This report seeks to brief the Country Mayors on the work of LGNSW since the last meeting and indicate opportunities for further collaboration where they might exist.

Message from the LGNSW President

This will be my last report as LGNSW President.

It has been the honour of a lifetime to be the LGNSW President for the past four years and represent the interests of local governments across NSW. Thank you for allowing me this honour.

Thank you to past and present Country Mayors and executives for your wisdom, collaboration and support in my term as LGNSW President.

This past financial year alone, together with ALGA and you all, we've secured more than \$8 billion in funding for local governments and their communities and look forward to seeing this funding rolled out across NSW.

I look forward to working with you as ALGA President, should I be re-elected to the City of Sydney. All the best to those of you re-contesting the elections, and to those of you who are not - stay in touch!

ADVOCACY WINS (August – October 2021)

\$200m Regional Recovery Package including events funding for councils

LGNSW has been calling for NSW Government support for our regional and rural councils in their efforts to provide a locally led economic recovery for their communities and support jobs growth.

Following these calls, the NSW Government recently announced a \$200 million recovery package to assist regional and rural NSW economies bounce back when it is safe to do so. The package includes:

- \$30 million for the Regional Job Creation Fund Round Two (applications open in early 2022);
- \$50 million Regional Events Package, including;
- \$20 million Regional Events Acceleration Fund Round Two (applications open in early 2022);
- \$5 million Country Shows support package;
- \$25 million Reconnecting Regional NSW: Community Events Package; and
- \$40 million for priority infrastructure projects across Regional NSW.

Funding support for outdoor dining revival

Councils and LGNSW have long advocated for rule changes to allow more outdoor dining and entertainment to help drive a locally led recovery from COVID, and I am pleased to see the NSW Government's \$66 million Alfresco Restart Initiative in response to our calls.

The initiative provides up to \$5000 for businesses to expand or improve alfresco areas, while councils will also be able to access up to \$500,000 to improve high streets and surrounding areas.

Importantly, the relaxation of rules are temporary measures and cannot be made permanent without council consent – ensuring local government retains important oversight for local amenity.

Taskforce listens to councils on housing affordability in the regions

It was heartening to see a number of the findings in the NSW Government's Regional Housing Taskforce report aligned with much of what LGNSW and councils have been saying about the issue. The report says blaming housing shortages on planning processes was over-simplifying the issue, and other factors such as financial

and taxation systems, population growth, demographic change and interest rates were among the contributors to the problem.

The report correctly identifies that infrastructure planning, delivery and coordination also need to be improved to unblock regional housing supply.

We also face the thorny problem of planned reforms to infrastructure contributions, which further threaten the delivery of this infrastructure. The taskforce is now considering all feedback and drafting recommendations for the Government.

NSW commits to halving emissions by 2030

The announcement that the NSW Government would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2030 was a welcome one, and a positive step towards the target of net zero emissions by 2050 we are all working towards.

Local government has taken a lead role in these efforts, with our councils embracing sustainable practices and technology, including:

- installing renewable energy;
- investing in energy efficiency, such as replacing streetlights with LEDs;
- capturing methane from landfills, limiting organics streams heading to landfill; and
- replacing car fleets with low-emission vehicles.

Deputy Premier commits to councils as part of COVID recovery roadmap

More than 120 regional mayors, councillors and general managers from across the State and I recently met online with the (former) Deputy Premier John Barilaro. The LGNSW Forum covered vaccination rates, potential COVID impacts on upcoming elections and the threat to local infrastructure posed by planned developer contribution rule changes.

The Deputy Premier acknowledged the frontline leadership our councils are providing to communities and, most importantly, assured us that local government will be an integral part of the roadmap out of the COVID lockdown impacting much of regional NSW.

Premier meets with COVID-hit LGA mayors

(Former) Premier Gladys Berejiklian recently met with 12 western and south-western mayors in Sydney's worst hit COVID areas. Following the meeting, the Government lifted curfew restrictions for these LGAs and granted longer exercise times and allowances for up to five fully vaccinated people to meet outdoors.

LGNSW welcomes additional \$3.9 billion COVID support

We welcomed the announcement of an additional \$3.9 billion in State and Federal support funding for businesses and individuals impacted by the continued impacts of the current COVID-19 outbreak, in line with our ongoing advocacy for additional support for our communities.

This funding, along with the tireless work our local government sector is doing night and day to keep our communities safe, will support our communities through this terrible time and put us in the best possible position for a locally led economic recovery when we emerge from the current lockdown.

Government commitment for more road safety funding

There is much to be pleased about in the Australian Government's response to the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety Report: Improving Road Safety in Australia. The Government has supported the report's recommendation for calls for more funding for road safety and allocated an additional \$1 billion in the 2021-22 Budget to continue road upgrades through the Road Safety Program.

We also welcome the commitment for increased Black Spot Program funding and an increase in the percentage allocated to regional and remote areas. The Government has now allocated a total of \$1.2 billion for the program over the period 2013-14 to 2024-25.

Council-run early childhood education and care services support

Our advocacy for COVID-affected councils continues to reap results, with one of the most recent outcomes being Commonwealth funding support for council-run childhood education and care (ECEC) services. This is a financial lifeline for these council-run services, which were losing collectively more than \$1 million a week during the lockdown and were not eligible for other funding support.

Thanks to the collective efforts of the childcare sector and stakeholders such as LGNSW, the Commonwealth has responded with an initial rollout of funding to the LGAs most impacted by the lockdowns.

Vaccination rate figures by councils

LGNSW has advocated for the NSW Government to release vaccination rate breakdowns by Local Government Areas (LGAs) to help our efforts to educate our communities about the COVID vaccine program and encourage people to get vaccinated. I am pleased to report that NSW Health has started publishing vaccinations by LGA.

LGNSW advocacy secures Government funding to support council jobs

Thanks to our collective advocacy the NSW Government has agreed to provide financial support to the local government sector to support council jobs. Councils continue to be ineligible for any of the \$5.1 billion COVID support promised by the State and Federal governments, and many of us were being forced to stand down staff during this latest lockdown.

We were able to successfully negotiate the reinstatement of last year's Council Job Retention Allowance (CJRA), which provides up to \$1500 assistance a fortnight for eligible staff.

ADVOCACY UPDATES

End Cost Shifting for Health onto Regional and Rural Councils

In October 2021, LGNSW made a [supplementary submission](#) to the parliamentary inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales.

The submission outlines the direct costs experienced by many rural and regional councils and joint organisations across NSW to ensure the delivery of local health services and attract qualified health professionals to regional and rural communities. The submission reiterates our call for a joint intergovernmental agreement on healthcare delivery and resource allocation that includes local government.

Thank you to all the councils that provided input for this important advocacy.

Regional Housing Taskforce

The NSW Government's Regional Housing Taskforce released the first of two reports on 1 October. The Taskforce was asked to identify barriers in the planning system preventing housing delivery in regional NSW and to make recommendations to address these barriers.

The Taskforce consulted councils and other stakeholders during August. LGNSW made a [submission](#) along with many councils.

Key issues raised in the [Findings Report](#) include:

- Greater prioritisation on the coordination and delivery of infrastructure to support new homes;
- A need for collaboration between all levels of government, the development industry and the community to develop the right type of housing where people need it;
- Calls to speed up planning processes and reduce duplication, particularly where opportunities to provide housing are time-critical; and
- Demand for more affordable and diverse housing in line with changing demographics, jobs growth, natural disasters, and migration trends.

A number of the Regional Housing Taskforce findings aligned with much of what LGNSW and councils have been saying about housing supply. The report found that blaming housing shortages on planning processes over-simplified the issue, and other factors such as financial and taxation systems, population growth, demographic change and interest rates were among the contributors to the problem.

The report correctly identifies that infrastructure planning, delivery and coordination also needs to be improved to unblock regional housing supply. As the report says, and as LGNSW has been advocating for years, regions need greater NSW Government investment in enabling infrastructure such as roads, water and sewerage, with regional councils reporting limited capacity on their part to make up the gap.

There are also the challenges around [planned reforms to infrastructure contributions](#), which potentially threaten the delivery of this infrastructure.

The taskforce is now considering all feedback and drafting recommendations which will be delivered to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in October. Following this, the Taskforce will cease to operate unless its purpose and scope is revised or expanded by the Minister.

IPART Review of Rate Peg to include population growth

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has completed its review of the local government rate peg methodology to include population growth.

On 10 September 2021 IPART provided the Final Report on this review to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP. The Minister has endorsed the new rate peg methodology and has asked IPART to give effect to it in setting the rate peg from the 2022-23 financial year.

Councils with growing residential populations will be able to raise notional general income by an additional population factor as part of the rate peg from 2022-23. The population factor for each council will reflect estimated residential population growth less revenue received from supplementary valuations that year. This will increase revenue for many councils serving growing communities. Councils not experiencing growth will still receive the base rate peg (no change). No council will be worse off under the new methodology.

IPART has estimated that, for example, over the past four years, the new rate peg methodology would have increased total general income for the local government sector by 1.5%, or \$287 million.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

Memorandum of Understanding - Country Mayors Association and LGNSW

LGNSW looks forward to entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Country Mayors Association of NSW to formalise the goals and expectations of both associations in working together on matters of importance to the local government sector.

Key elements of the MoU include LGNSW and CMANSW:

- Identifying a contact person to ensure effective communication;
- Sharing information and publications;
- Engaging and collaborating on shared advocacy priorities and programs;
- Attending each other's meetings as appropriate to provide updates on activities and identify further opportunities for collaboration;
- Identifying joint ventures including events, workshops, learning programs or exchanges with local government;

- Promoting each other's events and activities upon request; and
- Where appropriate, notifying or involving each other in forward planning on relevant programs and activities.

The LGNSW Board has endorsed the draft MoU, and delegated authorisation to the LGNSW President to incorporate any feedback from CMANSW members and to finalise the MoU in consultation with the CMANSW Chair, ahead of the official signing of the MoU at the LGNSW Special Conference in February 2022.

Infrastructure Contributions

LGNSW has gone public with our statewide [Say No to the Contributions Cash Grab](#) campaign.

LGNSW is continuing to push hard for the Bill to be withdrawn and re-written with guarantees that councils won't be worse off under the reforms.

I am encouraged that more than 60 councils, from Blacktown and Mosman in the city to regional and remote councils such as Broken Hill, Uralla and Hay Shire have now joined our campaign and I thank all the councils and mayors who have used mayoral minutes to protest this Bill.

Our communities need to know what they stand to lose if this proposal goes ahead. You can access assets to help get the word out at the campaign website <https://stopthecashgrab.com.au/>

Since August, the LGNSW President and staff have also met with non-government members of Parliament to seek their support in opposing the Bill. Thankfully, most have advised that they have concerns with the Bill and will support our calls to oppose it in the Parliament.

Draft risk management and internal audit guidelines

OLG is seeking the views and feedback of councils and other stakeholders on the draft Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local councils in NSW prior to finalising them. The draft Guidelines are available below.

The draft Guidelines follow consultation on a Discussion Paper *A New Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework for Local Councils in NSW*, released in late 2019 and includes many of changes proposed in submissions in response to the Discussion Paper. All councils must appoint an ARIC from 4 June 2022.

LGNSW will be making a submission and would appreciate input from JOs and individual councils. Please direct comments or copies of submissions to Shaun McBride, Chief Economist, email shaun.mcbride@lgnsw.org.au or phone 0438 625 045. Submissions should be made before COB 26 November 2021, so please provide comment by **16 November 2021**.

- [Draft Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework for Local Councils in NSW](#)
- [Summary Guide – changes made to original model proposed in discussion paper](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Excellence in the Environment Awards Ceremony & Finalists' Forum Showcase

Finalists Forum Showcase: Tuesday 9 November 2021 – 10-11.30am

Awards Ceremony: Tuesday 16 November 2021 - 12.30-2.30pm

Join our free online LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards Finalists' Forum, where a selection of 2021 finalists will present an outstanding range of projects covering the built and natural environment.

At our online Awards Ceremony the following week we will be announcing the winners across 14 award categories. This special event will be MC'd by Indira Naidoo. The 35 [finalists](#) reflect the diversity of sustainability action being undertaken by NSW councils, including future proofing residential development for climate change, renewable energy installations, protecting the endangered Little Tern and its habitat, re-establishing a viable breeding colony of endangered Green and Gold Bell frogs, and recovering glass to remanufacture as ceramic tile.

2021 Annual Conference and 2022 Special Conference

Annual Conference: Monday 29 November 2021

Special Conference: Monday 28 February to Wednesday 2 March 2022

As the main policy-making event for the local government sector, the Conference is your council's opportunity to help set the advocacy agenda for the year ahead. Motions passed at Conference become Resolutions, which LGNSW actions on your behalf as part of our advocacy program.

As a result of the ongoing pandemic, we've had to take the difficult decision to split our premier annual event into two components:

- A one-hour Annual Conference to present our annual report and financial reports, which will be conducted online from 9.30am on Monday 29 November 2021; and
- A Special Conference – including the debate and resolution of motions setting our advocacy agenda for 2022 - to be held in-person at the Hyatt Regency Sydney from Monday 28 February to Wednesday 2 March 2022.

Human Resources Conference

Welcome event: 31 January 2022 - 6.30pm

Conference dates: 1 & 2 February 2022 - 9am-5pm

Location: Luna Park, Sydney

The Human Resources Conference is a "not-to-be-missed" opportunity to be inspired by thought leaders and top practitioners who are the forefront of people and business management. Hear about the latest innovations, case studies and research that will enhance your knowledge and help you and your organisation to stay agile in today's ever-evolving work environment.

Hear from keynote presenters, case studies and panel discussions, with topics including HR, flexible working, inclusion and diversity, employee engagement, technology and more.

Water Management Conference

The Water Management Conference has been rescheduled to run from **Wednesday 9-11 February 2022 in Narrabri**. The Conference theme and focus is Building Resilience and Capability.

The conference will help practitioners and elected members learn about ways in which they can build on the excellent work being undertaken in the industry and help set it up for the inevitable challenges of a changing climate in the future.

Program highlights include:

- case studies from councils and LWUs that have successfully implemented water infrastructure projects designed to improve resilience and capability
- learning how to manage the risks posed by mega drought
- the opportunity to hear from industry experts about the latest developments in the water sector
- a site visit to recently completed state-of-the-art water augmentation and sewage treatment plants

For further information and to register for these events, visit the [LGNSW website](#).

SUBMISSIONS (August 2021 – October 2021)

Topic	Submitted to	Date
Supplementary submission: Parliamentary inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote NSW	NSW Portfolio Committee No.2 - Health	October 2021
NSW Fire & Rescue - Fees & Charges Review	IPART	October 2021
Regional Telecommunications Review 2021	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	September 2021
Proposed Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment	September 2021
Evaluation of 2018 gaming machine reforms	Liquor & Gaming NSW	September 2021
Inquiry on the Integrity of the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme	NSW Parliamentary Committee No.7	September 2021
Noise Guide for Local Government	Environment Protection Authority	September 2021
National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy	Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment	September 2021
Accredited Service Provider Scheme Review	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment	August 2021
Further inquiry into the regulation of building standards	Public Accountability Committee	August 2021
Model Social Media Policy: Consultation Draft	Office of Local Government	August 2021
Model Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy: Consultation Draft	Office of Local Government	August 2021
Options to address social housing shortage	Committee on Community Services (NSW Parliament)	August 2021

[Housing SEPP - Consultation Draft](#)

NSW Department of Planning,
Industry and Environment

August 2021

[Regional Housing Taskforce](#)

NSW Department of Planning,
Industry and Environment

August 2021

[Industrial Lands Policy Review \(Retain and Manage\)](#)

Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) August 2021

[IPART Draft Report on the Review of the Rate Peg to
Include Population Growth](#)

IPART

August 2021

All LGNSW submissions are available on the [LGNSW website](#).



LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
NSW



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

between

Country Mayors Association of NSW

AND

Local Government NSW

This Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) is:

Between **Local Government NSW** ABN 49 853 913 882 28
28 Margaret Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000

And **Country Mayors Association of NSW** ABN 92 803 490 533
PO Box 337, Parkes, NSW 2870

Country Mayors Association of NSW and Local Government NSW are referred to as the 'parties'.

1 Overview

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) is the peak body for local government in NSW, representing NSW general purpose councils and related entities. LGNSW supports and advocates on behalf of our member councils to help strengthen and protect an effective, democratic system of local government across NSW. LGNSW does this by:

- Representing the views of local government to both the state and federal governments
- Providing policy advice, professional services, workforce solutions, industrial relations advice and representation, legal support, learning and development programs and grant programs to members
- Empowering members to deliver quality services to meet the needs of their local community
- Providing effective, responsive and accountable leadership on policy issues
- Enhancing community awareness and perception of local government

The Country Mayors Association furthers 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. CMA NSW does this by:

- Holding quarterly meetings in Sydney to allow member councils to be able to be addressed by Ministers State and Commonwealth, by Senior Bureaucrats State and Commonwealth, and public and private service providers to rural NSW, and to provide interaction between the presenters and member councils
- Member councils sharing information or identifying issues affecting their operations and engaging through discussion with other member councils with a view to receiving assistance or solutions
- Making representations to both State and Commonwealth Governments in support of LGNSW policy, or direct representations where there is no LGNSW policy
- Bringing member council issues to the notice of LGNSW by encouraging member councils of LGNSW to submit motions to the LGNSW Annual Conference and supporting those motions

2 Agreement Principles

- 2.1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is an agreement between Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMANSW) and Local Government NSW (LGNSW).
- 2.2. This MoU sets out the agreed principles for cooperation between CMANSW and LGNSW for the betterment of the local government sector.
- 2.3. This MoU commences when signed by representatives of CMANSW and LGNSW and ends four years from the commencement date.
- 2.4. This MoU may be varied by agreement in writing, including by exchange of emails confirming the agreed variation.
- 2.5. Either party may rescind this MoU at any time after giving 60 days' notice of its intention to rescind.
- 2.6. This MoU will be reviewed every two (2) years or more frequently if requested by either party.
- 2.7. This MoU is not legally binding.

3 Purpose

- 3.1. CMANSW and LGNSW wish to enter an MoU to explore future alignment and collaboration opportunities that may benefit and support both parties. CMANSW and LGNSW, as representative bodies, share many common values and goals in seeking positive outcomes for their members and the wider community.

4 Relationship

- 4.1. In carrying out their respective obligations under this MoU, the parties agree to co-operate in timely manner with each other and to act in good faith.
- 4.2. Each party will keep the other informed as to any issues arising and agree to attempt to resolve any incidents and/or disputes in good faith as soon as reasonably practicable.

5 Local Government NSW Responsibilities

- 5.1. On the signing of this MoU, LGNSW will:
 - 5.1.1. Identify a contact person to ensure effective communication;
 - 5.1.2. Share information and publications with CMANSW as appropriate;
 - 5.1.3. Engage and collaborate with CMANSW on shared advocacy priorities and programs (refer Schedule 1);
 - 5.1.4. Attend CMANSW meetings as appropriate to provide updates on activities and identify further opportunities for collaboration;
 - 5.1.5. Identify joint ventures with CMANSW including events, workshops, learning programs or exchanges with local government;
 - 5.1.6. Where LGNSW deems it appropriate and not in conflict with LGNSW events, promote CMANSW events and activities upon request. This promotion may be in the form of social media posts, inclusion in LGNSW publications, or other marketing opportunities as they arise from time to time; and

5.1.7. Where appropriate, notify or involve CMANSW in forward planning on relevant programs, services and activities.

6 Country Mayors Association of NSW Responsibilities

6.1. On the signing of this MoU CMANSW will:

- 6.1.1. Identify a contact person to ensure effective communication;
- 6.1.2. Share information publications with LGNSW as appropriate;
- 6.1.3. Engage and collaborate with LGNSW on shared advocacy priorities and programs (refer Schedule 1);
- 6.1.4. Attend LGNSW meetings as appropriate to provide updates on activities and identify further opportunities for collaboration;
- 6.1.5. Identify joint ventures with LGNSW including promotional events, workshops, learning programs or exchanges with local government;
- 6.1.6. Where CMANSW deems it appropriate and not in conflict with CMANSW events, promote LGNSW events and activities upon request. This promotion may be in the form of social media posts, inclusion in CMANSW publications, or other marketing opportunities as they arise from time to time; and
- 6.1.7. Where appropriate, notify or involve LGNSW in forward planning on relevant programs and activities.

7 Other

- 7.1. Each party will retain ownership of intellectual property rights of the activities that each party undertakes. Any intellectual property that is jointly developed arising from this MoU will be jointly owned by each party to be used at their sole discretion in consultation with the other party.
- 7.2. Each party will respect the decision and policy making processes of the other. For example, LGNSW policy positions and advocacy priorities are established by members through motions debated at the LGNSW annual conference.
- 7.3. During the term of this MOU, both parties agree to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest. If at any time, either party becomes aware of any actual or potential conflict of interest, the party will immediately make a further declaration and disclosure of the same to the other party.
- 7.4. Each party will keep any confidential information provided by the other party confidential and will not disclose any part to any other person, without the other party's agreement.
- 7.5. Neither party shall be held responsible for any services not provided due to unforeseen or unexpected events that are beyond the control of either party.
- 7.6. Neither party shall make a claim against, or be liable to, the other party or its affiliates for any damages, including (without limitation) lost profits, expenses or injury to reputation, resulting from activities undertaken under this MoU.

- 7.7. This MoU is not intended to constitute either party as an agent, partner or joint venture of the other, and neither party has the authority to bind or pledge the credit of the other.
- 7.8. Both parties recognise the MOU is neither an exclusive nor binding contract and that both parties may explore other similar collaborative arrangements with other entities as they see fit.

8 Administration of the MoU

8.1. To enable timely resolution of issues that may arise during the term of this MoU, the following persons are nominated as administrators and the primary contact for the purposes of this MoU.

CMANSW

Name: Allan Burgess

Title: Secretariat

Phone: Ph: 0418 249 147

Email: alkanat@bigpond.com

LGNSW

Name: Scott Phillips

Title: Chief Executive

Phone: 0419 469 023

Email: scott.phillips@lgnsw.org.au

For: Country Mayors Association of NSW	For: Local Government NSW
[insert name] Chair	[insert name] President
[insert signature]	[insert signature]
[insert date]	[insert date]

DRAFT

Schedule 1 – Rural and regional councils advocacy priorities



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

Listed below are the 34 Council responses to the request for members to identify 5 issues of importance to rural Local Government. Where there was more than one response I have included the number. I have classified the responses into categories.

NOTE: Meeting 3 March 2021 to discuss distribution of lead organisation to address advocacy priorities attended by Cr Keith, Cr Scott, Scott Phillips and Damian Thomas.

Further updates made after receipt of CMA letter to LGNSW dated 8 March 2021 and LGNSW letter to CMA dated 23 April.

Country Mayors lead advocacy

LGNSW lead advocacy

Hybrid and/or further information required

Council/Councillors (10 issues)

Code of Conduct

Boundary review

Elections and the new Integrated Planning & Reporting cycle

Audit, Risk and Insurance Committee

Increased governance and red tape imposed on Local Government

Support for the JO network

Constitutional recognition

Local assessment of development proposals

Review the centralised financial audit system of LG

LGNSW and ALGA voting model needs to be reviewed

Communications (3 issues)

Accessible and reliable internet and mobile connectivity (2)

Telecommunications black spots /coverage (6)

Digital connectivity

Emergency Services (4 issues)

Recovery and Resilience (2)

Catastrophic weather events and cost

Accounting of RFS assets (3)

Disaster preparedness and fair funding (3)

Financial (19 issues)

An innovative appropriately funded solution to accessible and equitable Aged Care

Financial Assistance Grants fairer criteria and distribution (11)

Interpretation of financial sustainability

Waste of State Government money

Rate pegging (3)

Crown land funding and management

The relativity of Joint Organisations

Continued support of regional based / JO grant funding

Review of Stamp Duty/ Property tax

Local Government Amendment (Rating Bill 2021) extension of deadline

Funding major projects/ streamlining the approvals process (4)

Cost shifting (6)

Issues arising from the LG financial measures

Inability by small councils to make co-contributions for projects and grant application (5)

Implications of IPART Review and proposed bill (2)

Burden of asset management responsibilities

Removal of waste levy or return waste levy to councils

Improving recurrent funding for Council asset maintenance and renewal

Health (3 issues)

Access to health services (15)

Collaboration to achieve community driven health service planning

Tele health

Housing (2 issues)

Affordable social housing (4)

Strategic housing

Miscellaneous (9 issues)

Dividing Fences Act proposed changes

Future role of Local Land Services

Coastal erosion

Energy supply and cost and lack of government policy (2)

Childcare

Retirement living

Airport redevelopment

Agribusiness masterplan

Ageing workforce

Crown lands

Noxious Weeds (1 issue)

Priority weed management and increased government support

Planning (4 issues)

Impact of population projections on regional planning

Planning legislation

Need for more autonomy in planning strategies and implementation
Transport and accessibility

Roads (3 issues)

Road funding (7)
Replacement of timber bridges
Freight movement
Road classification

Regional Development/Economic Development (13 issues)

Decentralisation (3)
Diversification of industries
State Government agencies doing capital works in regional areas and excluding regional companies
Economic recovery from drought, bushfires, COVID and grant funding opportunities (2)
Infrastructure renewal/funding backlog (2)
Regional living and working campaign
Infrastructure for population growth
The challenges to smaller rural communities
Value adding/manufacturing renaissance
Impacts of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme on development cost
Economic development (3)
COVID economic recovery and stimulus (3)

Safety (1 issue)

Community safety including policing levels and road safety

Skills and Education (1 issue)

Workforce skills development (8)

Waste (3 issues)

Future opportunities for waste management industries (2)
Waste management and recycling (2)
Waste strategies including waste to energy

Water (3 issues)

Water security (17)
Water management reforms
Update of Water Reform Agenda

In summary the most category issues are

- Financial (19)
- Regional Development
- Councillors (10)

and the largest single issues are

- Water Security (17)
- Access to Health Services (15)
- Financial Assistance grants (11)
- Skills and Education (8)
- Road funding (7)

- Telecommunications Blackspots Coverage (6)
- Cost Shifting (6)
- Inability of small councils to make co-contributions for projects and grant applications (5)

Allan Burgess
Secretariat
Country Mayors Association of NSW

DRAFT

✓ Carried.

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

1. 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;
2. It does not consider potential negative impacts on regional economies whose competitive advantage is reliant on natural assets and overall lifestyle appeal;
3. It does not support the hierarchy of centres and will undermine the orderly economic development of regional areas;
4. 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.

Background

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has released a *Position Paper: Proposed Employment Zones Framework* for public exhibition alongside supporting documents: *Draft Standard Instrument Principal LEP Amendment Order, Employment Zones Implementation Plan* and *Proposed Land Use Matrix*.

The Position Paper details one part of a two-part reform process that is currently underway involving a review of industrial zones and business zones and associated business and industrial complying development provisions. These reforms aim to support long-term economic recovery through job creation and encourage increased productivity in NSW. The Position Paper proposes replacing the existing Business and Industrial zones with five new employment zones and three supporting zones under the *Standard Instrument Principal Local Environmental Plan 2006* as well as several new, updated or consolidated land use definitions.

The *Standard Instrument Principal Local Environmental Plan 2006* aims to apply consistent zones, including Business and Industrial zones, across NSW. However, it is imperative that local planning informs the permitted or prohibited uses in each zone. The proposal to rationalise Business and Industrial zones will not be responsive to the needs of local centres or local government areas if there is not flexibility in the land uses that are permitted or prohibited in each zone.

Councils have recently undertaken a large body of work to develop their Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). For many councils, the LSPS identified and prioritised land use planning in their local area. Reforming the Business and Industrial land use zones may not have been identified as a priority, particularly as the majority of economic activity in regional LGAs is related to rural and regional activity such as agriculture, tourism, aquaculture, health care and social assistance, forestry and food manufacturing. Proceeding with this reform will divert limited council resources away from locally identified priority tasks, in order to undertake a large project for which there may be no identified need or significant benefit.

The reforms, as currently proposed, are likely to create confusion and frustration in the local community with the introduction of new terminology and changes to permitted and prohibited land uses. The introduction of new land use definitions is supported and encouraged, although this work could be done without overhauling the existing employment lands framework.



Hay Shire
COUNCIL

Hay Shire Council

ABN: 84 075 604 155
134 Lachlan Street PO Box 141 HAY NSW 2711
Telephone: 02 6990 1100 Facsimile: 02 6993 1288
Email: mail@hay.nsw.gov.au Website: www.hay.nsw.gov.au

15th July 2021

Mr Allan Burgess
Secretariat
Country Mayors Association

Email: alkanat@bigpond.com

Dear Allan

As previously advised Hay Shire Council is unable to attend the upcoming Country Mayors Association meeting in August, however, Council would like to submit the following motions for consideration at that meeting. Should the meeting be cancelled/postponed due then Council requests the motions be considered at the next available opportunity.

Motions for consideration:-

1. **Financial Assistance Grants fairer criteria and distribution**

That the NSW Country Mayors Association calls upon the State Government to have the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) redistributed to recognise the specific challenges small and rural councils face regarding disability expenditure, such as Emergency Services Levy, disproportionate IT and Insurance costs, and provision of tourism, medical and recreation & culture services when compared with larger regional and metropolitan councils, with limited ability to generate additional income.

- Rural councils, particularly those further away from larger regional centres, typically end up having to provide disproportionate services compared to population size such as sporting and culture facilities.
- They also provide disproportionate tourism facilities, such as visitor staff and centres, toilets and parks, camp areas, and museums to provide economic opportunities for rural towns.
- Rural councils, with a small rate base and lower socio economic, have limited ability to generate any additional income through charging user fees, parking fees, and general rate income. Typically the ESL increase alone outstrips rate peg increase, as does the Award increase on staff wages.
- Insurance and IT costs are increasing at 10-15% annually for a number years.
- Typically rural councils provide support to medical services such as medical centres, houses and cars to keep doctors in the rural towns.
- Small rural councils are struggling with increased in governance and compliance not only in terms of cost but also capacity to deliver.
- The impending Audit, Risk and Improvement Framework will impose inordinate cost and resourcing impacts on rural councils.

2. Reintroduction of Rural Council Model

That the NSW Country Mayors Association calls upon the State Government to reintroduce the Rural Council Model as proposed under the Fit For The Future process.

- The Joint Organisations have not been able to deliver governance support of smaller councils as had been anticipated during the FFF process. For example, now have another level of external auditing imposed of councils where less governance and oversight by the State Government was proposed.

3. Cost shifting

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.

- The cost of emergency services insurance claims are being passed onto councils via the ESL.
- Councils external audit costs have more than doubled now the Audit Office undertakes an audit on top of the already external auditor process.
- Compliance costs that where once the domain of the State Government now passed to Local Government such as Asbestos, companion animals, underground petroleum storage systems, planning reforms (ePlanning).
- The impending transfer of Crown Lands and the management of these lands.

4. Inability by small councils to make co-contributions for projects and grant applications

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.

- Most of the larger grants require 50% cash co-contribution (i.e. Building Better Regions, Remanufacture NSW, Crown Reserves Improvement Fund), or suggest a contribution to be made to have the best chance of success (i.e. Fixing Local Roads)
- Small and rural councils do not generally have the cash reserves or the ability to generate the cash reserves to provide co-contributions for grants.
- Small and rural councils should be either be exempt or require much smaller co-contributions to be competitive.
- Game changing or development opportunities for rural communities rely of grant funding, however small and rural councils typically do not have the resources to be progressive despite the wealth of talent and creative ideas.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6990 1100.

Yours faithfully



David Webb
General Manager

Elizabeth Melling

From: Melissa Perrin <Melissa.Perrin@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Amanda Findley <findleya@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 10:59 AM
To: Allan Burgess
Subject: DUE 6 JULY - Country Mayors Motions Next Meeting 6 August

Good Morning Allan,

defered to March 2022

Please see below motion to be submitted by Mayor Amanda Findley, I apologise for the delay in response it appears it bounced when I sent it on Monday (working from home). I hope it can still be included.

The Country Mayors call on the NSW State and Federal Governments to provide direct funding that requires no co-contribution and quarantines funds to focus on project enablement to get them 'shovel ready'.

Background.

In order to access funding, Councils across Australia need to prove that their projects are shovel ready and able to be delivered within tight time frames. In many ways this disadvantages Councils who are trying desperately to deliver just the basics as there often isn't priority funding given to the vreation of plans or the investigation of lands for public / private purpose . In encouraging the State and Federal Governments to release a funding round that enables Councils to get projects shovel ready would place councils in a much more competitive place come funding announcements, by direct and tied funding there is no pressure on councils to diverts the funds to other needy projects, Councils could provide a list of projects in the year proceeding to enable allocations to occur and this would be over and above the traditional grants that are made available to councils.

Also I like to confirm that should the Country Mayors Association dinner on the 5th of August go ahead Amanda will be attending, similarly should the Country Mayors Association meeting go ahead as planned on the 6th August both Amanda and Stephen will be attending.

Thankyou

Mel Perrin

PA to Mayor

Shoalhaven City Council

02 4429 3111 ext 3251

Bridge Rd (PO Box 42) Nowra NSW 2541

melissa.perrin@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

RESPECT | INTEGRITY | ADAPTABILITY | COLLABORATION

From: Allan Burgess <alkanat@bigpond.com>

Sent: Monday, 21 June 2021 3:21 PM

To: Katrina Humphries <katrina.humphries@mpsc.nsw.gov.au>; Kiama Council <council@kiama.nsw.gov.au>; Kiama Council EA <emilyv@kiama.nsw.gov.au>; 'Kiama Mayor' <markh@kiama.nsw.gov.au>; Lachlan Shire Council Mayor <john.medcalf@lachlan.nsw.gov.au>; Lachlan Shire EA <Paula.Ewing@lachlan.nsw.gov.au>; Lachlan Shire GM <greg.tory@lachlan.nsw.gov.au>; Leeton GM <jackiek@leeton.nsw.gov.au>; 'Leeton Mayor' <paulm@leeton.nsw.gov.au>; Leeton PA <melissas@leeton.nsw.gov.au>; LGNSW CEO

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Shire Mayor <Crnichols@wentworth.nsw.gov.au>; Wentworth Shire PA <gmea@wentworth.nsw.gov.au>; 'Yass
Council' <council@yass.nsw.gov.au>; 'Yass Mayors PA' <shirree.garland@yass.nsw.gov.au>; 'Yass Valley Mayor'
<rowena.abbey@yass.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: DUE 6 JULY - Country Mayors Motions Next Meeting 6 August

A motion could be lodged as follows.

The Country Mayors call on the NSW State and Federal Governments to provide direct funding that requires no co-contribution and quarantines funds to focus on project enablement to get them 'shovel ready'.

Background.

In order to access funding, Councils across Australia need to prove that their projects are shovel ready and able to be delivered within tight time frames. In many ways this disadvantages Councils who are trying desperately to deliver just the basics as there often isn't priority funding given to the vreation of plans or the investigation of lands for public / private purpose . In encouraging the State and Federal Governments to release a funding round that enables Councils to get projects shovel ready would place councils in a much more competitive place come funding announcements, by direct and tied funding there is no pressure on councils to diverts the funds to other needy projects, Councils could provide a list of projects in the year proceeding to enable allocations to occur and this would be over and above the traditional grants that are made available to councils.

Attention Mayors and General Managers

At our last meeting held on the 28 May 2021 resolutions regarding issues of importance to Regional and Rural NSW ie health and water security were considered. The next two issues of importance to be considered are finance and skills and education.

The major areas of importance identified were

- Financial Assistance Grants fairer criteria and distribution
- Cost shifting
- Inability by small councils to make co contributions for projects and grant application
- Funding major projects/streamlining the approvals process
- Workforce Skills Development

Members are invited to submit motions on these issues to the 6 August meeting to me to be received by the **16 July 2021** **It would be appreciated if any motions submitted could be accompanied by an explanatory report**

Cheers,

Allan Burgess

Secretariat

Ph: 0418 249 147

Email: alkanat@bigpond.com

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Elizabeth Melling

From: Craig Davies <cr.cdavies@narromine.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 5:25 PM
To: Allan Burgess
Cc: Chaffey - Jamie
Subject: Mayoral compensation



Dear Allan,

Would you be so kind as to include the following motion for our next CMA meeting please.

Motion

That the CMA approach all political parties to seek a bilateral approach to compensating Mayors and councillors in a manner that reflects their responsibilities, that is more in line with other states and removes the disparity between city and rural. It needs to more closely resemble a “living wage”.

Allan I am happy for this to be amended should the amendment improve or clarify the existing motion . I intend to be a part of the meeting regardless

Kind regards

Craig

Regards

Craig Davies

Mayor

Narromine Shire Council

Chairman Orana Joint Organisation of Councils

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Motion to Country Mayors – 6 August 2021

Submitter : Mayor Paul Maytom, Leeton Shire Council

Email: paulm@leeton.nsw.gov.au

Mobile: 0447293829

TOPIC :

**NEED FOR MORE APPROPRIATE APPLICATION OF SPEED ZONES
AND BETTER CONSIDERED CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL COUNCILS**



RECOMMENDATION:

THAT NSW COUNTRY MAYORS WRITES TO THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORT & ROADS (THE HON PAUL TOOLE) TO ADVOCATE FOR:

- 1. A REVIEW OF HOW THE NSW SPEED ZONING GUIDELINES ARE APPLIED, MOST ESPECIALLY IN REGARDS TO 50KM/HR LIMITS OUTSIDE BUILT UP AREAS, AND**
- 2. GREATER REGARD FOR LOCAL COUNCIL KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING IMPROVED ENGAGEMENT, WHEN IDENTIFYING SAFETY RISK AND SAFETY INVESTMENT PRIORITIES AND WHEN INTRODUCING NEW SPEED LIMITS.**

MOVED MAYOR PAUL MAYTOM, SECONDED TBA

Introduction

There is no argument that the effective use of speed limits has and will continue to contribute significantly to road and pedestrian safety, helping to reduce the risk of serious injury and death.

Speed limits help deal with risks on the road that aren't obvious or recognisable, foster decisions that will keep other road users safe and support drivers to make good judgements. Speed limits help to manage driver attitudes to risk by promoting more uniform travel speeds. They are set in accordance with the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines (see Appendix 1).

Leeton Shire Council fully supported the introduction of 50km/hr speed limits in built up areas where there are obvious risks to the community who are going about their daily business in an urban setting.

However, in recent years, Council is increasingly observing certain shifts that it considers to be serving revenue raising above road safety and investment in a one-size fits all application of new limits that ignore the real road safety risks in an area.

A submission by Leeton Shire Council to LGNSW calling for a review of how 50km speed zones are decided was unanimously carried in 2019. There has been no action to date. (See Appendix 2)

Types of traffic related matters that concern Leeton Shire Council are listed below. These sorts of issues may resonate with members of Country Mayors:

1. We are observing an increasing trend in the inappropriate application of - or push for - 50km/hr speed zones outside of built up areas, where their purpose is clearly 'not obvious' to drivers and where they serve only to frustrate mobility and potentially entrap responsible drivers who are travelling at a safe natural speed under free flow conditions.

There is also concern that having these low-speed limits outside of built-up areas risks undermining their significance and importance in genuinely built up areas where different types of interaction with people and other vehicles should be expected and anticipated by drivers.

2. We are observing the introduction of new speed zones on state roads in local government areas without full consultation with local Council beyond advice stating what is going to occur. This has occurred in Leeton Shire recently for well-marked, well-signed and well-lit rail crossings where there have been no incidents and no locally identified risk / crash history to support the need for such actions. These sorts of blanket treatments across NSW serve only to frustrate mobility and contribute to increased potential for entrapment of drivers who have been navigating these crossings at a safe speed for many years without incident.

This frustration and risk of entrapment is exacerbated by the new practice of ensuring speed limits run for a minimum of 1km. So, for a railway crossing, the speed limit may drop to 60km/hour 500m ahead of a crossing and then, most unnaturally, continues for another 500m after the crossing. Drivers should be able to drive at a safe, natural speed under free flow conditions not to artificial limits imposed to meet some arbitrary rule.

3. We have experienced the failure of TfNSW to respond in a timely way to local advocacy around 'real safety risks' faced by the community. Some examples include:
 - i. Need for a safe, raised pedestrian crossing in the CBD of Leeton (a state road) and a second pedestrian crossing. There are frequent near misses that are no longer counted in crash data. Despite the CBD being the main shopping precinct for the community, including vision impaired residents, the elderly and mothers with prams, TfNSW does not consider a raised crossing or a second pedestrian crossing to be warranted. This ignores the fact that these are very high priorities in the minds of the local community and despite there being an alternative travel route to Narrandera or Griffith that does not require traffic to pass through the centre of town if they are in a hurry (meaning no through traffic on the state road would be frustrated as they can by-pass the CBD altogether if in a hurry).
 - ii. Need for appropriate warnings where there are serious collision risks :
 - One local rural road has a railway crossing and immediately after the crossing there was a 100km/hr speed limit sign even though there is an intersection within 30 metres of the railway crossing. After stopping at the railway line, the natural tendency is to speed back up to 100km/hr (which the sign seemed to support) except, in this location, drivers are supposed to give way to traffic within seconds of accelerating. Many have been caught out, especially visitors unfamiliar with the area. There have been several crashes at this intersection over the years, two with fatalities (1 and then 3 dead) and one with critical

injuries (1 person injured). Others have been fortunate although on many occasions vehicles have been written off, one as recently as April 2021. It took over 5 years of Council advocacy to install flashing lights at the railway line and, recently, the 100km/hr sign has been allowed to be removed. Concerningly, TfNSW wishes to put up a warning sign in its place which has an arrow on it pointing straight ahead which is supposed to indicate the give way sign is approaching. However, at first glance, the sign confuses drivers as they tend to interpret the arrow as having the right of way to proceed ahead when in fact they don't. On engaging TfNSW about this risk of confusion, and requesting the warning sign be installed without the arrow, TfNSW suggested Council teaches its residents how to read road signs instead.

- At a major intersection of a state road and a very long, straight local road (both 100km tar sealed roads), there were numerous accidents including 1 death and several serious collisions. The pattern that emerged was that drivers on the local road had travelled through multiple intersections for 8km where the vehicles on the cross road are required to give way and when they reached the state road intersection they failed to register that on this occasion they were required to give way. Council's advocacy over five years for road safety interventions at this location fell on deaf ears until a mum and 3 kids were "T-boned" at high speed by a driver that did not give-way.

Council strongly rejects the practice of waiting for deaths or serious accidents where there is clear evidence of repeat near misses. Council had long recognised this location as "a death waiting to happen" but TfNSW responded that the crash data did not warrant flashing lights or rumble strips to alert drivers to the changed traffic conditions.

Conclusions

In today's safety conscious day and age, to ignore local knowledge about near misses and only rely on data from crashes where there is a death or serious injury is irresponsible and even reckless. The voice of local councils needs to be taken seriously and the practice of only prioritising accidents that have deaths or serious injury must stop. It is fair to say that some intersections with multiple near misses may in fact be more dangerous than some locations where there has been a fatality. It is surely more responsible to deal with those identified dangers now than wait for an inevitable death.

In today's world that is focussed on efficiency, to apply new traffic interventions in a blanket fashion across the State - with no evidence of there being an actual risk - is a waste of taxpayer money and serves only to frustrate and entrap drivers. Blanket actions certainly do not deliver on the aspirations of the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines to genuinely "reflect the safety risk" or "facilitate mobility". It is time TfNSW takes a place-based, risk-based approach to road safety instead of applying one-size-fits-all rules that fail to deal with the real safety priorities in each local area.

Local Traffic Committees need to afford greater consideration to local community knowledge and safety needs as opposed to only being 'technically focussed'. The Committees are being rendered ineffective and appear to be increasingly rubber stamping sometimes ill-conceived recommendations of Traffic Police or TfNSW rather than representing the real road safety priorities in the local community. Local Traffic Committees are increasingly being ignored or only offered tokenistic input into decisions about speed limits. Lower speed limits such as 50km/hr zones outside built up areas, do not effectively achieve the intent of the Speed Zoning Guidelines.

Appendix 1

Gist of the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines

TfNSW uses a standardised set of guidelines (NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines) and national agreements that regulate the maximum speed of travel under good road and travel conditions. The document can be accessed here https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/nsw_sza.pdf

The effective use of speed limits has and will continue to contribute significantly to road and pedestrian safety, helping to reduce the risk of serious injury and death.

Speed limits help deal with risks on the road that aren't obvious or recognisable, foster decisions that will keep other road users safe and support drivers to make good judgements. Speed limits help to manage driver attitudes to risk by promoting more uniform travel speeds.

The "Safe System" was first endorsed by the Australian Transport Council in 2004 and subsequently adopted by the NSW Government. **The System's fundamental principle for setting speed limits is that the established speed limit should reflect the safety risk to road users while maintaining mobility and amenity.**

The System recognises the need for responsible road user behaviours but also accepts that human error is inevitable. On this basis, the System aims to create road systems that anticipate errors and minimise consequences, notably death and serious injury.

The System is stated as having a 'total view' of all the factors involved in road safety, from road users, to roads and roadsides, vehicle types and travel speeds.

In NSW, the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999 empowers Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to set speed limits on all NSW roads. Councils are not authorised to set speed limits.

When setting speed zones, TfNSW is required to take a route-based approach, ensuring speed limit changes along the route address road safety as well as facilitate mobility. They are to achieve this with the minimum amount of speed limit changes, where possible.

There are two default speed limits in NSW that apply in the absence of any speed zone signs – 50kms/hr in built up / urban areas and 100kms/hr in rural / non-built up areas.

Zones can also be set up with signage for areas best serviced by 10, 40, 60, 80 and 110km/hr speed zones. In exceptional circumstances 70 and 90km/hr speed zones can be employed with the approval of the CEO of TfNSW.

The following tables are lifted from the Guidelines:

TABLE 2.1 OVERVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS IN NSW

SPEED LIMIT	TYPE OF SPEED LIMIT	TYPICAL APPLICATION <i>(refer to Section 3.2.2 for more details)</i>
50 km/h	Default urban speed limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Default urban speed limit in built-up areas. May be signposted if unclear.
60 km/h	Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant urban undivided arterial roads (with direct driveway accesses). Divided road with high volume where the lanes are narrow (less than 3.0 metres). Rural residential roads in villages with minimal development.
80 km/h	Length	<p>Urban high standard divided roads (generally without driveway access):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undivided arterial and sub-arterial roads on the fringes of urban areas. Lower quality rural roads. <p>Undivided rural roads with less than 5.6 metres wide sealed pavement or no marked dividing line <i>(refer to note below)</i>.</p>
100 km/h	Default rural speed limit Length	<p>Default speed limits for non-built-up areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban motorways (freeways/tollways). Rural undivided road with sealed pavement wider than 5.6 metres. Rural divided roads.
110 km/h	Length	<p>Maximum allowable speed limit in NSW.</p> <p>Motorways (freeways/tollways) in non-built-up areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-quality rural divided roads. Undivided rural road with low traffic volume west of the Newell Highway.

NOTE:

Excluding some higher quality arterial roads in remote areas which are constructed in a geo-textile base and may have edgelines without a corresponding dividing line.

TABLE 2.2 RESTRICTED SPEED LIMITS AND APPLICABILITY IN NSW

RESTRICTED SPEED LIMIT	TYPE OF SPEED LIMIT	TYPICAL APPLICATION
70 km/h	Length	Locations that do not meet the standard of 80 km/h speed limit.
90 km/h	Length	Locations that do not meet the standard of 100 km/h speed limit.

NOTE:

* These speed limits require the prior approval of the Chief Executive.

TABLE 2.3 SPEED LIMIT BY VEHICLE/LICENCE CLASS

VEHICLE/LICENCE CLASS	Learner	P1	P2	Road trains	Other heavy vehicles
SPEED LIMIT	80	90	100	90	100

NOTE:

- For or further details, refer to Section 3.2: Types of speed limits.
- Lower speed limits are to be used on lengths with adverse crash histories or geometric limitations, such as steep and/or winding roads.

TABLE 2.4 SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS AND APPLICABILITY IN NSW

OTHER SPEED LIMIT	TYPE OF SPEED LIMIT	TYPICAL APPLICATION
10 km/h	Length or area	Shared zones including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carparks. • reserves. Refer to Section 3.2.3 for more details.
40 km/h	Length or area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High pedestrian activity areas. • Local traffic areas. • School zones (prescribed times). • School bus blackspot zones. Refer to Section 3.2.3 for more details.
40, 60 and 80 km/h	Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roadwork speed limits. Refer to Section 3.2.4 for more details.

2.2.3 Zone length

To avoid excessive variations in speed limits, a balance needs to be achieved between:

- Roadside development.
- Road environment.
- The number of changes of speed limit.

The desirable minimum typical speed zone lengths have been developed with these needs in mind. However, at-risk locations along the road network (refer to Section 2.3.6 for details), shall have shorter desirable minimum lengths to reduce impacts on mobility. See Table 2.5 for details.

“Buffer zones” that show a graduated reduction in speed limits, such as an 80km/hr speed limit between a 100km/hr rural limit and a 50km/hr urban limit are not recommended. The Guidelines consider that these “increase the number of speed zones across the network” and “cause confusion” for motorists. *Leeton Shire Council does not agree with this in all circumstances and considers buffers to be generally more useful than 50km/hr speed limits on the outskirts of built-up areas.*

The preferred approach in the Guidelines is the use of ‘speed restriction ahead’ signs instead. That said, the document does say that “the use of an intermediate speed limit may be considered where adjacent roadside development supports such action”.

In selecting a speed zone, the Guidelines are strong in the messaging that “speed limits must be compatible with the adjacent roadside development” and must “ensure that motorists are provided with a speed environment that is appropriate and enforceable”.

The Guidelines state that “drivers usually accept reduced speed limits when the speed limit is appropriate for the level and nature of the adjacent roadside development”. These include factors

such as horizontal and vertical alignment, medians, lane widths, sight lines, high pedestrian activity (children, elderly, vision impaired) etc.

The Guidelines state that the need for a non-default speed limit (ie. other than 50 or 100 kms/hour) should be “obvious to drivers”. Non default speed limits should also take into account key factors such as crash profiles, road function, road use, roadside development, road characteristics, traffic mix, crash history, presence of vulnerable road users, and conflict points including the number/type/frequency of driveways and intersections.

The Guidelines include a 10-step approach to reviewing speed limits that cover matters such as:

- Evaluating the appropriateness of the current speed limit
- Determining the need for a change, taking into account community views and concerns, speed zone anomalies, changes in road use and roadside activity, increasing or identified crash concerns. (*Speed surveys are used to determine overall traffic speed and volume on a road, with specific consideration of the 85th percentile which is determined by the speed at which vehicles travel under free flow conditions. While not necessarily accepted as the safest speed limit, this percentile is the ‘natural speed’ at which 85% of drivers travel and is supposed to be used to design, implement and evaluate speed management initiatives.*)
- Applying suitable speed limits using a standard procedure that preserves the integrity and credibility of speed zones and ensures the consistent correlation of road environments with speed limits.

According to the Guidelines, anyone can request a review of speed zones, including local councils, members of the public and advocacy groups.

It is also noted that the Guidelines state specifically that “the local council shall be invited to participate in the data collection, analysis and site inspection procedures as appropriate.” This includes the need for councils to be notified in writing that a speed zone review is being conducted and be provided with a copy of the crash analysis report. Council officers should also be invited to participate in site inspections.

Last updated: 19/08/2019

Council Name Leeton Shire Council

Motion Category Infrastructure and planning policy

**Motion Sub-Category -
Infrastructure & Planning Policy** Transport, roads

Motion Title Review of Speed Limit Criteria

Motion Wording

THAT LGNSW lobbies the New South Wales Government to ensure that the adopted Roads and Maritime Services criteria for 50 kilometre per hour zones are not eroded by ad hoc decision making across NSW and that the focus remains on public safety in built up areas.

Motion Background

Maximum 1 or 2 paragraphs

A 50 km/h speed limit applies to all built-up areas across NSW to impress upon motorists that they are in a built up area and the need to be aware of public safety in residential areas. Built-up areas have buildings on the land next to the road, or have street lights along the road with a spacing of 100 metres or less for a total length of at least 500 metres, or if the road is shorter than 500 metres, for the whole length of the road. However, at the time of its implementation, the then Roads and Traffic Authority advised roads that were mainly used for traffic movements and access to main roads would remain signposted at 60km/h or above - even if there were residential properties on the street.

The implementation of 50 km/h speed zones across New South Wales would, based on anecdotal evidence, appear to be undertaken in an ad hoc fashion with the result being inconsistencies in enforcement and application and this is an ongoing matter which appears to have been ignored by the State government. A review undertaken by Transport NSW would aid in determining the appropriateness and effectiveness of measures as well as identify anomalies in its application throughout New South Wales.

Motion supported by Resolution No 19/166 of Leeton Shire Council from its Ordinary Meeting of 27 July 2019.

Fundamental Principles conflict?

[Fundamental Principles](#) are the overarching principles that are important to our members and direct our response to key issues. To change a Fundamental Principle, a motion to conference is required.

Yes (identify which one/s, e.g. A, B, C...): I



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Mayor R.J (Bob) Kirk

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17 June 2021

Allan Burgess – Secretariat
Country Mayors Association
alkanat@bigpond.com

*Accepted an
Amended Motion.*

Dear Allan

Subject: Waste Management Facilities

Waste Management in NSW is becoming a significant issue and is rapidly becoming a regional and rural NSW problem. What I mean by that is that metropolitan areas no longer have the space, management skills or the public appetite for them to remain in those metropolitan areas.

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council is becoming frustrated with being potentially the dumping ground for Sydney's waste. Veolia Limited have a large facility at Woodlawn Tarago taking some 1.2 million tonnes of Sydney's waste annually which relates to two train loads of waste per day travelling through our region. Veolia have recently merged with Suez on a global scale. Suez currently have the contract to collect a considerable amount of domestic waste from Sydney so it is only a matter of time, in our opinion, that the quantity of waste to the Woodlawn facility will be requested to be increased.

Additional to the Woodlawn facility we have Hi Quality facility at Windellama also taking waste from a wide catchment area including Sydney.

Now Council and this community has before it two applications for waste to energy proposals. One being the Veolia facility at Woodlawn and the second being the Jerrara Power Pty Limited proposal which is currently being controversially received and opposed by the community. We are responding to the SEARs for Veolia this week and we understand that the SEARs for Jerrara Power may be issued in a number of weeks.

There is very little direction coming from State Government on waste. Even though they have recently released a waste strategy it is full of motherhood statements that does not give communities any comfort. One of our major concerns is that if the proponents of the waste to energy proposals are so confident that the environmental and health issues are neutral and not at all harmful then why can't these waste to energy facilities be built in the areas that are the source of the waste as is the case in most other capital cities around the world? Why should regional NSW become the dumping ground of Sydney's waste?

I was frustrate to learn in a recent waste strategy document released by the State Government that only one Council in Sydney (Randwick) recycled organic waste (FOGO). Greater Sydney Councils are not focused on waste management and recycling opportunities because they can easily dispose of that waste to regional NSW.

My Council recently passed the following resolution:-



That:

1. Goulburn Mulwaree Council advises the New South Wales State Government that it would be inappropriate to issue any Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) until a policy on facilities that handle and/or process waste products from outside the receiving local government area has been developed and endorsed by State Government.
2. Goulburn Mulwaree Council states that we will oppose any Waste to Energy and/or external waste facility proposals until such times as the State Government develops a policy that establishes that such facilities are in the best interest of communities, the environment, human animal and biodiversity health.
Such a policy should include statements that:
 - Limit new Waste Management facilities to one (1) in any Local Government Area, where the waste feedstock is predominantly sourced from outside the Local Government Area
 - Sets out the environmental outcomes (in particular air quality) expected from any facility
 - Determines details of locations and zoning of land that would be acceptable for such facilities – avoiding at all costs national parks or other areas of environmental significance
 - Meaningful community input and consultation process that becomes an important part of the determination process
 - Sets out technology outcomes required that provides safeguards to the environment, human health, animal health and biodiversity health
3. The Mayor seek the support for this Council position from the Canberra Region Joint Organisation, Regional Cities NSW and Country Mayors NSW.

Although this resolution is coming from the Goulburn Mulwaree Council point of view, I am seeking the support of Country Mayors Association to request the State Government to immediately cease approvals of waste management facilities until such time as a clear direction on waste management in NSW is agreed. Although the strategy commences a discussion it in reality gives very little direction on what should be permitted in the future and where.

I will move the following motion at the next Country Mayors Association Meeting:-

The Country Mayors Association write to the State Government requesting that state significant waste management facility applications be deferred until such time as a clear policy direction is given on all aspects and standards requiring assessment including environmental outcomes and human, animal and biodiversity health requirements.

Yours faithfully

Cr RJ (Bob) Kirk
Mayor Goulburn Mulwaree Council

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