

ATTACHMENTS



ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2015

~ REFERENCE TO ATTACHMENTS ~

PART A – ACTION

Page Number

Clause 2A – Dalton Park Horse Complex Request for New Users Licence Agreement	60
Clause 4A – 2015 National General Assembly of Local Government – Australian Local Government Association	61-90
Clause 5A – Fit for the Future and Joint Organisation of Councils Consideration	91-98
Clause 13A – Rolling Plant Replacement Program.....	Under Separate Cover

PART B – INFORMATION

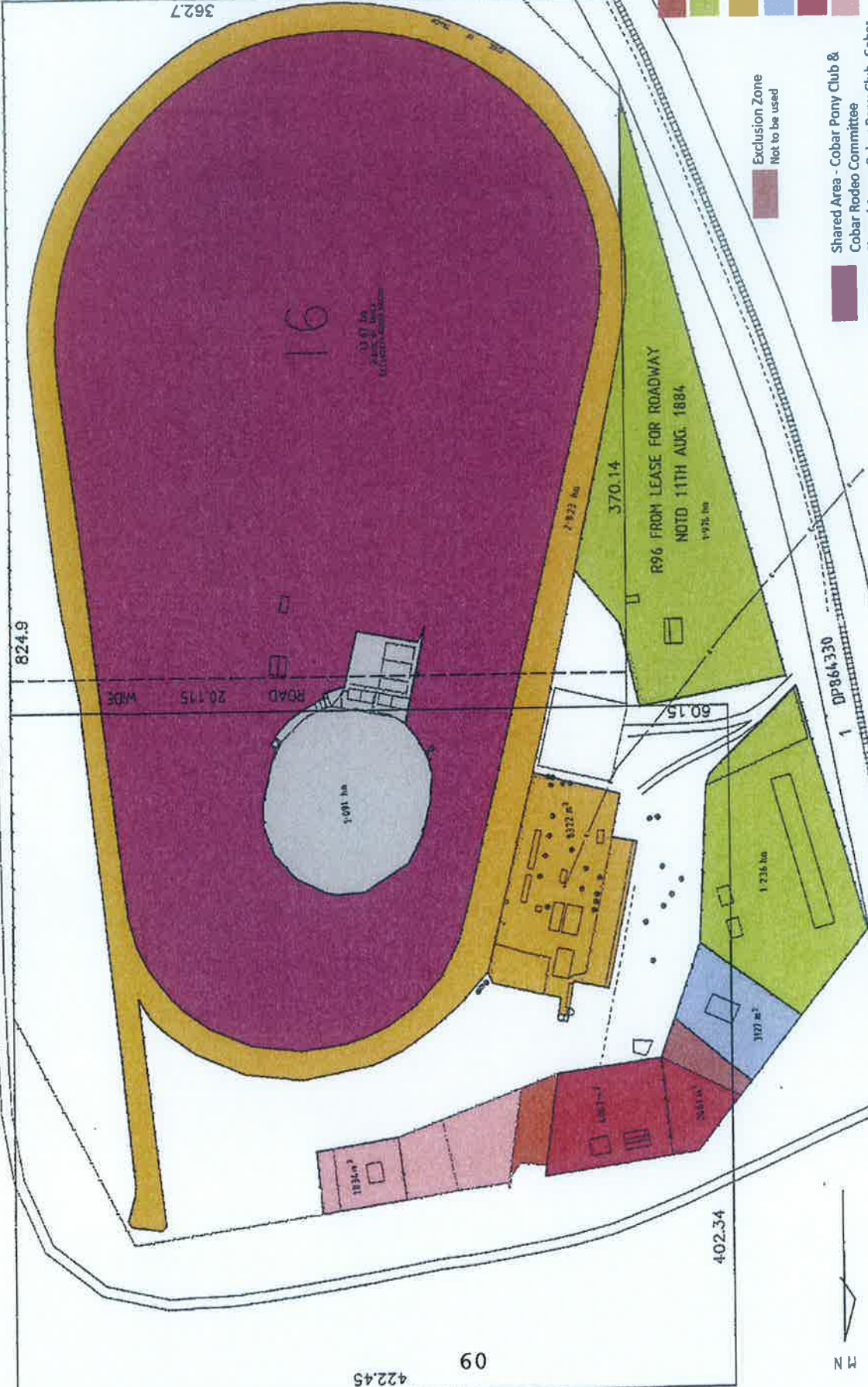
Page Number

Clause 4B – Meeting Minutes	99-142
-----------------------------------	--------

BOLRKE ROAD

SECOND STREET

LEARN AVENUE



- Cobar Shire Council - Pound Yard
- Cobar Pony Club
- Cobar Miners Race Club
- Sharon Whitehurst
- Vacant Horse Stall area
- Scott & Claudine Griffiths

Exclusion Zone
Not to be used

- Shared Area - Cobar Pony Club & Cobar Rodeo Committee
- Shared Area - Cobar Pony Club, Cobar Rodeo Committee & Jillian Prince

JOB No.	98/59	SHEET No.	1	No. OF SHEETS	1
Client Ref.	DWGC08RC	REV			1

DALTON PARK RACECOURSE - COBAR

PROPOSED LICENCED AREAS

PREPARED BY: **LANGFORD AND ROWE**
 CONSULTING LAND, PLANNING AND ENGINEERING SURVEYORS
 44 GERRARD STREET SOUTH MELB VIC 3000
 TEL: 031 4881 9511
 FAX: 031 4881 9226

DATE	REVISIONS
12/1/21	ISSUE OF TRACK & BUILDING LAYOUT

DESIGNED BY: COBAR SHIRE COUNCIL AND SHARON WHITEHURST
 DATE: 12/1/21
 DRAWN BY: [Name]
 CHECKED BY: [Name]
 SCALE: 1:250
 CONTAIN: [Information]



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

20 February 2014

Cobar Shire Council
PO Box 223
COBAR NSW 2835

Dear Mayor Brady

I am writing to invite you and your colleagues to attend this year's National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 14 - 17 June 2015.

Invitations have been extended to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to address the sector. We will also be joined by other ministers, shadow ministers and leading public figures presenting keynote addresses, which will help to focus our discussions at the NGA.

The theme for this year's NGA is 'Closest to the Community: Local Government in the Federation'. The Australian Government is currently working with all state and territory governments and ALGA to develop White Papers on reform of the Federation and Taxation. The NGA presents local government as a whole with an opportunity to consider the range of issues being raised and to ensure local government's aspirations are addressed in the White Papers. I have been clear that I want to see local government strengthened as a result of any reform and we need your input to advance that objective.

The NGA program will cover a wide range of issues, reflecting the diversity of local government and our interests. There will be opportunities for delegates to interact with not only invited political and keynote speakers, but with panels of subject-matter experts and local government representatives.

Enclosed is the NGA Registration Brochure which contains details of the program, business agenda and associated events. I have also enclosed the NGA 2015 discussion paper and the official call for motions. This year's NGA presents an ideal opportunity to offer your ideas and experience to your local government colleagues and through to the Australian Government as we consider the challenges that lay ahead.

Your council's involvement in the NGA is important in assisting ALGA to maintain the Government's engagement with local government and to drive improved outcomes for the local government sector at the national level.

A number of crucial policy motions will be debated at the NGA and it is essential that every council is represented in these debates to actively contribute to the dialogue as we strategically position the sector within our Federation.

I look forward to seeing you in Canberra.


Mayor Troy Pickard
President



**AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

**National General Assembly of Local
Government**

14 -17 June 2015

Call for Motions

**'Closest to the Community:
Local Government in the Federation'
Discussion Paper**

February 2015

Preamble

The 2015 NGA is being held at an important time, not only for local government, but the Commonwealth, states and territories and the Australian people. It is a time when the Commonwealth Government has invited all interested parties to consider potential reform of the Federation and of taxation.

While the Government recognises that the current Federation has given rise to '... a vibrant democracy, a strong economy and a cohesive society that millions of migrants have chosen to join', it also suggests that over time, it has '... increased the overlap of roles and responsibilities between spheres of government and reduced accountability to voters, created duplication and blame-shifting'. The Prime Minister has frequently alluded to this problem, and has established a White Paper process on the Reform of the Federation, and a White Paper on Taxation to address these issues.

The White Paper on the Reform of the Federation will '... seek to clarify roles and responsibilities to ensure that, as far as possible, the States and Territories are sovereign in their own sphere, so that voters know who is responsible for what'.

The Prime Minister in his Sir Henry Parkes Commemorative Dinner address at Tenterfield on 25 October 2014 said that '... the Government is determined to make the case for change'. But he also acknowledged that consensus is required for rethinking the conventions about which level of government is responsible for the delivery of a particular service, or the revenue measures to which particular levels of government should have access. He said, '...Without a measure of consensus, any change requiring legislation is unlikely to secure parliamentary passage and the whole exercise could turn out to be futile'. He went on to say, '...Without an element of consensus, any change that's actually achieved could be reversed at the earliest opportunity and therefore hardly worth doing'.

Local government is an essential part of the Australian system of government. Local governments are democratically elected and provide for the 'good governance'¹ of local communities throughout Australia. As part of that role, councils provide crucial local planning, services, programs and infrastructure including local roads, community halls, sports, cultural and recreation facilities that underpin the life of every local community throughout Australia. In this way local government is indeed the level of government that is 'closest to the community'.

It is therefore an important partner and stakeholder in the development of a national consensus on any reform proposal and should help shape this debate and make its contribution to the White Paper process. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has had input to these papers, and in consultation with state and territory local government associations has made submissions on relevant matters. ALGA also intends to make substantial submissions to the Green Papers expected to be released on the Federation and Taxation during this process and encourages all councils to become actively involved in this process.

The NGA debate on motions and associated discussions will help to inform the ALGA Board in formulating these submissions.

¹ See objects of state and territory Local Government Acts.

How Can Councils Submit Motions

The National General Assembly of Local Government is an important opportunity for you and your council to influence the national policy agenda.

To assist you and your council to identify motions that address the theme of the NGA the ALGA Secretariat has prepared this short discussion paper. You are encouraged to read all of the sections of the Paper, but are not expected to respond to every question contained in them. Your motion/s can address one or all of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and then debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must follow the following principles:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally;
2. Be consistent with the themes of the Assembly
3. Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association;
4. propose a clear action and outcome, and
5. not be advanced on behalf of external third parties which may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of local government.

Motions should generally be in a form that seek the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change, at the Federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs. For example: That this National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to restore indexation to local government financial assistance grants.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA Website at: www.alga.asn.au. All motions require among other things: a contact officer; a clear national objective; a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council. Motions should be received by ALGA no later than 11:59pm on Friday 17 April 2015, electronically in the prescribed format.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the National General Assembly Committee as well as by State and Territory Local Government Associations to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to local government. Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued. Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state/territory local government association, and will not be included in the Business Papers.

For more information, please contact the Director, National Events on (02) 6122 9400.

Introduction

During the 2013 Federal election campaign the Coalition announced their intention to produce a White Paper on the Reform of the Federation if they were to win Government. In addition, the Coalition promised to produce a White Paper on Taxation.

As a result, on 28 June 2014 the Commonwealth Government released the Terms of Reference for a White Paper on the Reform of the Federation. These can be found at <https://federation.dpmc.gov.au/>. At the time of writing the Terms of Reference for the White Paper on Taxation were not publicly available.

The Federation White Paper process will include the release of a Green Paper which will canvas options for reform in the latter part of 2015, and ultimately the White Paper which will outline '...a clear, well defined and timely policy platform', during the lead up to the next Federal election.

The Commonwealth has released five issues papers to engage interested parties on some of the key issues that will be considered in the White Paper Process. These are:

Issues Paper 1 - A Federation for Our Future

Issues Paper 2 - Roles and Responsibilities in Housing and Homelessness

Issues Paper 3 - Roles and Responsibilities in Health

Issues Paper 4 - Roles and Responsibilities in Education

Issues Paper 5 - COAG and Federal Financial Relations

Copies can be found at: <https://federation.dpmc.gov.au/issues-papers>

A separate Discussion Paper on Taxation is expected to be released in the coming weeks.

This National General Assembly (NGA) provides an important opportunity for local government to debate issues and options for reform, as well as to develop a national position ahead of the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation and White Paper on Taxation.

Councils and NGA delegates are strongly encouraged to read these discussion papers prior to submitting motion for this year's NGA.

Local Government in the Federation

Local government in Australia pre-dates Federation. The City of Adelaide was established in 1840, the first local government in the extensive network which exists today.

The formation of the early municipal authorities built on local initiatives inspired by local citizens who recognised and acted on the need for the provision of local services and infrastructure which were not being provided by colonial administrations. Typically, the municipal authority provided traditional property services such as local roads, waste management and through these services (waste, waste water and sewerage) environmental health services to meet local needs. Over time local authorities began to provide utilities and services such as electricity and gas. Gradually colonial administrations / states began to aggregate and regulate local networks such as electricity and take them over. In addition, over time, states began to prescribe local services that should be provided locally by the

municipal government including the provision of regulatory services, planning and other services.

Arguably this was just the beginning of some 'blurring' of roles, responsibilities and accountability between the existing two levels of governments in Australia. It also, inevitably, led to the significant debates about funding responsibilities. The evolution of the roles and responsibilities between states and local government is an important part of the story of how government institutions evolved to meet the emerging needs and demands of Australians. On 1 January 1901 our current Federal system was formalised.

As Commonwealth and state relations evolved, local government continued to operate at the local level. In the 1970s both the Whitlam and Fraser Governments, supported the need for the rapid expansion of government services, including municipal services in local communities. In addition, there was a recognition of the need for Commonwealth/states services to be delivered locally and the Commonwealth forged a direct relationship with local government through the provision of funds to local government.

The Fraser Government formalised support by establishing the system of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs). Local government received a guaranteed share of Personal Income Tax through the *Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act 1976*. Under the Act the amount of local government's share was to rise to 2%. The Hawke Government scrapped that approach and, after an inquiry in 1985, introduced a new Act at the same time as maintaining the system of FAGs.

FAGs aimed to facilitate Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation (HFE) and support the national provision of local government services. Commonwealth responsibility to maintain funding to local government (in this broad sense) was reconfirmed during the negotiation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 1999. The concept of the Commonwealth funding (part funding) local services nationally was taken further with the advent of the highly successful and much need Roads to Recovery program (R2R) in 2000.

White Paper Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the White Paper on the Reform of the Federation set out four overarching questions for investigation. These are:

- What are the practicalities of limiting policy and funding to core national interest matters, as typified by the matters in section 51 of the Constitution?
- How can overlap between Local, State and Commonwealth responsibilities or involvement in the delivery and funding of public programs be reduced or, if appropriate be eliminated?
- How can we achieve agreement between States and Commonwealth Governments about their distinct and mutually exclusive responsibilities and subsequent funding sources for associated programs?
- How can we achieve equity and sustainability in the funding of any programmes that are deemed to be the responsibility of more than one level of government.

These four questions are the starting point for the national debate and for councils to consider in the development of NGA motions.

The challenge of this NGA can be considered at two levels:

- 1. identify and propose potential reform of the Federation, including funding relationships, that will improve the operation of the Federation and improve government service delivery to the Australian people, and***
- 2. from a Local Government perspective, propose reforms that should occur to strengthen Local Government, and / or, if there are reforms to Commonwealth and state relations by shifting roles and responsibilities, how can any adverse impacts on Local Government and local communities be addressed.***

Principles and criteria to be applied when allocating roles and responsibilities between different levels of government

The White Paper on the Reform of the Federation will consider principles and criteria to be applied when allocating roles and responsibilities between different levels of government. They can be considered 'design principles' for designing, or re-designing, our Federation. The White Paper's Terms of Reference set out six principles:

- accountability for performance in delivering outcomes;
- subsidiarity;
- national interest considerations;
- equity, efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery;
- durability; and
- fiscal sustainability.

It is important to note that this list extends the list of four principles agreed at the Special Premiers' Conferences in 1990 and 1991 as part of a previous attempt to reform our Federation. The four principles agreed at that time were nationhood, subsidiarity, structural efficiency and accountability. The focus on structural efficiency was borne out in the New Federalism agenda given expression in the National Competition Policy.

The first Issues Paper provides detailed descriptions of each principle and importantly it suggests that it is important to realise that these principles will often be in conflict, and in choosing between different policy options, governments will necessarily need to consider the trade-offs between them.

It poses the following questions:

- Are these the right principles? Are there additional principles that should be considered?
- How should these principles be prioritised?
- What are the likely trade-offs between the principles that need to be considered?

Motions are invited on whether these principles are the right principles. For example a motion in the following form:

That this NGA supports (or does not support some or all of) the following six principles and criteria as outlined in Issues Paper No 1 to be applied when allocating roles and responsibilities between different levels of government

- ***accountability for performance in delivering outcomes;***
- ***subsidiarity;***
- ***national interest considerations;***
- ***equity, efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery;***
- ***durability; and***
- ***fiscal sustainability.***

Motions are invited on specific examples on how these principle and criteria should be applied to specific services that are directly relevant to Local Government.

White Paper Issues Papers

Issues Paper Number 1, A Federation for Our Future (September 2014) begins with a discussion of the Federation from 1 January 1901 and goes on to discuss the evolution of the Federation including the Constitutional basis of the allocation of roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the states and territories. Over time, the paper suggests, roles and responsibilities for service provision between the Commonwealth and state boundaries became blurred.

The second, third and fourth Issues Paper are related to specific portfolios. These include: housing and homelessness; health; and education. The final Issues Paper deals with COAG and Federal Financial Relations.

The Issues Papers only briefly touch on local government with little discussion of the evolution of the current Commonwealth, state and local government relationship.

In light of this, a series of questions arise about Local Government's responsibilities including what is Local Government's current role in these areas, what the role should be and how it should be funded.

Housing and Homelessness

Which level of government should be responsible for housing policy?

If more than one, how should roles and responsibilities in particular policy funding and delivery, be shared between governments and how should cost shifting between governments be avoided?

Which level of government should be responsible for funding public housing?

Which level of government, if any, should be responsible for the delivery of public housing?

Which level of government if any should be responsible for the regulation of public housing?

Which levels of government should be responsible for policy, funding, delivery and regulation to address homelessness?

What are the roles and responsibilities of local government in housing and homelessness?

Who should fund that role?

If there are changes in roles and responsibilities in relation to housing and or homelessness between levels of government, in particular between the Commonwealth and states/territories, what measures should be taken to stop cost shifting to local government?

Which level of government should be responsible for health and or education policy?

Which level of government should be responsible for funding health and education services?

If more than one, how should roles and responsibilities in particular policy funding and delivery, be shared between governments and how can cost shifting between governments be avoided?

Which level of government, if any, should be responsible for the delivery of health and or education?

Which level of government if any should be responsible for the regulation of health or education?

What are the roles and responsibilities of local government in health and or education?

Who should fund that role?

If there are changes in roles and responsibilities in relation to housing and or homelessness between levels of government, in particular between the Commonwealth and states/territories, what measures should be taken to stop cost shifting to local government?

Further Context for Consideration

Outcomes of 2014 NGA

In response to the release of the National Commission of Audit Report (2014) and the 2014 - 15 Federal Budget decision to freeze the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants (outlined below), the 2014 NGA resolved:

Delegates of the 2014 National General Assembly, in recognition of the vital importance of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to local government for the provision of equitable levels of local government services to all Australian communities, unanimously call on the Commonwealth Government to:

- *restore indexation of Financial Assistance Grants in line with CPI and population growth immediately,*

- *reject Recommendation 22 of the National Commission of Audit in which the Commission recommends that tied grants to local government cease, and to the extent that programs are identified as priorities, local and state government provide them to the communities they serve.*

Further Delegates also resolved that:

- *It is imperative that the Commonwealth consult with local government, the states and territories and local communities in the development of the White Paper on Reform of the Federation and the White Paper on Taxation; that the Government's White Papers must genuinely reflect the wishes of the Australian people; and that future Federal-state and local financial relationship arrangements must ensure long term sustainable distribution of taxation revenues between the levels of government that are commensurate with the roles and responsibilities of each level government in our modern Federation.*

2014 National Commission of Audit

On 1 May 2014 the National Commission of Audit released its Phase 1 and 2 reports. The audit was established in October 2013 and asked, inter alia; "... assess the current split of roles and responsibilities between and within the Commonwealth government and State and Territory governments, including areas of duplication."

The two reports made 86 recommendations – 64 in its Phase 1 Report which dealt predominantly with roles and responsibilities and improving the sustainability of the nation's finances, and a further 22 recommendations in its Phase 2 Report which mostly addressed public sector performance and accountability as well as infrastructure. Many of these recommendations may be of interest to those engaged in the broad issue of Commonwealth-state relations. They may also have implications for local government. However there are some specific recommendations that go directly to the heart of Commonwealth-local government relations, and state and local government relations.

The approach taken by the 2014 Commission is similar to that of the 1996 National Commission of Audit with its central theme being that the Commonwealth has a narrow range of responsibilities (essentially outlined in Section 51 of the Constitution), and that the States have residual powers and therefore are responsible for most service delivery including health, education and ultimately local government. In stark terms the Commission proposed to sever the direct funding relationship between the Commonwealth and local government.

Recognising the degree of vertical fiscal imbalance within the Federation the 2014 Commission proposed in Recommendation 22 (Phase 2 Report) that: '... States have access to the personal income tax system so that they are in a better position to fund their own priorities. This will include support for local government.' They further conclude that in this situation, the need for separate tied funding from the Commonwealth will diminish. The Commission recommends that '... tied grants to local government cease, and to the extent that programmes are identified as priorities, local or State governments provide them to the communities they service.'

Recommendation 5 (Phase 2 Report) advances the same model for infrastructure funding: '... the States are responsible for infrastructure and should determine their own priorities'. Noting that implementing the Commission's recommendations will take time (i.e. states to

obtain access to additional revenue through personal income tax), the Commission recommends that a range of infrastructure funding, including the Identified Roads Component of FAGs and Nation Building Funds i.e. Roads to Recovery grants, be consolidated into a single pool.

In releasing the Audit Report the Treasurer explained that there were some Commission recommendations that the Government would accept, and would inform the preparation of the 2014 - 15 Federal budget, there would be some recommendations that the Government would reject and that there were some recommendations that would be considered in the context of the White Paper on Reform of the Federation and the White Paper on Taxation.

On 13 May 2014 the Commonwealth brought down the 2014 - 15 Federal Budget and provided a brief response to the Commission of Audit indicating that payments to local government would be considered in the Federation White Paper.

2014 - 15 Federal Budget

In the 2014 - 15 Federal Budget the Government committed to provide \$2.2867 billion in Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government (FAGs). However, the Government also announced it would pause the indexation of FAGs for the next three years.

Local Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) are a Commonwealth Specific Purpose payment to local government paid through the states and Northern Territory Government. Payments are made to councils by jurisdictional Treasurers on the advice of state and territory Local Government Grants Commissions under the provisions of *the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

The objects of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* enable the Commonwealth Parliament to provide assistance to the states for the purposes of improving:

- (a) the financial capacity of local governing bodies;
- (b) the capacity of local governing bodies to provide their residents with an equitable level of services;
- (c) the certainty of funding for local governing bodies;
- (d) the efficiency and effectiveness of local governing bodies; and
- (e) the provision by local governing bodies of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Freezing of FAG's will reduce Commonwealth expenditures (and grants to councils) by more than \$925 million over the forward estimates.

The freezing of FAGs indexation means that the aggregate level of FAGs will be permanently reduced by 13 per cent, unless there is a future government decision to restore this base with a catch-up payment.

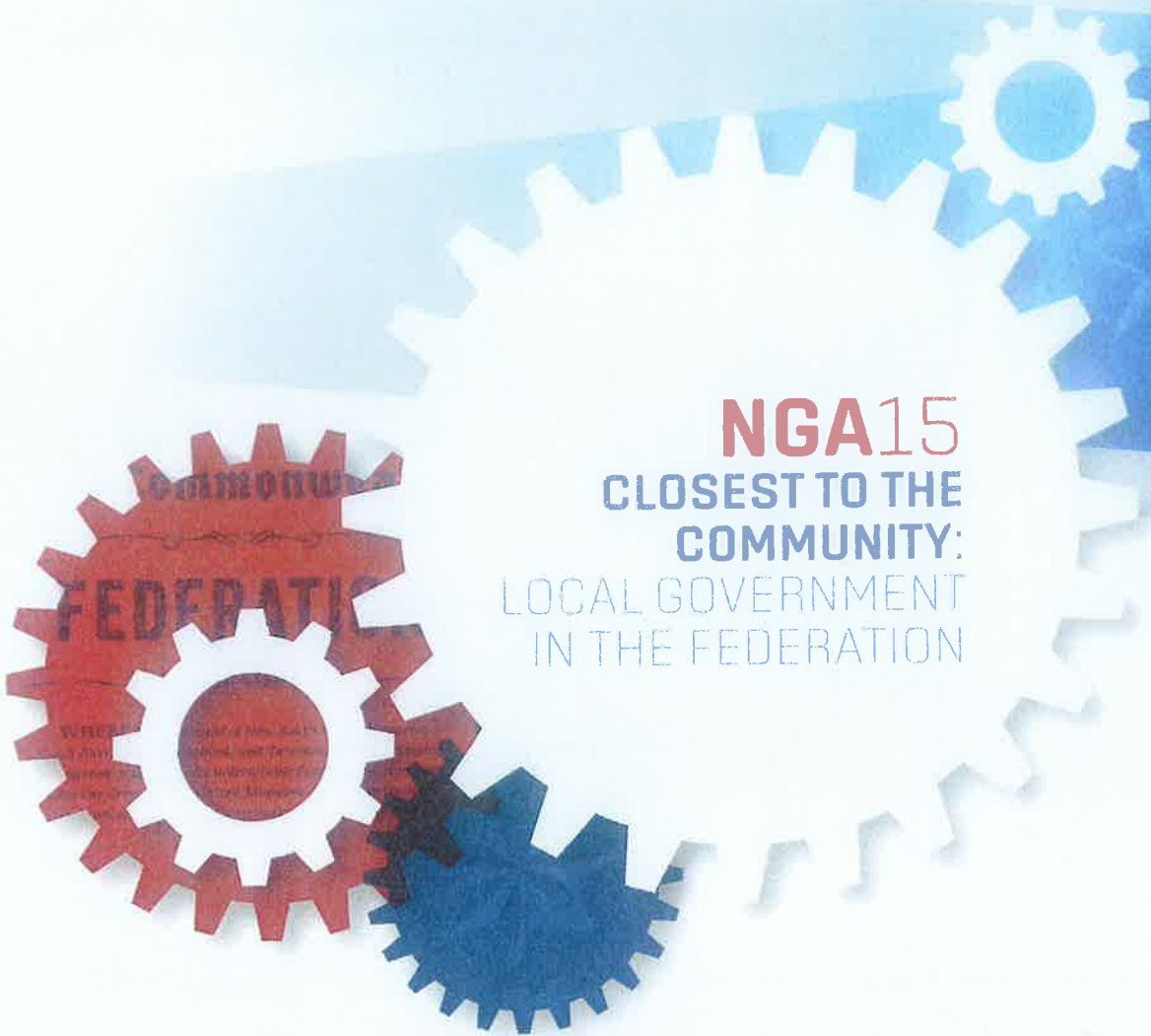
Councils are invited to submit motions to address either these developments, and or that build on the 2014 resolution of the NGA.

Note:

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available via the NGA website at: www.alga.asn.au.

All motions require among other things: a contact officer; a clear national objective; a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council.

Motions should be received by ALGA no later than 11:59pm Friday 17 April 2015, electronically in the prescribed format.



NGA15
CLOSEST TO THE
COMMUNITY:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE FEDERATION

14-17 JUNE 2015
NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE
CANBERRA
REGISTER ONLINE
WWW.ALGA.ASN.AU





PRESIDENT'S: **WELCOME**

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you to attend this year's National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 14-17 June 2015.

Invitations have been extended to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to address the sector. We will also be joined by other ministers, shadow ministers and leading public figures presenting keynote addresses, which will help to focus discussions at the NGA.

The theme for this year's NGA is **'Closest to the Community: Local Government in the Federation'**.

The Australian Government is currently working with all state and territory governments and ALGA to develop White Papers on reform of the Federation and Taxation. The NGA presents local government as a whole with an opportunity to consider the range

of issues being raised and to ensure local government's aspirations are addressed in the White Papers. I have been clear that I want to see local government strengthened as a result of any reform and we need your input to advance that objective.

The NGA program will cover a wide range of issues, reflecting the diversity of local government and our interests. There will be opportunities for delegates to interact with not only invited political and keynote speakers, but with panels of subject-matter experts and local government representatives.

The ALGA Board recently called for Notices of Motions for the NGA and these will set out the framework for debate. I would encourage you and your council to think through ideas or initiatives you would like to see debated at the NGA and to submit these as motions.

Your council's involvement in the NGA is important in assisting ALGA to maintain the Government's engagement with local government and to drive improved outcomes for the local government sector at the national level. A number of crucial policy motions will be debated at the NGA and it is essential that every council is represented in these debates to actively contribute to the dialogue as we strategically position the sector within our Federation.

I look forward to seeing you in Canberra.



Mayor Troy Pickard
ALGA PRESIDENT

CONTENTS

- President's Welcome 2
- Closest to the Community 3
- Provisional Program 4
- Associated Events 5
- Speaker Profiles 6

- Regional Cooperation and Development Forum 8
- Motions for Debate 9
- Registration Details 10
- Social Functions 11

- Partner Tours 12
- Accommodation 12
- Coach Transfers 14
- Car Parking 14
- Registration Form 15

CLOSEST TO THE COMMUNITY: LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE FEDERATION

The 2015 NGA is being held at an important time, not only for local government, but the Commonwealth, states and territories and the Australian people. It is a time when the Commonwealth Government has invited all interested parties to consider potential reform of the Federation and of taxation.

While the Government recognises that the current Federation has given rise to *'... a vibrant democracy, a strong economy and a cohesive society that millions of migrants have chosen to join'*, it also suggests that over time, it has *'... increased the overlap of roles and responsibilities between spheres of government and reduced accountability to voters, created duplication and blame-shifting'*. The Prime Minister has frequently alluded to this problem, and has established a White Paper process on the Reform of the Federation, and a White Paper on Taxation to address these issues.

The White Paper on the Reform of the Federation will *'... seek to clarify roles and responsibilities to ensure that, as far as possible, the States and Territories are sovereign in their own sphere, so that voters know who is responsible for what'*.

The Prime Minister, in his Sir Henry Parkes Commemorative Dinner address at Tenterfield, on 25 October 2014 said that *'... the Government is determined to make the case for change'*. But he also acknowledged that consensus is required for rethinking the conventions about which level of government is responsible for the delivery of a particular service, or the revenue measures to which particular levels of government should have access. He said, *'... Without a measure of consensus, any change requiring legislation is unlikely to secure parliamentary passage and the whole exercise could turn out to be futile'*. He went on to say, *'... Without an element of consensus, any change that's actually achieved could be reversed at the earliest opportunity and therefore hardly worth doing'*.

Local government is an essential part of the Australian system of government. Local governments are democratically elected and provide for the 'good governance' of local communities throughout Australia. As part of that role, councils provide crucial local planning, services, programs and infrastructure including local roads, community halls, sports, cultural and recreation

facilities that underpin the life of every local community throughout Australia. In this way local government is indeed the level of government that is 'closest to the community'.

It is therefore an important partner and stakeholder in the development of a national consensus on any reform proposal and should help shape this debate and make its contribution to the White Paper process. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has had input to these papers, and in consultation with state and territory local government associations has made submissions on relevant matters. ALGA also intends to make substantial submissions to the Green Papers expected to be released on the Federation and Taxation during this process and encourages all councils to become actively involved in this process.

The NGA debate on motions and associated discussions will help to inform the ALGA Board in formulating these submissions.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Sunday 14 June 2015

5:00 pm- Welcome Reception
7:00 pm

Monday 15 June 2015

9:00 am Opening Ceremony:

- National anthem
- Welcome to Country
- Board introduction
- Prime Minister, **The Hon Tony Abbott MP** (invited)

9:45 am President's Welcome

10:00 am Keynote Speaker

10:30 am MORNING TEA

11:00 am FACILITATED DISCUSSION
Is local government a real partner?

12:30 pm LUNCH

1:15 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Your Council, Your Challenges

- Governance and Ethics
- Financial and Asset Management
- Innovation and Community Engagement

2:45 pm President of Local Government NZ,
Mayor Lawrence Yule

3:15 pm AFTERNOON TEA

3:45 pm Keynote Speaker

4:15 pm DEBATE ON MOTIONS *Declaration*

5:00 pm Close Day 1

7:00 pm BUFFET DINNER
National Convention Centre

Tuesday 16 June 2015

9:00 am DEBATE ON MOTIONS

10:00 am Leader of the Opposition,
The Hon Bill Shorten MP (invited)

10:30 am MORNING TEA

11:00 am DEBATE ON MOTIONS

12:00 pm Leader of the Australian Greens,
Senator Christine Milne (invited)

12:30 pm LUNCH

1:30 pm PANEL SESSION
Getting the job done - Council solutions

3:00 pm AFTERNOON TEA

3:30 pm Keynote Speaker

4:00 pm DEBATE ON MOTIONS

5:00 pm Close Day 2

7:00 pm OFFICIAL DINNER Parliament House

Wednesday 17 June 2015

9:00 am *Adapting to climate risk*
Prof Jean Palutikoff, National Climate Change and Research Facilities

9:30 am DEBATE ON MOTIONS

10:30 am Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development,
The Hon Warren Truss MP

11:00 am MORNING TEA

11:30 am SPEAKER *Community services*

12:00 pm Keynote Speaker

12:20 pm President's Closing remarks

12:30 pm Close





ASSOCIATED EVENTS

Australian Local Government Women's Association Breakfast

Monday 15 June 2015
7:30 am-8:30 am

The ALGWA National President is pleased to invite members, friends and colleagues to our 5th Annual Networking Breakfast as part of the National General Assembly. The breakfast will be held on Monday 15 June from 7:30 am-8:30 am.

Seating is strictly limited, so book early. Details will be available on: www.algwa.net.au



Regional Capitals Australia Networking Breakfast

Wednesday 17 June 2015
7:30 am-8:45 am

Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) is an alliance of local government associations and councils from around Australia. The alliance is working to create a strong network of regional capitals that are at the forefront of federal policy and the national identity.

RCA will be holding a networking breakfast on Wednesday 18 June at the National Convention Centre during the ALGA conference.

To register for the event and for enquiries about RCA, please contact:

Email secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org

Phone 0422 067 858

Visit our website at www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org



SPEAKER PROFILES

Prime Minister The Hon Tony Abbott MP



Tony Abbott was sworn in as the 28th Prime Minister of Australia on 18 September 2013.

Mr Abbott was first elected as Member for Warringah in March 1994. Prior to the election of the Coalition Government on 7 September 2013, Mr Abbott had been Leader of the Opposition since 1 December 2009.

During the Howard Government, Mr Abbott served as a Parliamentary Secretary, Minister, Cabinet Minister, and Leader of the House of Representatives. As Minister for Employment Services (1998-2001) Mr Abbott oversaw the development of the Job Network and a major expansion of Work for the Dole.

As Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations (2001-2003) Mr Abbott boosted construction industry productivity through the establishment of the Cole Royal Commission.

As Minister for Health and Ageing (2003-2007) Mr Abbott oversaw the expansion of Medicare rebates to allied health professionals such as dentists and psychologists and introduced the reforms which delivered record levels of bulk billing for patients. Mr Abbott also introduced the Medicare safety net for people with big out-of-pocket expenses.

Prior to entering parliament, Mr Abbott was a journalist with *The Australian* and *The Bulletin*. He was press secretary and political adviser to the Leader of the Opposition, Dr John Hewson, before becoming Executive Director of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy.

Mr Abbott holds Economics and Law degrees from Sydney University. He is a Rhodes Scholar and holds a Master of Arts (Politics and Philosophy) from Oxford University. Mr Abbott is the author of four books.

NGA15
CLOSEST TO THE
COMMUNITY:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE FEDERATION



The Hon Bill Shorten MP



Bill Shorten is the Federal Member for Maribyrnong and was elected leader of the Australian Labor Party

and Leader of the Opposition on 13 October 2013.

Mr Shorten completed a Bachelors degree in Arts and Law from Monash University, as well as an MBA from the Melbourne Business School.

Bill has since worked as a union organiser, union secretary, as a member of the ACTU executive, as a Member of Parliament and as a Minister in a Labor Government.

As a senior member of the Rudd/ Gillard Labor Governments, Bill played a key role in securing a number of historic reforms including establishing DisabilityCare and increasing universal superannuation to 12 per cent.

As Minister for Workplace Relations, Bill continued the Labor Government's ongoing commitment to a fair and productive workplace relations system and during his time as Minister for Education helped secure the Better Schools reforms.

Prior to entering Parliament, Bill worked at the Australian Workers Union, holding key leadership positions including State Secretary of the AWU Victoria Branch from 1998 to 2006 and the National Secretary from 2001 to 2007.

Bill has an enduring interest in social justice issues such as domestic violence, equal opportunity at work, and as a father of three and a stepdad, the increasing diversity of families in Australia.

The Hon Warren Truss MP



The Hon Warren Truss MP is Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development.

He became Leader of the Nationals in 2007 and is the longest serving federal leader of any political party in Australia today

A third generation farmer from the Kumbia district near Kingaroy in Queensland, Mr Truss first won the federal seat of Wide Bay in 1990.

He was a Minister in the Howard Government for 10 years, serving as Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs in October 1997, and a year later, Minister for Community Services. In July 1999 Mr Truss became the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, where he served for six years. He became Minister for Transport and Regional Services in July 2005 and, in September 2006, was appointed Minister for Trade.

Before entering Parliament, Mr Truss was a Kingaroy Shire Councillor (1976 to 1990), including seven years as Mayor. He was Deputy Chairman of the Queensland Grain Handling Authority and a member of the State Council of the Queensland Graingrowers Association for more than 10 years.

Mr Truss is also former State and National President of the Rural Youth Organisation and President of the Lutheran Youth of Queensland.

Senator Christine Milne



Christine Milne, Senator for Tasmania and Leader of the Australian Greens, is one of Australia's most experienced and

respected environmental and community activists, with a career spanning 30 years. After leading the successful campaign to protect farming land and fisheries from the Wesley Vale Pulp Mill, Christine was elected to the Tasmanian parliament in 1989, and became the first woman to lead a political party in Tasmania in 1993. She was elected to the Senate in 2004 and to the Leadership in 2012 following the retirement of Senator Bob Brown.

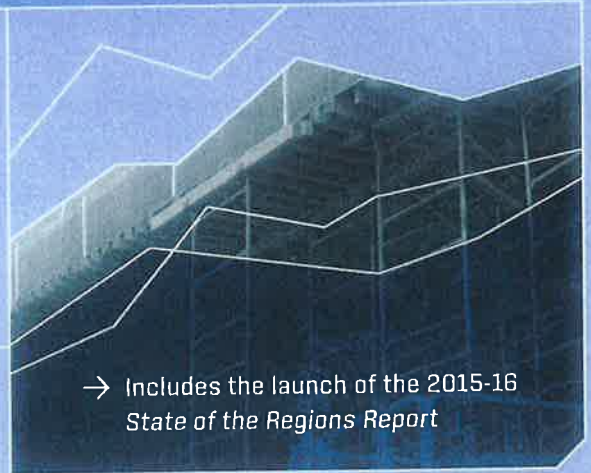
Christine's vision to address climate change and her unparalleled experience with power-sharing minority governments led to the establishment of the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee and its successful negotiations to design the Clean Energy Future package. The package placed innovation, opportunity and clean energy at the forefront of the transformation of the Australian economy for the 21st century.

As spokesperson on food security, Christine put the issue on the national agenda by calling for the development of a national food security plan during the 2010 election. She continues to advocate for reform of Australia's food and agricultural systems to ensure sustainability and prosperity now and into the future.

2015 REGIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

BENEFITS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2015
National Convention Centre Canberra



→ Includes the launch of the 2015-16 *State of the Regions Report*

The 2015 Regional Forum is the opening event of the National General Assembly of Local Government. It is a great opportunity for mayors, councillors, PQJA members and other key decision and policy makers to gather together, share contemporary knowledge and experience to strengthen the ability of Australia's diverse regions to compete in the global economy.

This year's Forum and report examines the critical role played by our regional infrastructure assets and models the productivity benefits arising from strategic investment in a range of asset classes.

The Forum will allow the sharing of ideas and opportunities through both a mix of practitioner and academic insights, as well as hearing the latest positions from politicians, senior officials and other key regional stakeholders including representatives from Economic Development Australia, the Regional Australia Institute and the Australian and New Zealand Regional Science Association international.

The official launch of the 2015-16 *State of the Regions Report* also takes place at the Forum. The Report is commissioned by ALGA and prepared by National Economics and published with the support of Jardine Lloyd Thompson. All delegates receive a hardcopy Executive Summary of the Report.

Provisional Program

- 9:30 am Welcome and Introduction: ALGA President, Mayor Troy Pickard
- 9:40 am KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *Debunking regional development myths and re-imaging the Region*, Dr Paul Collits, Adjunct Professor, University of the Sunshine Coast and Economic Development Adviser, Gosford City Council, NSW
- 10:10 am 2015 National Local Government Award Winner's *Boosting Productivity through Infrastructure and Contributing to Regional Growth*
- 10:45 am MORNING TEA
- 11:15 pm *State of the Regions Launch: Infrastructure*
Dr Brain and Dr Manning of National Economics Economic Development Australia
Mr Steve Chapple, National Chair of EDA and Director Sustainable Environment, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Vic (invited)
- 12:00 pm LUNCH
- 12:30 pm Opposition spokesperson for Regional Development the Hon Julie Collins MP (invited)
- 1:50 pm PANEL DISCUSSION: *The Role of Regional Collaboration and Governance in the Federation*
TECHNICAL WORKSHOP: Exploring this year's *State of the Regions Report*, National Economics (Dr Peter Brain and Dr Ian Manning)
- 2:45 pm AFTERNOON TEA
- 3:15 pm Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Warren Truss MP (invited)
- 3:55 pm Official Closing, ALGA President
- 4:00 pm Close

Regional Forum Registration is \$395 (inc GST) or \$195 when you also register to attend the National General Assembly.

For more information or to register for the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum, go to www.alga.asn.au



KEY DATES

Submission for Motions for Debate	Friday 17 April 2015
Early Bird Registration on or before	Friday 1 May 2015
Standard Registration on or before	Friday 29 May 2015
Late Registration on or after	Friday 29 May 2015

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

The NGA is your opportunity to contribute to the development of national local government policy.

The ALGA Board is calling for motions for the 2015 NGA under the theme *Closest to the Community: Local Government in the Federation*. To assist Councils in preparing motions a Discussion Paper has been prepared and is available via www.alga.asn.au

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers motions must follow the principles:

- 1 Be relevant to the work of local government nationally;
- 2 Be consistent with the themes of the Assembly;
- 3 Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association;
- 4 Propose a clear action and outcome; and
- 5 Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties which may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of local government.

Motions should be submitted electronically via the online form at www.alga.asn.au and should be received by ALGA no later than 11:59 pm AEST, Friday 17 April 2015.

Motions submitted will be reviewed by a committee of the ALGA Board as well as by State and Territory Local Government Associations to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.

Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued. Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state/territory local government association, and will not be included in the Business Papers.

Motions that are agreed to at the National General Assembly become Resolutions. These Resolutions are then considered by the ALGA Board when setting national local government policy and when the Board is making representations to the Federal Government at Ministerial Councils, during meetings and in ALGA publications. The ALGA Board is not bound by any resolutions passed at the NGA.

VOTING PROCEDURES

Each council is entitled to one voting delegate in the debating session. Councils will need to determine who their voting delegate will be. Voting cards can be collected at the Assembly. Councils do not need to advise ALGA of the name of the voting delegate prior to collecting voting cards.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

General Assembly Registration Fees

Early bird registration \$899

Payment received by
Friday 1 May 2015

Standard registration \$999

Payment received on or before
Friday 29 May 2015

Late registration \$1,200

Payment received on or after
Friday 29 May 2015

General Assembly Registration Includes

- Attendance at all General Assembly sessions
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea as per the General Assembly program
- One ticket to the Welcome Drinks, Sunday
- General Assembly satchel and materials.

Day Registration Fees

Monday 15 June 2015 \$470

Tuesday 16 June 2015 \$470

Wednesday 17 June 2015 \$260

Day Registration Includes

- Attendance at all General Assembly sessions on the day of registration
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea as per the General Assembly program on that day
- General Assembly satchel and materials.

Sunday Regional Development Forum [Sunday 14 June 2015]

Forum Only \$395

NGA Delegate \$195

Accompanying Partners Registration Fees

**Accompanying Partners
Registration Fee** \$240

Accompanying Partners Registration Includes

- 1 ticket to the Welcome Reception, Sunday 14 June
- Day tour Monday 15 June
- Day tour Tuesday 16 June
- Lunch with General Assembly Delegates on Wednesday 17 June.

Payment Procedures

Payment can be made by:

- Credit card - MasterCard, Visa and American Express
- Cheque made payable to ALGA
- Electronic Funds Transfer:
Bank: Commonwealth
Branch: Curtin BSB No: 062905
Account No: 10097760
NOTE: If paying via EFT you must quote your transaction reference number on the registration form.

Cancellation Policy

All alterations or cancellations to your registration must be made in writing and will be acknowledged by post, facsimile or email. Notification should be sent to:

Conference Co-ordinators
PO Box 4994, Chisholm ACT 2905
Fax (02) 6292 9002

Email conference@confco.com.au

An administration charge of \$110 will be made to any participant cancelling before Friday 1 May 2015. Cancellations received after Friday 1 May 2015 will be required to pay full registration fees. However, if you are unable to attend, substitutes are welcome at no additional cost.

By submitting your registration you agree to the terms of the cancellation policy.

Privacy Disclosure

ALGA collects your personal contact information in its role as a peak body for local government. ALGA may disclose your personal contact information to the sponsors of the event for the purposes of commercial business opportunities. If you consent to ALGA using and disclosing your personal contact information in this way, please tick the appropriate box on the registration form.

Importantly, your name may also be included in the General Assembly List of Participants. You must tick the appropriate box on the registration form if you wish your name to appear in this list.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Photographs

During the National General Assembly there will be a contracted photographer, the photographer will take images during the sessions and social functions. If you have your picture taken it is assumed that you are giving consent for ALGA to use the image.

Images may be used for print and electronic publications.

Welcome Reception and Exhibition Opening

Sunday 14 June 2015

National Convention Centre

5:00-7:00 pm

\$44 per person for day delegates and guests.

No charge for full registered delegates.

No charge for registered accompanying partners.

DRESS CODE: smart casual.

Buffet Dinner

Monday 15 June 2015

The Ballroom, National Convention Centre

7:00-11:00 pm

\$100 per person.

DRESS CODE: smart casual.

Coaches will depart Assembly hotels [except Crowne Plaza] at approximately 6:45 pm with return shuttles commencing from 10:15 pm.

General Assembly Dinner

Tuesday 16 June 2015

The Great Hall, Parliament House

7:00-11:00 pm

\$130 per person.

DRESS CODE: lounge suit/collar and tie for men and cocktail style for women.

Tickets to the prestigious General Assembly Annual Dinner at Parliament House are always highly sought after. Due to the size of the Great Hall, places are limited and therefore booking early is highly recommended to ensure your place.

Coaches will depart all Assembly hotels at approximately 6:45 pm with return shuttles commencing from 10:15 pm.

Note: Bookings are accepted in order of receipt.

Canberra Weather in June

Winter days in Canberra are characterised by clear sunny skies but the days are cool at around 12-15°C and temperatures do drop to 1c on average in the evenings, so be sure to bring a warm jacket. Mornings can be foggy so keep this in mind when booking flights. It is best to avoid early arrivals or departures in case of delays due to fog.

This had spread the risk between the 146 Members which gave them protection and contained costs.

The Mutual held long term reinsurance treaties had more consistent claim outcomes and premium stability.

Liability in the Mutual had only increased by 3.967% since 2008 and Property Mutual and Fidelity Guarantee rates unchanged since 2009 and 2006 and there had been an 80% positive response in the recent customer survey.

The Mutual provided encouragement and financial incentives for Local Government to improve their risk management which had helped all members.

Phil Standen Regional Manager Western Roads and Maritime Services said there were 7,413 kms of Regional Roads of which Councils maintained 6,925km (93%) and RMS maintained 506km (7%). Local Roads of 2,446km were also maintained by RMS and the total length was 16,191km.

He thanked the Councils for the great working relationships with RMS and said the challenges were the **Ageing Network**, flood events, HPV access limited funding for maintenance and maintenance efficiency.

The good news was that the NSW State Maintenance Budget had increased by \$40 million or 24% since 12/13

There are a number of major projects underway in the western division including the \$22.4 million upgrade of the Newell Highway.

Eight overtaking Lanes had been completed and four OT lanes were under construction in the ongoing program.

Under the Western Freight Productivity Program \$30M was allocated to the Silver City Highway which was 60km of seal extension, three major causeway upgrades, a new bridge over Packsaddle Creek and on-road airstrip at Shannons Creek.

\$10 million was being spent on the Cobb Highway with a 23km seal extension and \$4 million was being spent on widening the Kidman Way south of Cobar.

The fixing \$42.5 million Country Roads Program joint funded with Councils targeted freight connectivity and was being spent on 77 projects across Council owned roads including one in Balranald, two in Cobar, one in Moree Plains and two in Walgett

The Bridges for the Bush program replacing wooden bridges was continuing to improve freight connectivity and the NSW Government announced its Infrastructure Strategy in November last year which included a reserve of \$2 billion for the Regional Road Freight Corridor Program (Golden, NE, GWH, Newell).

This means \$500M for the Newell Highway including: additional overtaking lanes, heavy duty pavement construction between Narrabri and Boggabilla, a Parkes bypass and widening from Coonabarabran to Narrabri plus and additional \$500M for the Fixing Country Roads Program and \$200M for the Bridges for the Bush Program

General Manager Balranald Council Aaron Drenovski gave a presentation on the revitalisation of the Balranald Visitor Information Centre into the community Discovery Centre

Ben Barlow, Board Member Western Local Lands Service said the new Board had inherited a new region cobbled together that included parts of 3 CMA's, 2 LHPA regions and elements of DPI. It was a silo organisation where technology and culture were not aligned or working together toward a common strategy and purpose.

The staff ratios over the region had been inequitable with 26 staff in the Cobar region, six in Broken Hill, six in Balranald and 16 staff in head office.

The Board resolved to bring different cultures together around the landholder, provide a better balance of services across the region, more staff facing the customer and less in Head Office and put the landholder front and centre of the organisation.

There had been a restructure of the organisation resulting in a General Manager, Business Manager and Communications Officer in the three main offices and an increase of staff to 9 in Broken Hill, 14 in Balranald and a reduction of 4 from Cobar to 22.

A Local Community Manager in each region will be responsible for all operations:

- Broken Hill, Tibooburra and Wilcannia
- Cobar, Bourke, Brewarrina and Wanaaring
- Balranald, Wentworth, Hillston and Ivanhoe

Each area will have a local advisory group and an aboriginal advisory group.

The Board wanted to invest in the service delivery and has increased the Land Care partnership roles in each of the three areas creating one new job.

Increased partnerships with traditional owners through Aboriginal Liaison Officers creating one new position employed four new agri business officers in self funded positions, five new bio security officers' positions to bring the number to 11.

Mr Barlow said the Board had made the tough decisions over 12 months and was now ready to fine tune the organisation and push it to its full potential.

Sarah Hopkins, Chair Just Reinvest NSW

She is solicitor with the Aboriginal Legal Service and Chair of the Executive Committee of Just Reinvest NSW which is running a pilot program for young aboriginal offenders in Bourke.

The program aims to shift the spending from juveniles in jail, which costs \$650 a day to spending on prevention in the community. There is strong community involvement and a need for a whole of government approach.

Ms Hopkins said thousands of dollars was spent each year on government programs which had failed to make communities safer and keep juveniles out of jail.

Just Reinvest NSW aimed to co-ordinate these services for a better outcome.

She said the organisation was calling on the NSW government to:

- Formally engage with Just Reinvest NSW to develop a statewide strategy for a justice reinvestment policy that applies a collective impact framework
- Commit to trialing and evaluating justice reinvestment in selected metropolitan and regional communities and to support the Bourke Justice Reinvestment Project

A detailed report on this program is available on the www.westerndivisioncouncilsofnsw.com.au website

Motions discussed –separate document

Declaration of Office Bearers for 2015

As there were only four nominations there was no requirement for an election.

President Cr John Medcalf, Deputy Mayor Lachlan Shire Council
Vice President Cr Dave Gallagher- Broken Hill City Council
Executive- Cr Lilliane Brady Mayor Cobar Shire Council
Executive – Cr Peter Nunan, Wentworth Shire Council

President Medcalf thanked outgoing Vice President Peter Laird and Executive Member Darriea Turley for their past involvement and welcomed the new members to the team.

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

An Apology was received from the NSW Cross Border Commissioner James McTavish.

Prime Minister's letter

The Prime Minister apologized for his inability to attend the Conference but sent a letter (attached) to be read out.

Presentation by Acting Executive Director of NSW Office of Local Government Steve Orr

He outlined the Government's Fit For the Future response and the packages available for local government

The eight Far West Councils identified in the report were not required to make a FFF proposal but could do so if they wished by assessing the scale and capacity and making a proposal.

Template One was for those Councils proposing a merger, Template Two for those making assessment and Template 3 for Rural Councils.

All proposals are due by June 30 and will be reviewed by an expert panel in October before the government makes a decision.

Mr Orr said that the Independent Panel had proposed legislating for a Rural Council model which would have reduced responsibilities, fewer Councillors and meetings, shared administration, simpler reporting and compliance requirements.

Following meetings with stakeholders and discussion about the model there had been very little enthusiasm for Rural Councils to be included in the new Local Government Act.

He said he thought this model would not be part of the ongoing reform packages, but this had to be discussed further and may result in a model which required less compliance and regulatory reporting for smaller Councils.

If Councils wished to fill out the Rural Council Template 3, then that would be a legitimate proposal. The template required less reporting and fewer benchmarks.

Mr Orr said it was important that proposals included the current position of the Council and if it didn't meet the benchmarks explain why and have a plan or strategy in place to improve that position.

He outlined the timeline for reform: the Department of Premier and Cabinet had met with the Far West Councils and last week with the NSW Regional Government leaders in Dubbo to discuss service delivery.

They would now hold discussions with Federal Government Agencies to get them involved in the reform process.

An Issues Paper would be out in July and a Far West Summit would be held in October where an Options paper would be developed.

The Expert Panel would then make their recommendations and Councils would begin implementation early next year before the new act commenced operating in September 2016.

Mr Orr answered questions from the floor about the Fit for the Future review and particularly the Rural Council Model.

FINANCIAL REPORT for 2014 was tabled as at 31/12/13

Balance B/forward	\$ 36, 701.28
Income	\$ 13,834.10
Expenditure	\$43,839.98
Balance	\$6, 695.40

Budget 2015

Estimated balance as at 1 January 2015			\$6,695.40
Income:	Members Fees 2014	11 @ \$1975	\$21,725.00
	Members Fees 2015	11 @ \$2034	\$22,374.00
	Mini Conference Charge	35 @ \$55	\$1,925.00
			<u>\$46,024.00</u>
Expenses:			<u>\$31,928.00</u>
Estimated surplus for 2015			<u>\$14,096.00</u>
Estimated Balance as at 31 December 2015			<u>\$20,791.40</u>

Note: Members Fees and Executive Officer Consultation Fee increased by 3%.

MOTION: That the Financial Report and Budget be adopted	
Moved: Lachlan Seconded Cobar	CARRIED

MOTIONS were put to the meeting (attached)

. Motion 20/15 WESTERN DIVISION AND WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MODEL(S)

MOTION: That this Western Division Group of Councils form a General Managers' Advisory Committee (GMAC) comprising the General Managers of all member Councils to devise a model(s) of Local Government based around the existing Integrated Planning and Reporting Legislation, and in particular the Community Strategic Planning concept, with a view to identifying and establishing place based solutions supporting the ongoing sustainability of Western Division Communities linked to specific State and Federal Agency programs with a particular emphasis on addressing the following points:

1. That Local Governments within the Western Division remain as autonomous stand alone Councils
2. Cost shifting of services onto local government
3. Elimination of service duplication/overlap and realignment of any savings achieved locally
4. Filling of service gaps
5. Establishing innovative economic development projects and concepts
6. Establishing regional/sub-regional committees to define and co-ordinate
 - a. Roles and responsibilities of such committees
 - b. Strategic planning
 - c. Major infrastructure projects
 - d. Adequate grant funding commitments for an extended period of at least five (5) years

- e. Establishing co-ordinated service delivery
- f. Government agency and indigenous representation
- g. Advocacy for Western Council initiatives
- h. Ensuring there are no forced amalgamations of local government
- i. Such other issues as may be identified as part of the ongoing local government reform process

BACKGROUND

The formation of a Far Western Joint Organisation of Councils, coupled with a new council model(s) centred around the integrated planning and reform legislation would seem to meet current and proposed legislative requirements in this regard and enable each of the Western Division Councils to commence considering their "Fit For The Future" obligations.

Moved Walgett/ seconded Cobar

Carried Unanimously

Motion 21/15 WESTERN DIVISION AND WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL FORMATION OF A FAR WESTERN JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Motion: That this Western Division Group of Councils investigate the formation of a Western Joint Organisation of Councils and that the current group executive, with power to co-opt, be authorised to develop a draft proposal for distribution to member Councils for further input, comment and consideration, with a view to adopting an agreed model at the Mid-Term meeting of the group to be held on 1 June, 2015 at Cobar.

BACKGROUND

Looking forward, this organisation needs to be considering how it will operate in the future having regard to the anticipated need for Councils to have an umbrella organisation under which consideration can be given to regional and sub-regional issues.

The formation of a Far Western Joint Organisation of Councils would seem to meet current and proposed legislative requirements in this regard.

Moved Walgett/ Seconded Cobar

Carried

Motion 22/15 Fit for the Future Assessment Panel Walgett

Motion: That Western Division writes to the Minister for Local Government requesting that:

1. *That the Fit For the Future assessment panel be comprised of a majority of people with extensive experience as elected members and senior local Government Management Level.*
2. *That the Minister release criteria for panel members immediately and seek expressions of interest from the Local Government industry.*
3. *That the Panel meets with each council prior to making a determination as to whether a Council is Fit for the Future.*

Moved Walgett, Seconded Bourke

Carried unanimously

23/15 FUNDING

Motion: That Western Division makes an application for funding to the FFF Innovation fund when the guidelines are available.

Moved Walgett seconded Bourke

Carried

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE – 12 pm



2015 Conference Motions

1/15 Outcome of Crown Lands Management Review – Wentworth Shire Council

Motion : That the Western Division Group of Council resolves to write to the State Government immediately requesting the status of the Crown Lands Management Review and the outcomes of the review and, further, that the Division request a response from the State at least two weeks prior to the State Election March 2015.

Moved Wentworth Bourke

Carried

2/15 Relocation of Government positions- Bourke Shire Council

Motion: That the Western Division requests the State government to consider the economic and social impacts of any decision to relocate permanent positions from rural and remote communities.

Moved Bourke seconded Cobar

Carried

3/15 Increase Public Libraries Funding – Wentworth Shire Council

Motion: That the Western Division Group of Council resolves to write to the State Government and candidates for the upcoming State Election (in the Western Division area), seeking urgent action to improve funding to NSW Public Libraries and, further, that the Western Division requests a response from the State and State candidates from the Western Division area at least two weeks prior to the State Election March 2015.

Moved Wentworth/ seconded Cobar

Carried

4/15 National Park Rates- Brewarrina Shire Council

Motion: That Western Division requests the State Government land, acquired by the NSW National Parks and ILC, is required to pay rates as per the charges levied on other landholders in Local Government areas.”

Moved Brewarrina, seconded Cobar

Carried

5/15 Rural Counseling Service –Bourke Shire Council

Motion: That The Federal Minister for Agriculture Hon. Barnaby Joyce M.P. be asked to ensure that the Rural Financial Counseling Service continues to be under the control of Local Boards and that the staff of the Rural Financial Counseling Service continue to be based in rural and remote areas.

Moved: Bourke/ seconded Cobar

Carried

6/15 Drought Definition – Bourke Shire Council

Motion: That the State be again asked to develop in conjunction with their new drought policy a mechanism for clearly defining an area to be "in drought" so that assistance measures can be instituted immediately thus affording the opportunity for land owners to access available assistance when it is of greatest benefit.

Moved Bourke/ seconded Cobar

Carried

7/15 Container Deposit Scheme- Bourke Shire Council

Motion: That the Western Division strongly endorses the proposed introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) be implemented by July 1, 2015 and seek an assurance that those communities with small volumes will not be disadvantaged

Moved Bourke/ Seconded Broken Hill

Carried

8/15 Cloud Seeding – Cobar Shire Council

Motion: That the Western Division Councils of NSW formally lobby the Government of New South Wales and the Federal Government to reintroduce cloud seeding in the worst affected drought areas.

Moved Cobar/ seconded Bourke

Carried

9/15 Disaster Recovery Trigger Point Legislative Change – Wentworth Shire Council

Motion: That the Western Division Group of Council resolves to write to the State Government, Federal Government and candidates for the upcoming State Election (in the Western Division area), and the LGNSW, immediately, seeking urgent action to review current legislation regarding disaster recovery relief with a view to changing the trigger levels for cash grants, allowing the flexibility for different circumstances particularly in remote and sparsely populated areas and to develop a range of criteria to trigger assistance within days of a disaster event, and not to rely heavily on essential uninsured community infrastructure damage as current legislation does and, further, that the Western Division requests a response from the State and State candidates from the Western Division area at least two weeks prior to the State Election March 2015.

Moved Wentworth /seconded Bourke

Carried

10/15 Mobile Phone Coverage – Bourke Shire Council

Motion: That Western Division seeks an update from the Federal Government in relation to the outcome of the applications lodged in respect of the \$100 million funding promised to improve Mobile Phone Coverage in Australia.

Moved Bourke/seconded Cobar

Carried

11/15 Mobile Telephone Services -Bourke Shire Council

Motion: That Western Division asks the Federal Government what action is currently under consideration to improve mobile coverage in those areas within the Western Division that are at this point in time are without coverage or with poor coverage.

Moved Bourke/ seconded Cobar

Carried

Motion 12/15 Local Courts future in the Western Division

Motion: That the Western Division Councils of NSW lobby all relevant Local Members, the Attorney General on an assurance that the Department of Justice will retain and improve all services provided by Local Courts in the Western Division and that all Court Houses remain with no reduction in present services.

Moved Cobar / Seconded Broken Hill

Carried

Motion 13/15 Prisoner transport and effects on local police

Motion: That the Western Division Councils of NSW lobby all relevant Local Members and relevant Ministers to ensure that the system changes so that Police in the Western Areas are not responsible for the transport of prisoners/ juveniles to and from Court appearances with this being the responsibility of Corrective Services/Juvenile Justice to ensure that the Local Police Services are able to undertake their normal duties and remain as a high visibility police force.

Moved Cobar/ seconded Broken Hill

Carried

Motion 14/15 Community rights Hospital transportation

Motion: That the Western Division Councils of NSW lobby the Minister for Health to allow Members of the Western Division Communities the rights to decide what Hospital location they can be transported too according to their medical need.

Moved Cobar/ seconded Wentworth

Carried

RFDS Suggested as Conference speaker**Motion 15/15 Weather stations**

Motion: That the Western Division Support the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) in seeking the establishment of radar stations to service the Western area of the state.

Moved Bourke / seconded Walgett

Carried

Motion 16/15 Postal Voting

Motion: That the Western Division write to the NSW Government to request that Councils be given the option to conduct postal voting for the 2016 Council Elections and that legislation for non residential voters be changed, prior to the 2016 Council Elections, to allow them to automatically have the right to vote and further that the Division request a response on these matters from the State at least two weeks prior to the state election in March 2015

Moved: Wentworth/ seconded Walgett

Carried

Motion 17/15 Menindee Lakes

Motion: That the Western Division write to the state government objecting to the State management of the Menindee Lake system, including decisions taken that has lead to the likely need to transport water to towns such as Pooncarrie and the recent decision of farmers who worked the land in the Pooncarrie area to revert to dry land farming and further that the Division requests a response from the Government at least two weeks prior to the State Election as to how the system will be managed into the future and whether an inquiry will be held.

Moved Wentworth seconded Walgett

Carried

Motion 18/15 Government Services

Motion: That the Western Division resolve to write to the State Government immediately to request that services delivered by the NSW State Govt and associated decision makers, such as planning, Local Land Services and western lands functions be funded appropriately and delivered at the local level rather than at the current regional level which can be up to eight hours away by road and further that the Division requests a response from the State at least two weeks prior to the State Election March 2015

Moved Wentworth, Seconded Walgett

Carried

Motion 19/15 Waste Facilities

Motion: That Western Division write to the Environmental Protection Authority asking them to reconsider the waste policy for rural Councils, which requires the closure of village town waste facilities because of the cost of compliance.

Moved Lachlan, Seconded Bourke

Carried

Motion 20/15 Western Division development of local government models

MOTION: That this Western Division Group of Councils form a General Managers' Advisory Committee (GMAC) comprising the General Managers of all member Councils to devise a model(s) of Local Government based around the existing Integrated Planning and Reporting Legislation, and in particular the Community Strategic Planning concept, with a view to identifying and establishing place based solutions supporting the ongoing sustainability of Western Division Communities linked to specific State and Federal Agency program with a particular emphasis on addressing the following points:

1. That Local Governments within the Western Division remain as autonomous stand alone Councils
2. Cost shifting of services onto local government
3. Elimination of service duplication/overlap and realignment of any savings achieved locally
4. Filling of service gaps
5. Establishing innovative economic development projects and concepts
6. Establishing regional/sub-regional committees to define and co-ordinate
 - a. Roles and responsibilities of such committees
 - b. Strategic planning

- c. Major infrastructure projects
- d. Adequate grant funding commitments for an extended period of at least five (5) years
- e. Establishing co-ordinated service delivery
- f. Government agency and indigenous representation
- g. Advocacy for Western Council initiatives
- h. Ensuring there are no forced amalgamations of local government
- i. Such other issues as may be identified as part of the ongoing local government reform process

Moved Walgett/ seconded Cobar

Carried unanimously

FORMATION OF A FAR WESTERN JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Motion: That this Western Division Group of Councils investigate the formation of a Western Joint Organisation of Councils and that the current group executive, with power to co-opt, be authorised to develop a draft proposal for distribution to member Councils for further input, comment and consideration, with a view to adopting an agreed model at the Mid-Term meeting of the group to be held on 1 June, 2015 at Cobar.

Moved Walgett/ Seconded Cobar

Carried

Motion 22/15 Fit for the Future Assessment Panel

Motion: That Western Division writes to the Minister for Local Government requesting that:

1. *That the Fit For the Future assessment panel be comprised of a majority of people with extensive experience as elected members and senior local Government Management Level.*
2. *That the Minister release criteria for panel members immediately and seek expressions of interest from the Local Government industry.*
3. *That the Panel meets with each council prior to making a determination as to whether a Council is Fit for the Future.*

Moved Walgett, Seconded Bourke

Carried unanimously

23/15 FUNDING

Motion: That Western Division makes an application for funding to the FFF Innovation fund when the guidelines are available.

Moved Walgett seconded Bourke

Carried

24/15 Reintroduction of fire trailers in western NSW

Motion: That the RFS reintroduce the uses of fire trailers in the more isolated western areas of NSW to provide a more effective level of fire protection

Moved Walgett seconded Lachlan

Carried

25/15 Establishment of interagency Committees

Motion: That the NSW State Government establish interagency committees with representation from all the relevant state agencies and local government in each local government area in the Western Division and also provide the chairperson and appropriate level of administrative support for each committee. Each local Community Working Party is to be entitled to have a representative on the LGA Interagency Committee.

Moved Walgett, Seconded Brewarrina

Carried

26/15 Amalgamation of Emergency Services

That the NSW Government gives consideration to amalgamating the SFS, RFS, VRA and Fire and Rescue NSW in the Western Division local governments where multiple units are operating

Moved Walgett, Seconded Bourke

Carried

27/15 Impact of Cost Shifting on FFF Reforms

Motion: That the NSW State Government takes into consideration cost shifting by higher tiers of government when determining the long term sustainability of local government.

Moved Walgett, seconded Bourke

Carried

28/15 Freeway across the Blue Mountains

Motion: That the Western Division continues to push for a definite timeframe for the construction of a freeway across the Blue Mountains serving western NSW.

Moved Walgett, seconded Cobar

Carried



PRIME MINISTER

**WESTERN DIVISION COUNCILS OF NEW SOUTH WALES
2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

I am pleased to provide this message for the Western Division Councils of New South Wales' 2015 Annual Conference.

You represent the rural heartland of New South Wales. The state's west was forged by a pioneering spirit to "have a go".

This year's conference is an opportunity to celebrate the strength of your region and to focus on the many opportunities for economic development.

It has been a dry few years – and it is clear that many Australians are suffering. I saw this firsthand during my visits to Broken Hill and Bourke last year.

The Government has provided support through the \$320 million drought support package, Farm Finance Concessional loans and the recently announced Drought Recovery Loans Scheme, which will help farmers sustain and rebuild their businesses. I am determined that the Government will stand beside our regional communities.

Regional Australia is at the heart of this government and we are working to make it even stronger. The carbon tax is gone; the mining tax is gone; and after 10 years of talk, free trade agreements with China, Japan and Korea have been finalised – with better markets for Australian farmers and lower prices for Australian consumers.

The Government is continuing its work building stronger communities in western NSW.

We are investing nearly \$120 million in regional NSW for new road upgrades through the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Programme, and more than \$28 million to improve local road bridges.

The Government is also delivering on our commitment to put in place better scrutiny and reporting of foreign purchases of agricultural land. We welcome investment, but the community must have confidence that investment is coming in on our terms and for our nation's benefit.

In 2015, the Government's priority will continue to be to create more jobs, ease the pressure on families, to build roads, strengthen national security and create more opportunity for all.

Of course, your greatest need is rain. While I cannot bring more rain, I can work to ensure that western NSW goes from strength to strength.

I congratulate you all for your leadership in western New South Wales, and I send my best wishes for a successful conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Abbott'.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister of Australia

Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Ref: 15INV061/mm
(in reply please quote)



Ms Ruth Fagan
Executive Officer
Western Division Councils of NSW
PO Box 526
COWRA NSW 2794

Dear Ruth

Thank you for the invitation to the Western Divisions Councils of NSW Annual Conference at Condobolin from 22nd to 24th February.

I wish that I could be in two places at once but unfortunately due to my diary commitments and the impending election I am unable to make it on this occasion.

I wish the Western Division Councils of NSW all the best for a successful conference. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you in the not too distant future to discuss the challenges facing communities in the west of the State.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Hodgkinson'.

Hon KATRINA HODGKINSON MP
Member for Burrinjuck
Minister for Primary Industries

14 2.15





Fit for the Future

A Blueprint for the future of Local Government



Issue 11 - 4th March 2015

Councils consulted on Far West Initiative

Far West councils are talking to the Office of Local Government and the Department of Premier and Cabinet about a new approach to governance and service delivery in their region.

Minister Toole invited councils and key sector organisations to a Local Government Forum in Cobar last year to kick off these discussions. A Summary of Outcomes is now available on the [Fit for the Future website](#).

State and Commonwealth agencies met in Dubbo recently to give their perspective on the challenges and opportunities of delivering services in the Far West.

Local and State Government will meet later this year to discuss the issues that have been identified and start to develop some options for the Far West.



Picture: Participants at the Dubbo Far West Workshop.

Regional Visit Workshops - Template 3

OLG staff visited Dubbo, Wagga Wagga and Sydney recently for a series of workshops on Template 3 (Rural Council Proposal).

Councils were offered practical guidance on the Fit for the Future process including the characteristics and options for rural councils as they relate to Template 3. The OLG also explained that in response to sector feedback, a statutory Rural Council model creating a different type of council was not appropriate and a specific model is no longer being pursued. Instead councils filling out Template 3 are asked to choose the options for improvement that are most appropriate for their council.



Council Self-Assessment, Templates and Guidance materials can be [downloaded here](#). Presentations and FAQs from the workshops will be made available soon.

Picture: Steve Orr, Acting Chief Executive, presenting to participants at the Wagga Wagga workshop.

Seizing the JO opportunity

State agency representatives from across the entire Western NSW Region met for a joint Regional Leadership Group meeting in Dubbo recently. The Office of Local Government with Elton Consulting facilitated a session on local government reform, planning frameworks in local government and Joint Organisations (JOs).

The session gave State agency representatives a chance to workshop opportunities for the State Government to work effectively with Joint Organisations and begin to map potential opportunities for improved engagement.

Executive Officers from three Pilot JOs that sit within the DPC Western Region were involved.



Office of
Local Government

[Contact Us](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Copyright & Disclaimer](#)



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries

B15/541

Mr John Medcalf
President
Western Division Councils of NSW
PO Box 526
COWRA NSW 2794

Dear Mr Medcalf *John*

I write to provide you an update on the NSW Government's response to drought conc in NSW.

On 3 February 2015, the NSW Government announced an extensive suite of innovative drought preparedness measures for NSW primary producers. Valued at \$327.5 million, NSW Drought Strategy is being rolled out across NSW, putting in place a long-term, fully funded strategy which helps support farmers, now and in the future.

The NSW Drought Strategy supports farmers in NSW becoming more resilient and better prepared for future droughts, helps improve business models and reduce risks by delivering a more transparent and targeted system of drought support.

This builds on more than \$60 million in direct financial assistance to farmers provided by the NSW Government in the last 18 months and a further \$20 million for the extension of the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate that was announced in January 2015.

The NSW Drought Strategy delivers a range of new measures under three key areas:

Supporting farmers to prepare for and manage drought

- \$250 million over five years to continue the popular Farm Innovation Fund. This is for low-interest loans of up to \$250,000 per project and up to \$500,000 per property of 2.5 per cent over a 20-year period that can be accessed at any time regardless of seasonal conditions to install or improve infrastructure to assist with drought preparedness.
- \$45 million over five years for vocational training and farm business planning. This can also be used to develop business plans necessary for those wishing to access multi-peril insurance. We will also be inviting international insurers to provide them with the opportunity to develop new multi-peril insurance packages suitable for farmers in NSW.

.../2

- \$2.5 million to work with the Bureau of meteorology to develop an enhanced network of weather stations across the State – giving NSW the best weather technology anywhere in Australia.
- \$5 million over five years to provide transport assistance for animal welfare and donated fodder within NSW.
- Ongoing investment in research and development programs through the NSW Department of Primary Industries – building on breakthroughs in drought resistant crops and water efficiency.

Committing to a transparent and accountable system of drought assistance

- NSW drought assistance measures will be regularly reviewed by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal in five years' time.
- The NSW Government will develop a structured framework of triggers and guiding principles to coordinate whole-of-government drought response measures in consultation with industry. These will be published for transparency.

Helping our primary producers and regional communities build resilience

- An additional \$5 million over five years has been allocated to reinstate the Rural Support Worker Program around NSW on an as-needed basis, and we are continuing the permanent Rural Resilience Program.

For further information on the strategy and eligibility criteria, I encourage you to visit the NSW Department of Primary Industries website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or the NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) website at www.raa.nsw.gov.au. Alternatively you can contact the RAA on 1800 678 593.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries

2.3.15

**MINUTES OF THE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD AT COBAR AIRPORT ON THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2015
COMMENCING AT 3:36 PM.**

PRESENT

Gary Woodman (General Manager), Errol George (Director of Engineering Services), Councillor Peter Abbott (Cobar Shire Council), Anil De Silva (Cobar Shire Council), and Sandra Finnegan (Executive Assistant Engineering Services).

APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION: That the apology received from Councillor Greg Martin (Cobar Shire Council), Councillor Jarrod Marsden (Cobar Shire Council) and Councillor Tracey Kings (Cobar Shire Council) be accepted.

Gary Woodman/Peter Abbott

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION: That the minutes of the previous Airport Advisory Committee meeting held at Cobar Airport on Tuesday 3 February 2014 be adopted as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Gary Woodman/Peter Abbott

CARRIED

ITEM 2 – STATUS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee receive and note the information.

Gary Woodman/Peter Abbott

CARRIED

ITEM 3 – AIRPORT PROJECT UPDATE

- The second coat of line marking will be completed on Tuesday, with the second coat of bitumen complete;
- The official opening of the completed airport works will be held Friday 6 March 2015;
- Battery operated night lighting is available for emergency use;
- Design for night lighting is complete and conduits are currently being installed for installation of cabling;
- There is hopes to bitumen reseal the car park at least to the grid;
- A business plan will be put forward to possibly change the scope of the project to include necessary marsupial fencing;
- The team that have worked on the Airport reconstruction have excelled themselves;
- Project Management plan needs to be completed;
- The works are currently running under budget.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee receive and note the information.

Gary Woodman/Peter Abbott

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The official handover for Airport Manager Anil De Silva will take place June 1 2015;
- Training will take place prior to the handover;
- ASICs will need to be arranged for Director of Engineering and the Engineering Support Manager, also the need to check for any other cards that are close to renewal;
- There is a grant available for tourist related infrastructure airport works with the submission due 31 March 2015;
- The process for certification from CASA is currently underway with the four manuals currently being completed with help from Tom Griffiths. The manuals consist of the Cobar Aerodrome Manual and the Emergency Plan both required by CASA, and the Emergency Security Plan and the Security Risk Assessment Workbook required by Office of Transport Security;
- Joe Hain from CASA will be visiting on Wednesday 18 March 2015 to inspect night lighting.

Next meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee will be advised.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.36PM

**MINUTES OF THE COBAR WATER BOARD MEETING
HELD AT COBAR SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2015 COMMENCING AT 10:05AM**

ATTENDANCE – BOARD MEMBERS

Present:

- Mrs Lilliane Brady OAM (Cobar Shire Council)
 - Mrs Tanya Gilbert (CSA Mine Representative)
 - Mr Tony Lord (Peak Gold Mine)
 - Mr Peter Yench (Cobar Shire Council)
-

ATTENDANCE – OBSERVERS

Present:

- Mr Gary Woodman (Cobar Shire Council General Manager/Board Secretary)
- Mr Kym Miller (Cobar Shire Council Director of Corporate and Community Services/Board Contract Administration/Financial Services Officer)
- Mr Errol George (Cobar Shire Council Director of Engineering Services)
- Mr Wayne Mills (Cobar Shire Council Services Manager/ Contract Technical Services Officer)

With the Board not having a President at present Mrs Lilliane Brady OAM was requested and agreed to Chair the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

- Mr Phillip Gilligan (Endeavor Mine)
- Mrs Tracey Kings (Cobar Shire Council)

RESOLVED: That the apologies from Mr Phillip Gilligan and Mrs Tracey Kings be accepted.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

CLAUSE 1 – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

FILE: WB1-22

AUTHOR: *Secretary, Gary Woodman*

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Cobar Water Board Meeting held on Thursday 11 December 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of those meetings.

Tanya Gilbert/ Peter Yench

CARRIED

CLAUSE 2 – BOARD MATTERS STATUS REPORT

FILE: WB1-22

AUTHOR: *Secretary, Gary Woodman*

RESOLVED: That the information contained in the Cobar Water Board Status Report be received and noted, and that the item numbers 102, 112, 113, 114, 115 be removed from the report.

Tanya Gilbert/ Peter Yench

CARRIED

CLAUSE 3 – CLIENT SERVICE PLAN FOR THE AUDIT OF THE COBAR WATER BOARD'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2015

FILE:WB1 - 5

AUTHOR: *Secretary, Gary Woodman*

RESOLVED: That the Board note the Client Service Plan for the Audit of the Cobar Water Board's Financial Statements for the Year Ending 30 June 2015 by the Audit Office of NSW.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

CLAUSE 4 – WATER SECURITY FOR THE REGIONS PROJECT STATUS REPORT

FILE: WB1-2

AUTHOR: *Secretary, Gary Woodman*

A further Report was provided to the Board following provision of information by Bogan Shire Council on 11 March 2015.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the Water Security for the Regions Project Status Report with the following comments in regards to Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation and Electromagnetic Survey Report to be made to Bogan Shire Council:

- There are no concerns with Site 2; but need more evidence of suitability;
- Prefer the 128ML storage for the land owner of Site 2, be separate to the public water storage facility and on land owned by that land owner;
- The Site 2 landowner be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the completed separate storage facilities;
- A final value of the private storage facility be determined and negotiated;
- Site 5 be further investigated together with Site 2 to determine if Site 5 constraints deter the sites use before finalising the use of Site 2;
- That it be suggested to Bogan Shire Council that a further Water Security for Regions applications be made to ensure that at least 2,000ML of public water storage is constructed.

Tony Lord/ Peter Yench

CARRIED

CLAUSE 5 – CONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES 2015/2016

FILE: WB1-25

AUTHOR: *Secretary, Gary Woodman*

RESOLVED: That the Cobar Water Board accept the offer from Cobar Shire Council to contract administration and financial services of the Cobar Water Board for the 2015/2016 financial period of a cost of \$444,478 inclusive of GST.

Tanya Gilbert/ Tony Lord

CARRIED

CLAUSE 6 – 2015/2016 DRAFT BUDGET REPORT

FILE:WB1-2

AUTHOR: *Secretary, Gary Woodman*

RESOLVED: That the Estimates and Major Consumer Rates for 2015/2016 as presented be adopted by the Board.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

CLAUSE 7 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2015

FILE: WB1-6, WB1-1, WB1-24, WB1-3, WB 1-6-1

AUTHOR: *Contract Administrator/Financial Services Officer, Kym Miller*

RESOLVED: That the Financial Statements as at 31 January 2015 be received and noted.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

CLAUSE 8 – STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

FILE: WB1-39

AUTHOR: *Contract Technical Services Officer, Wayne D. Mills.*

RESOLVED:

1. The Board accept and review the attached reports:
 - a. Strategic Business Plan, Executive Summary and Action Plan: Bulk water conveyance services;
 - b. Strategic Business Plan: Bulk water conveyance services;
 - c. Bulk Water Conveyance System: Asset Management Plan.

2. A workshop to be held in the Cobar Shire Council Chambers on Wednesday 29 April 2015; to discuss the Action Plans associated with each chapter of the Strategic Business Plan.

-
3. The workshop be chaired by Mr. Mike Brearley, Director of CPE Associates; who will present to the Cobar Water Board, both the Strategic Business Plan and included Asset Management Plan.
 4. The Action Plan associated with each relevant chapter be reviewed and discussed; and relevant target dates fixed.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

CLAUSE 9 – RAW WATER PUMPED

FILE:WB1-3

AUTHOR: *Contract Technical Services Officer, Wayne Mills*

RESOLVED: That the Raw Water Pumped information as of 28 February 2015 be received and noted.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

CLAUSE 10 – WATER CONSUMPTION REPORT

FILE: WB1-31

AUTHOR: *Contract Technical Services Officer, Wayne D. Mills*

RESOLVED: That the Water Consumption Report to 28 February 2015 be received and noted as information.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

CLAUSE 11 – RAW WATER ORDERED

FILE: WB1-42

AUTHOR: *Contract Technical Services Officer, Wayne D. Mills*

RESOLVED: That the Raw Water Ordered information as of 28 February 2015 be received and noted.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

CLAUSE 12 – NYNGAN/COBAR PIPELINE UPGRADE PROJECT

FILE: WB1-39

AUTHOR: *Services Manager, Wayne D. Mills.*

RESOLVED: The information in relation to the Nyngan to Cobar Water Supply pipeline upgrade as of 28 February 2015 be received and noted.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

CLAUSE 13 – TWO TIER PRICING STRUCTURE FOR MINOR CONSUMERS

FILE: WB1-24

AUTHOR: *Services Manager, Wayne D. Mills.*

RESOLVED: The information in relation to the current two tiered pricing structure within the minor consumers agreement be received and noted.

Peter Yench/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

COBAR WATER BOARD CHAIRPERSON

RESOLVED: That the Board attempt to find a suitable Chairperson Candidate by electronic advice and following this the Board write to the Local Member asking for the commencement of an appropriate process for the appointment of the Cobar Water Board Chairperson due to the need for the Board to properly function legislative wise and particularly during the times of the pipeline replacement construction works and the day to day operations.

Tony Lord/ Tanya Gilbert

CARRIED

HERA/ NYMAGEE MINES FUTURE PIPELINE CONNECTION AND WATER USAGE

RESOLVED: That Aurelia Metals Ltd be advised that Cobar Water Board would consider a Major Consumer connection favorably in the basis of the following:

- Appropriate capital contribution to the existing scheme;
- Obtaining of a high security water Licence taking into account twice the required water to cover supply system losses of the Albert Priest Channel and the Bogan Weir Pools;
- Agreement of the suitable standard pipeline construction from the Board's pipeline to the mine facilities at Nymagee;
- Agreement that the maintenance and operation of the connection pipeline to Nymagee would be the responsibility of the mine but to the standard of the Cobar Water Board;
- At the end of use the connection pipeline to Nymagee that the pipeline asset be transferred to the Board at no cost;
- Water usage charges to be the same as other major users at the time of connection and varied per year as per budget requirements;
- Agreement of Cobar Shire Council and suitable planning considerations.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12:16PM

**Minutes of the Cobar Shire Council Economic Taskforce
Meeting No.5 held in the Council Chambers on Friday 13
March 2015 commencing at 9:15am**

PRESENT

Councillor Peter Yench
Councillor Robert Sinclair
Councillor Peter Abbott
Gary Woodman (General Manager)
Angela Shepherd (Special Projects Officer)
Stephen Poulter (Acting Director of Planning & Environmental Services)
Errol George (Director of Engineering Services)
Heather Christie (Community Representative)
Kym Miller (Director of Corporate & Community Services) (from 10:24am)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Jarrod Marsden
Councillor Greg Martin

Resolved: That the apologies of Councillors Jarrod Marsden and Greg Martin be noted and accepted.

(Peter Abbott/ Bob Sinclair)

CARRIED

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the previous Economic Taskforce Meeting held on 28 June 2014 (three (3) presentations) was confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

(Gary Woodman/ Bob Sinclair)

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

**3.DISCUSSION REGARDING ADVERTISING FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS
FOR THE TASKFORCE**

When the advertising is commenced Taskforce Members need to be proactive about approaching suitable candidates for consideration of Council.

**4. COBAR ECONOMIC PROSPECTUS AND WORKFORCE PROFILE
DISCUSSION**

The Draft Cobar Economic Prospectus and Workforce Profile was presented to the Taskforce.

There is a need to include the following:

- Cobar as a Regional Centre;
- Business service a large area of the Outback;
- Visitor attraction number;
- Affordable housing;
- Clubs such as sporting, recreation, etc.

Any suggestions for improvement are welcome.

5. ENDEAVOR OPERATIONS DISCUSSION

Endeavor Operations expect to halve their workforce in January 2016 with a two year life span and decommissioning in late 2017;

The site has its own electricity substation, raw water supply, reasonable sized site, bitumen sealed road access and rail access;

Trade and Investment would like the infrastructure on site to be cleared and completely rehabilitated;

What industry could be attracted to the site to take advantage of the facilities;

Perhaps even a mining, engineering, earthmoving training centre;

Aboriginal training centre;

Rehabilitation Centre;

Recycling and Waste Depot/ Facility;

Tourism (Engineering heritage aspects);

Process has commenced with discussions on uses with the Department of Planning;

Also a Solar Company has been showing an interest in the area;

Information was also provided to the Taskforce on the use of Woody Weed for the production of charcoal, fertiliser, bioenergy, soil amendments – perhaps the Endeavor location could be the location for a finished product bio-refinery and not just a bio-crude refinery or a bio-hub;

At present they have no intention of selling the Endeavor Operation houses/ flats in Cobar;

Arid Zone Carbon Research Centre could also be considered.

6. GAS PIPELINE TO COBAR DISCUSSION

A gas pipeline to Cobar is not viable unless an industry can be found to use the gas ie electricity, fertiliser, plastic, etc;

There has been no change since the previous reporting to Council on the issue;

There is no need to continue to investigate the matter.

7. ATTRACTING ALTERNATE INDUSTRIES TO COBAR – WHO, WHAT, WHEN?

Covered previously.

8. LOCAL TAFE COURSES – HOW CAN WE ATTRACT MINING AND TRADE COURSES TO THE COBAR CAMPUS, INCLUDING ANY PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MINES

Need to investigate how this could be arranged.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Street Trees Cobar Main Street

There has been an approach by a business owner for the installation of mature aged trees in the Cobar Main Street.

The Traffic Committee (RMS) are investigating the required clear zone, Engineering Services are investigating water main requirements, watering practicalities and costs.

Falling School Numbers

Both primary schools are concerned about falling school numbers which will affect teacher numbers and perhaps even principal classification;

There is serious concern about Endeavor Operations Staff number reduction affecting enrolment numbers;

So far there has only been a reduction of funding for one teacher at the Cobar Public School (Primary);

St Johns Catholic School numbers are currently stable but there is concern;

There is a 35-45% turnover of school children.

Funding for the Economic Taskforce for Inclusion in the 2015/2016 Budget

\$10,000 would be an appropriate budget in 2015/2016 to investigate opportunities for Cobar Shire such as:

- Advertising of the Cobar Shire Prospectus;
- Web based information on Cobar Shire Website;

- Investigation into industry opportunities;
- Video advertisement;
- Representation costs;
- USB advertisement production costs;
- Other marketing costs.

Old RLPB/ NPWS Administration Centre

Investigations need to be undertaken to determine how these facilities could be put back in the ownership of the Cobar Community and used accordingly.

Investigate if the site could be used as a Research Centre.

Carbon Farming Initiative – Management of Large Feral Herbivores (Camels) in the Australian Range Lands Draft Methodology

Information was provided to the Taskforce on this matter.

Carbon Farming Initiative – Management of Carbon by Deforestation/Regeneration

Peter Yench will provide a presentation to a future Taskforce Meeting to allow a full understanding of this Carbon Farming Initiative.

Increased Supermarket Competition in Cobar

Investigations need to be undertaken on how another supermarket chain could be attracted to Cobar to increase supermarket competition.

It would be better for any new supermarket still to be in the CBD Area of Cobar and not on the outskirts of Cobar.

It will also need to be market driven.

Re-asphalting of the Cobar CBD

RMS are expecting to undertake profiling and re-asphalting of the Cobar CBD and probably works will be undertaken in April 2015 using night works.

10. NEXT MEETING

9:00am Friday 12 June 2015

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11:10AM

Venue and Dress Code

Exhibition Opening and Welcome Reception

VENUE National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

General Assembly Business Sessions

VENUE National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City.

All plenary sessions will be held in the Royal Theatre at the National Convention Centre.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

Exhibition

VENUE National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City.

The exhibition is being held in the Exhibition Hall of the National Convention Centre.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

Buffet Dinner

VENUE: The dinner is being held in the Ballroom at the National Convention Centre.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

General Assembly Dinner

VENUE Parliament House.

The General Assembly Dinner is being held in the Great Hall.

DRESS CODE Lounge suit/collar and tie for men and cocktail style for women.

PARTNER TOURS

Monday 15 June

REGIONAL CANBERRA: WINERY AND CHOCOLATE

Today's partner tour will experience two regional areas located just outside Canberra. Our first stop is Gundaroo which is home to several boutique wineries including the venue for the day—Capital Wines. The group will enjoy wine tasting at the cellar door followed by lunch.

The group will then transfer to Murrumbateman to visit Robin Rowe Chocolates, here the group will be given a short demonstration with time to enjoy some samples and view the merchandise.

Tuesday 16 June

CANBERRA EXHIBITIONS

This morning the group will visit the Australian War Memorial and view First World War Galleries, which have been redeveloped to commemorate the centenary of the First World War (opened December 2014).

After lunch the group will be able to experience a new local exhibition, further details will be provided as they are confirmed.

ACCOMMODATION

To book your accommodation at the rates listed below complete the appropriate section of the registration form. Bookings are subject to availability and should be made prior to Friday 15 May 2015.

All cancellations or amendments must be made in writing to Conference Co-ordinators and will be acknowledged by facsimile.

Please note your credit card details are required to guarantee your room. Neither Conference Co-ordinators nor the hotel will make any charges against your credit card unless you fail to give 21 days notice in writing of your cancellation. Full payment of your account will be required at the time of your departure.

NOTE All Canberra hotels have a complete non-smoking policy.

CROWNE PLAZA

1 Binara Street, Canberra

The Crowne Plaza is adjacent to the Convention Centre and only a short walk from restaurants, bars and the main shopping district. Featuring a contemporary design, the Crowne Plaza provides guests with an outdoor pool, sauna, health/fitness centre, 24-hour reception, concierge, undercover parking and onsite dining at the RedSalt Restaurant. All rooms are non-smoking and include iron/ironing board, tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer and room service is available.

SUPERIOR ROOM: **\$295** per night
single/twin/double

DELUXE ROOM: **\$345** per night
single/twin/double

AVENUE HOTEL

80 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

A brand new property which recently opened in November 2014, the Avenue Hotel is Canberra's newest and only 5-star hotel in the CBD. The hotel has an onsite restaurant and bar, 24-hour reception and room service, gymnasium, undercover parking (charges apply per night) and guest lounge with free wifi. Offering hotel rooms, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments, all rooms have king size beds, rainfall showers, balconies and mini bar. The apartments also have full kitchen facilities, the Avenue is a 15-20 minute walk from the Convention Centre.

HOTEL ROOMS: **\$225** per night
single/twin/double

1 BEDROOM APARTMENTS: **\$275** per night
single/double

HOTEL REALM

18 National Circuit, Barton

The Hotel Realm is one of Canberra's 5-star hotels and is located walking distance from the popular shopping and restaurant villages of Kingston and Manuka. The Hotel Realm has two restaurants, a bar, day-spa, hairdresser and health club located on-site. The rooms are modern and have king sized beds, high speed internet (for a fee) LCD TV, pay movie channel, Foxtel and 24-hour room service.

STANDARD ROOM: **\$230** per night
single/twin/double

MANTRA

84 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

Mantra on Northbourne is centrally located and approximately a 15-20 minute walk from the National Convention Centre. The hotel features a heated indoor pool, sauna, fully-equipped gymnasium and the Zipp restaurant bar onsite. All rooms offer voice mail, individually controlled air-conditioning, pay per view movies, mini bar, tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer and complimentary toiletries. One and two bedroom apartments also offer a separate lounge and dining area, fully-equipped kitchen and a laundry with washing machine, dryer, iron and ironing board.

HOTEL ROOM: **\$209** per night
single/twin/double

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT: **\$249** per night
single/twin/double

**MEDINA APARTMENT HOTEL
JAMES COURT**

74 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

The Medina Apartments Hotel James Court is approximately a 15-20 minute walk from the National Convention Centre and is close to cafes, restaurants, gyms and shopping. The hotel offers reception, undercover parking, outdoor heated swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium and a restaurant delivery service. All rooms feature private balconies, climate controlled air conditioning, separate lounge/dining areas, broadband access (for a fee), spa bath, mini bar, fully equipped kitchen facilities and an in-room safe.

Note: Reception operates between the hours of 6.30am and 11.30pm.

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT: **\$210** per night
single/twin/double

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT: **\$260** per night
single/twin/double

NOVOTEL

65 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

Located on Northbourne Avenue, one of Canberra's main thoroughfares, the Novotel is a 15 minute walk from the National Convention Centre. The hotel offers 24-hour reception and room service, an onsite restaurant and bar, gymnasium and undercover parking (charges apply per night). In-room facilities include mini bar, tea/coffee making facilities, broadband (for a fee), Fox Sports and News, pay per view movies, climate control air-conditioning, hairdryer, iron and ironing board. Executive rooms have a king size bed.

STANDARD ROOM: **\$250** per night
single/twin/double

EXECUTIVE ROOM: **\$280** per night
single/twin/double

**PEPPERS GALLERY HOTEL
(FORMALLY DIAMANT HOTEL)**

15 Edinburgh Place, Canberra

Peppers Gallery Hotel (formally Diamant Hotel, re-branded in 2014) is a boutique 80 room hotel located at the intersection of Marcus Clarke St and Edinburgh Ave, 15 minutes walk from the Convention Centre. Peppers Gallery Hotel features 24-hour reception, a restaurant and a bar. The rooms have a mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities, plasma TVs, CD and DVD players, broadband (for a fee), and in-room safe.

STANDARD ROOM: **\$250** per night
single/twin/double

QT HOTEL**(FORMALLY RYDGES LAKESIDE)**

1 London Circuit, Canberra

Qt Hotel Canberra (formally Rydges Lakeside) has recently been renovated throughout the foyer and restaurants. The rooms have been updated and offer balconies and high speed internet (for a fee), pay per view movies, mini bar, hairdryer, iron and ironing board. The hotel is a 15 minute walk to the National Convention Centre and has 24-hour reception, room service, onsite restaurant and bar.

STANDARD ROOM: **\$249** per night
single/twin/double

WALDORF

2 Akuna Street, Canberra

Located in the heart of Canberra's CBD, the Waldorf is only a couple minutes walk from the National Convention Centre. This hotel has 24-hour reception and provides guests with a gymnasium, indoor heated lap pool and onsite dining at the Waldorf London Restaurant. All rooms have kitchen and laundry facilities, in room safe, dining table and chairs, complimentary cable TV, pay per view movies, high speed internet service (for a fee) and room service is available. One bedroom apartments also offer a separate lounge/dining area.

STUDIO ROOM: **\$210** per night single
\$225 per night twin/double

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT:
\$230 per night single
\$245 per night twin/double

COACH TRANSFERS

Welcome Reception and Exhibition Opening Sunday 14 June 2015

Coaches will collect delegates from all General Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza Canberra) at approximately 4:45 pm. The return coaches will depart at 7:00 pm.

Daily Shuttles to and from the National Convention Centre

A shuttle service between all General Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza Canberra) and the National Convention Centre will operate between 8:00 am and 8:30 am. Return shuttles will depart the National Convention Centre at 5:00 pm.

Buffet Dinner National Convention Centre Monday 15 June 2015

Coaches will collect delegates from all General Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza Canberra) at approximately 6:45 pm. A return shuttle service will commence at 10:15 pm.

General Assembly Annual Dinner Parliament House Tuesday 16 June 2015

Coaches will collect delegates from all General Assembly hotels (including Crowne Plaza Canberra) at approximately 6:45 pm. A return shuttle service will operate between 10:15 pm and 11:15 pm.

CAR PARKING

Parking for delegates is available underneath the National Convention Centre for a cost of approximately \$18.00 per day. Alternatively, voucher public parking is available 200m from the entrance at a cost of approximately \$13.50 per day. The voucher machines are coin operated.

**REGISTRATION
FORM**

REGISTER ONLINE
WWW.ALGA.ASN.AU

NGA15

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 14-17 JUNE 2015
Australian Local Government Association ABN 31 008 613 876

Multiple delegates > photocopy form

Register online, download PDF or return this form to:

Conference Co-ordinators
PO Box 4994 Chisholm ACT 2905
Phone (02) 6292 9000 Fax (02) 6292 9002
Email conference@confco.com.au

By submitting your registration you agree to the terms and conditions of the cancellation policy

PERSONAL DETAILS

TITLE _____ NAME _____ SURNAME _____
(Cr/Ald/Mayor/Other)
 POSITION _____
 COUNCIL/ORGANISATION _____
 ADDRESS _____
 SUBURB _____ STATE _____ POSTCODE _____
 PHONE _____ MOBILE _____ FAX _____
 EMAIL _____
 NAME FOR BADGE _____

How did you find out about the General Assembly? ALGA State/Territory Association Council Other: _____

PRIVACY DISCLOSURE I DO consent to my name appearing in the 2015 General Assembly List of Participants booklet (name, organisation and state only disclosed) as outlined in the privacy disclosure on page 10.
 I DO consent to ALGA disclosing my personal contact information as outlined in the privacy disclosure on page 10.

REGISTRATION FEES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FEES

Please note registration does NOT include attendance at the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES (payment received on or before 1 May 2015) \$899.00
 STANDARD REGISTRATION FEES (payment received on or before 29 May 2015) \$999.00
 LATE REGISTRATION FEES (payment received after 29 May 2015) \$1,200.00
 DAY REGISTRATION FEES Monday 15 June \$470.00 Tuesday 16 June \$470.00 Wednesday 17 June \$260.00

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM REGISTRATION FEES

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM ONLY Registration Fee \$395.00
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE Registration Fee \$195.00
 STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT 2015-16 (Single licence) \$240.00
 STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT 2015-16 (Organisational licence). \$700.00

ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTERED ACCOMPANYING PARTNER Name for lapel badge: _____ \$240.00

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDED IN FEES

One ticket to each of the following functions is included in the full General Assembly registration and/or accompanying partners registration fee. Please confirm if you will be attending by placing a tick in the appropriate boxes. To purchase additional tickets to any of the following functions please indicate the number required and complete the total amount payable.

REGISTERED DELEGATES AND PARTNERS

WELCOME RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION OPENING [SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2015]

I/we will attend: Delegate Partner Number of additional tickets @ \$44.00 each . . . Total \$

REGISTERED PARTNERS

Day 1 • Regional Canberra - winery and chocolate (Monday 15 June 2015)

I will attend: Partner Number of additional tickets @ \$100.00 each . . . Total \$

Day 2 • Canberra exhibitions (Tuesday 16 June 2015)

I will attend: Partner Number of additional tickets @ \$100.00 each . . . Total \$

Mr Ashley Albury
General Manager, Western Region
Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 58
Dubbo NSW 2830

ashley.albury@planning.nsw.gov.au

24 July 2014

Cobar Shire Council Submission on the Draft Regions for Growth Planning

Dear Ashley

Cobar Shire Council is supportive of regional growth planning and the need for it. Each Council undertakes their own planning for the same reasons – to better prepare our community for the future and to maximise the use of minimum resources to provide the infrastructure and services to meet our community needs. We too want more sustainable communities that have a strong social and economic base. We also want to attract more people to come and make our shire their home. It is hoped that the proposed growth planning will assist us to do this and that it will be consistent with our planning undertaken under the integrated planning and reporting framework set up by the NSW Government.

As you are aware, Cobar Shire covers over 45,000 square kilometres in the western area of the state. We are blessed with employment opportunities due to the mining and agriculture industries in our Shire. Changes in employment conditions of major employers in the area (such as the length of shift panels), the ease of modern day travel and policy decisions that make fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) and drive-in, drive-out (DIDO) employment options attractive increase the challenges we face in encouraging people to live in our shire with their families, not just work here and commute ‘home’ (to another town or region).

Cobar is the largest town west of Narrromine until you reach Broken Hill in the west – a trip that will take you around 700kms along the state highways to complete. Our population is just under 5,000 however we believe we have a far higher service population. This can be justified by looking at the employment figures of the major businesses in our Shire. Their employment figures demonstrate the extent of contractors and FIFO/DIDO workers employed. Recently these levels have been quite high as major capital and development projects were undertaken in the mining industry.

A recent survey by Peak Gold Mines (who employ around 350 people) noted that 13% of their shift workers worked on a drive-in, drive-out basis. In addition, there are two operating mine camps in the Shire, and have been up to four, which further facilitates the use of FIFO/DIDO workers that add to our service population. This is in addition to significant other accommodation that supports a more temporary resident to work in Cobar and call elsewhere 'home'.

How well does our community fit within the proposed Far West Region?

We do not believe Cobar Shire fits into the proposed Far West region at all. The demographics of Cobar Shire are vastly different to many of those in the proposed region and the size of the proposed region is too large. Cobar Shire fits more appropriately with the local government areas (LGAs) to the east of Cobar than it does in the Far West.

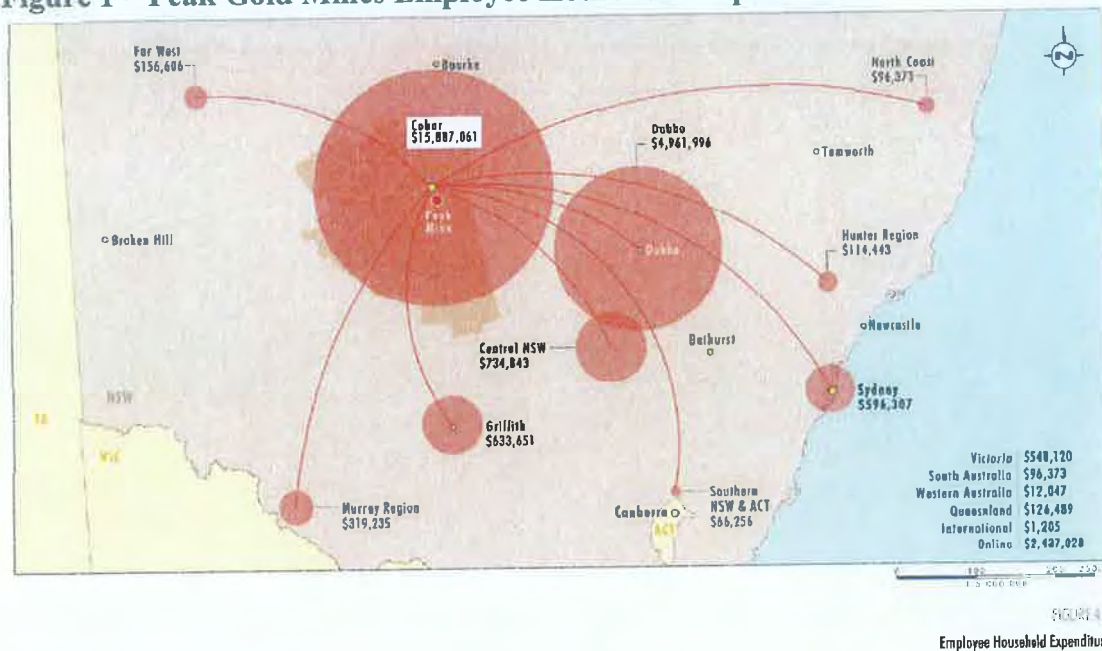
Cobar's community of interest is in the Orana region, as defined by the OROC regional group of Councils. This is demonstrated by our Council's involvement in a number of regional groups, based around the OROC (the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils) region and the level of business undertaken by Cobar locals in Dubbo.

The economic base is similar across the OROC region. In fact, OROC have undertaken transport studies, water sharing work and other joint projects to improve the economic base for all communities in the area in the past and will continue to do so into the future.

People in Cobar travel to Dubbo to undertake business, they do not travel to Broken Hill. The prosperity of Dubbo relies on Cobar more than the prosperity of Broken Hill does.

As mentioned previously, Peak Gold Mines recently undertook a project in relation to potential roster changes and the impacts that may have on our community. As part of that project, employee surveys were undertaken (with around an 85% response rate) and a community survey was done as part of their social impact assessment. One of the questions asked of employees, was where they spent their household income and on what. The following graphic (Figure 1) is from that research and clearly shows that Dubbo is our regional centre with relatively little expenditure by Cobar households in the far west of the state.

Figure 1 – Peak Gold Mines Employee Household Expenditure



It would be expected that this spending pattern is representative of the broader population of Cobar as the Peak employees are typical of Cobar residents.

Cobar’s economic prosperity is reliant on mining. Ore concentrate produced from the Cobar area is currently transported to Sydney and Newcastle (starting on the road and rail networks in the Orana region) – markets in the east. Equipment is generally brought to our region from the east as well.

Cobar’s prosperity also relies on water. Our water comes from the Macquarie River system, with water originating from Burrendong Dam near Wellington. We rely on the communities along this river system to work together for the good of the region, which we currently do through the regional group called the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance (LMWUA). Again, this is in the Orana region, not the Far West and is driven by OROC.

Our power generation comes from the east. Once completed, much of our power will be supplied even closer to home, from the Nyngan solar power plant. This is part of the Orana region.

Are there the right amount of divisions?

Cobar Shire Council does not believe there are enough separate planning regions in the draft document. The NSW State Plan *NSW 2021 – A Plan to Make NSW Number One*, is a plan of the NSW Government to deliver integrated strategic planning for land use, transport and infrastructure investment and financial management. It uses the Orana region, based on the OROC area as a specific region that has a Regional Action Plan under the state based plan. In addition, the State Plan set out action plans for the regions of Far West and Central West as separate regions. There are a total of 19 regions under the State Plan. It would make sense that NSW Planning would use

the same regions as those outlined in the State Plan with the same regional boundaries. It defies sense to set up yet another set of regions at a state level.

The OROC councils have a history of working well together. This is demonstrable through LMWUA and OROC. LMWUA was born out of the need for all councils in the area to improve practices and standards to reach best practice, to better utilise a limited resource (water) and therefore identify efficiencies that could be made by all members of the group. Since its establishment all member councils have been able to achieve best practice through sharing of information and resources and have won awards for their efforts.

OROC councils have been working together for many years. Despite covering around 25% of the state, the group of councils have common mining and agricultural industries and the central community of interest which is Dubbo. The towns have similar aspirations for the communities, face similar challenges and are already working well at a regional level. The smaller Orana LGAs gravitate to Dubbo to undertake business, and again, Dubbo is dependent on these LGAs for their prosperity. This should be reflected in the planning regions.

The Far West region appears to be based on recommendations by the recent review into Local Government. This review has not even reported yet, no recommendations have been adopted by the NSW Government and there is no guarantee that they will be. It is therefore illogical to develop the Far West region when regions, such as those based around the ROCS, have proven their effectiveness.

The area identified as Central West and Orana in the draft regions for planning growth report is also too large and diverse. Breaking it up around communities of interest will be better for all regional communities and will lead to better planning outcomes.

The Federal Government uses the Orana region and the OROC area in defining boundaries for Regional Development Australia – Orana. The Councils in this area are well used to working together for better regional outcomes. Again, we urge you to use the OROC boundaries for an Orana region.

It makes good sense to use the regions as outlined in the State Plan as the growth planning regions for NSW Planning. This will allow a proper integration of state level plans by various state government departments.

Opportunities and challenges

Cobar Shire Council agrees that there are always challenges around strengthening the economic and social base in our area and we believe we are better able to address these challenges in smaller regions based around the current ROCs as the mechanisms and organisational structures are already in place to work with groups of councils that are willing to work with each other.

These smaller areas will allow our councils to travel to a central point to meet to discuss issues and opportunities. It will be very difficult to bring local government together in the proposed Far West region. The distances involved do not readily allow this to happen. As the ROCs already have a regular schedule of meetings, planning

considerations could be addressed through these meetings that Councils have already committed to.

Finally, Cobar Shire Council supports regional population planning. However, the regions must include LGAs with a common interest, such as the catchment area, a common regional centre, common industry and a history of working together. The regions must also be of a size that is workable and that allows all councils to work together effectively. The State Government has already nominated the Cobar LGA to be part of the Orana area through their State Plan and this should also be reflected in the NSW Planning regions.

Yours sincerely

Gary Woodman
General Manager



Motion 20/15 WESTERN DIVISION AND WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MODEL(S).

MOTION: That this Western Division Group of Councils form a General Managers' Advisory Committee (GMAC) comprising the General Managers of all member Councils to devise a model(s) of Local Government based around the existing Integrated Planning and Reporting Legislation, and in particular the Community Strategic Planning concept, with a view to identifying and establishing place based solutions supporting the ongoing sustainability of Western Division Communities linked to specific State and Federal Agency programmes with a particular emphasis on addressing the following points:

1. That Local Governments within the Western Division remain as autonomous stand alone Councils
2. Cost shifting of services onto local government
3. Elimination of service duplication/overlap and realignment of any savings achieved locally
4. Filling of service gaps
5. Establishing innovative economic development projects and concepts
6. Establishing regional/sub-regional committees to define and co-ordinate
 - a. Roles and responsibilities of such committees
 - b. Strategic planning
 - c. Major infrastructure projects
 - d. Adequate grant funding commitments for an extended period of at least five (5) years
 - e. Establishing co-ordinated service delivery
 - f. Government agency and indigenous representation
 - g. Advocacy for Western Council initiatives
 - h. Ensuring there are no forced amalgamations of local government
 - i. Such other issues as may be identified as part of the ongoing local government reform process

BACKGROUND

The formation of a Far Western Joint Organisation of Councils, coupled with a new council model(s) centred around the integrated planning and reform legislation would seem to meet current and proposed legislative requirements in this regard and enable each of the Western Division Councils to commence considering their "Fit For The Future" obligations.

Moved Walgett/ seconded Cobar

Carried Unanimously



Motion 21/15 WESTERN DIVISION AND WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

FORMATION OF A FAR WESTERN JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Motion: That this Western Division Group of Councils investigate the formation of a Western Joint Organisation of Councils and that the current group executive, with power to co-opt, be authorised to develop a draft proposal for distribution to member Councils for further input, comment and consideration, with a view to adopting an agreed model at the Mid-Term meeting of the group to be held on 1 June, 2015 at Cobar.

BACKGROUND

Looking forward, this organisation needs to be considering how it will operate in the future having regard to the anticipated need for Councils to have an umbrella organisation under which consideration can be given to regional and sub-regional issues.

The formation of a Far Western Joint Organisation of Councils would seem to meet current and proposed legislative requirements in this regard.

Moved Walgett/ Seconded Cobar

Carried

Motion 22/15 Fit for the Future Assessment Panel Walgett

Motion: That Western Division write to the Minister for Local Government requesting that:

- 1. That the Fit For the Future assessment panel be comprised of a majority of people with extensive experience as elected members and senior local Government Management Level.*
- 2. That the Minister release criteria for panel members immediately and seek expressions of interest from the Local Government industry.*
- 3. That the Panel meet with each council prior to making a determination as to whether a Council is Fit for the Future.*

Moved Walgett, Seconded Bourke

Carried unanimously

23/15 FUNDING

Motion: That Western Division make an application for funding to the FFF Innovation fund when the guidelines are available.

Moved Walgett seconded Bourke

Carried



MEDIA RELEASE February 27, 2015

New Model for Western Councils

Councils from the Western Division will investigate the formation of a Far West Joint Organisation of Councils following their Annual Conference in Condobolin last week.

The Division has been considering their response to the Fit For the Future proposals of the NSW Government for the past 18 months.

Following presentations from a number of member councils, the Member for Barwon and a representative of the Office of Local Government, the 11 member Councils decided to investigate formalising the Division into a Far Western Joint Organisation of Councils.

The Executive group, with power to co-opt, will develop a draft proposal for distribution to member Councils for further input, comment and consideration, with a view to adopting an agreed model at the Mid-Term meeting of the group to be held on June 1, 2015 at Cobar.

Division President Cr John Medcalf said this was an exciting step forward for the Division which had been given a separate status by the NSW Government in the Fit For the Future packages.

“The Independent Review Panel suggested that the Western Councils would be part of a Far West Authority involving some government agencies. We have discussed this at length with a number of options but nothing has been resolved.

“The Division Councils believe they should take control of the situation and develop their own organisational model incorporating the local government planning framework and possible State and Federal agencies.” President Medcalf said.

The Division General Managers will form an Advisory Committee to devise a model around the Community Strategic Planning concept to identify solutions to support the ongoing sustainability of Western Division Communities.

Cr Medcalf said the delegates to the Conference agreed the organisation needed to consider its future and the need for Councils to have an umbrella organisation under which consideration could be given to regional and sub-regional issues.

A new Executive was elected during the Conference. President Cr John Medcalf, Lachlan Council, Vice President Cr Dave Gallagher, Broken Hill Council, Members Cr Lilliane Brady Cobar Council and Cr Peter Nunan Wentworth Council.

Inquiries: President John Medcalf: Mobile 0429 937 248

Executive Officer Ruth Fagan: Mobile 0429 123 736

Orana Regional Organisation of Councils
PO Box 115
NARROMINE NSW 2821
oroc@oroc.com.au | www.oroc.com.au

28th February 2015

Clr Lilliane Brady
Mayor
Cobar Shire Council
PO Box 223
Cobar NSW 2835

Dear Clr Brady,

Transition towards a Joint Organisation

At the last OROC Board Meeting held on Friday 20th February 2015 it was discussed and noted that OROC should commence to prepare and position itself to transit towards a Joint Organisation and reinforce its position as a region comprising of twelve (12) member councils.

At this meeting the OROC Members agreed to support the following motion.

- i. That on the basis of all member councils resolving same, the 12 existing members of OROC consider as to how the region moves forward to transit to a Joint Organisation.
- ii. That all OROC members be requested to respond in writing, in respect of their position regarding inclusion in an Orana Joint Organisation (OROC) by 17th March 2015.

I warmly welcome your response. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Clr Bill McAnally
Chair
Orana Regional Organisation of Councils

OROC comprises of Bourke, Bogan, Brewarrina, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo City, Gilgandra, Narromine, Warrumbungle, Warren, Walgett and Wellington Shire Councils.

Minutes of the OROC Board Meeting
held at
Dubbo City Council
Central Conference Room
On Friday 20th February 2015
at 9.30 am

1. Meeting Open and apologies

The meeting was opened at 9.30 am by OROC Chair Clr Bill McAnally.

Present: Clr Rod Buhr, Mayor Wellington Council; Clr Peter Shinton, Mayor Warrumbungle Shire; Steve Loane, General Manager Warrumbungle Shire; Dan Simmons, General Manager Brewarrina Shire; Don Ramsland, General Manager Walgett Shire; Clr David Lane, Mayor Walgett Shire; Derek Francis, General Manager Bogan Shire; Clr Ray Donald, Mayor Bogan Shire; Clr Doug Batten, Mayor Gilgandra Shire; Neil Alchin, Director Corporate and Business Services, Gilgandra Shire; Clr Bill McAnally, Mayor Narromine Shire; Greg Lamont, General Manager Narromine Shire; Clr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor Dubbo City; Mark Riley, General Manager Dubbo City; Clr Rex Wilson, Mayor Warren Shire Council; Ashley Wielinga, General Manager Warren Shire; Ross Earl, General Manager Bourke Shire; Clr Andrew Lewis, Mayor Bourke Shire; Clr Al Karanouh, Mayor Coonamble Shire; Rick Warren, General Manager Coonamble Shire; and Belinda Barlow OROC Executive Officer.

Apologies: Paul Mann, General Manager, Gilgandra Shire; Gary Woodman, General Manager, Cobar Shire; Clr Lilliane Brady, Mayor Cobar Shire; Clr Angelo Pippas, Brewarrina Shire; Karen Roberts, Acting General Manager, Wellington Council.

Motion: *That the apologies be accepted by the OROC Board.*

Moved: Clr Andrew Lewis

Seconded: Clr Peter Shinton

CARRIED

2.1 Impact of Methamphetamine on OROC communities - NSW Police Force, Commander Orana Local Area Command Supt David Simmons and Detective Sergeant Adrian Tighe and NSW Mental Health, Team Leader Drug and Alcohol, Terry Buckerfield.

A discussion led by the OROC Chair Clr Bill McAnally acknowledged that the correlation of an ice epidemic and increases to crime and social issues is prominent across the communities of the OROC region.

NSW Detectives certainly are making an effort to intervene dealers and suppliers of methamphetamine to the region; however it is increasingly difficult to obtain search warrants for suspect dealers.

NSW Police Force, NSW Ambulance and Health Services resources are stretched in many small rural communities as there is an increase of people under the influence of drugs and in particular methamphetamine. It was acknowledged that the 'ice' prevalence is costing the entire community.

Motion: *That OROC Members express their concern to respective State Members in regard to the need for greater powers, being granted to the NSW Police to obtain search warrants for searches of drug dealers' properties.*

Moved: Clr Doug Batten

Seconded: Clr Andrew Lewis

CARRIED

At this juncture Supt David Simmons, Detective Sergeant Adrian Tighe and Terry Buckerfield left the meeting.

2.2 NSW Premier and Cabinet, Senior Regional Coordinator, Alison Morgan

Far Western Initiative update

- The Far Western Initiative is the preferred model by NSW Cabinet - there is not a lot of support for the concept of a Far Western Authority.
- Far Western Councils do not have to submit a proposal to 'Fit for the Future' by June 2015.
- A Joint Organisation will allow councils outside the prescribed regional JO boundary to participate as associate members, therefore OROC members should not be concerned that Far Western Councils will not be able to participate in the Orana JO, especially with the strong links that already exist, such as Lower Macquarie Water Utilities and natural communities of interest.
- The Far Western Initiative Forum held in December 2014 in Cobar was an opportunity to gather evidence from local government.
- By July 2015 an Issues Paper will be released with a Summit planned for August and an Options Paper for the Far Western Initiative to be released by November 2015.
- A Regional Leadership Network meeting was held on Thursday 19th February in Dubbo with over 70 state government, federal government and local government representatives. A report on the outcomes of the meeting will be distributed to OROC members in coming weeks by the Department of NSW Premier and Cabinet.

At this juncture Alison Morgan left the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous OROC Board Meetings

Motion: *That the Minutes of the OROC meeting held in Dubbo on Friday 21st November 2014 be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*

Moved: Clr Doug Batten

Seconded: Mark Riley

CARRIED

Minutes of previous GMAC Meetings

Motion: *That the Minutes of the GMAC meeting held in Dubbo on Friday 6th February 2015 be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*

Moved: Mark Riley

Seconded: Greg Lamont

CARRIED

Motion: *That the 8 recommendations contained therein be adopted by the OROC Board.*

Moved: Clr Al Kananouh

Seconded: Don Ramsland

CARRIED

Recommendations:

- 1: That it be noted that NSW Planning and Infrastructure, Regional Director, Ashley Albury will correspond formally with OROC to formalise its offer to work with OROC to prepare a Regional Growth Plan for ORANA councils, noting that Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar and Walgett Shires will be included in a separate Far West Plan.
- 2: That OROC conceptually agree to accept the offer from NSW Planning and Infrastructure to work with the ROC to prepare a Regional Growth Plan.
- 3: That OROC responds with a letter to Australian Energy Regulator (AER) in respect to Essential Energy's revised proposal about pricing and level of service to Essential Energy customers (2014-2019 regulatory period).

- 4: That GMAC acknowledges the existing Shared Services arrangements throughout the OROC region and that given current demands in applying 'Fit for the Future' proposals by individual councils, OROC not pursue a Shared Services Study at this point in time.
- 5: That individual councils make approaches and undertake negotiations with neighbouring and / or relevant councils in respect to 'Fit for the Future' (if necessary).
- 6: That Member Councils be encouraged to include current OROC Shared Service arrangements in their councils' proposals to 'Fit for the Future'.
- 7: That the OROC Executive Officer be requested to commence a review of the current OROC Strategic Plan (2015-2020) and OROC Business Plan (2015-2017), noting that there will be some various gaps in the draft to Fit for the Future unknowns.
- 8: That Warren Shire Council General Manager and OROC Executive Officer be requested to prepare a response to NSW Attorney General, The Hon Brad Hazzard in respect to the consultation and review period of Court House services in the OROC region that is currently being undertaken by NSW Department of Justice.

Motion: *That the 16 determinations contained therein be endorsed by the OROC Board.*

Moved: *Mark Riley*

Seconded: *Ross Earl*

CARRIED

Determinations:

- 1: That the apologies be accepted.
- 2: That the information supplied by NSW Planning and Infrastructure be noted.
- 3: That the Minutes of previous GMAC Meeting held 31st October 2014 in Dubbo be adopted.
- 4: That GMAC notes the correspondence received from Essential Energy to OROC in respect to Australian Energy Regulator (AER) draft determination on 2014-19 regulatory period.
- 5: That GMAC notes the information supplied in respect to National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRAA) and further considers this matter on advice from the Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton.
- 6: That GMAC notes the Office of Local Government's Joint Organisations Pilot first interim report (December 2014).
- 7: That the contribution from each OROC member towards the Orana and Far West Infrastructure Study be \$2500 and that the Executive Officer be requested to proceed to invoice member councils and pay RDA Orana.
- 8: That GMAC note the correspondence in respect to OROC raising concerns about the possible closure and retraction of Court Houses and related services across the region.
- 9: That the OROC Correspondence be accepted.
- 10: That the financial report for period ending 2nd February 2015 be accepted.
- 11: That the Executive Officer's report be accepted.

- 12: That GMAC note the existing arrangements that are in place with Local Government Procurement and Regional Procurement continue.
- 13: That GMAC note the OROC Financial Professional Team meeting minutes.
- 14: That GMAC note the OROC Economic Development Team meeting minutes.
- 15: That GMAC note the OROC HR & LD Team meeting minutes.

Business Arising:

3.1 Pilot Joint Organisations

The OROC Board noted the Joint Organisations Pilot First Interim report (December 2014) supplied by Office of Local Government.

3.2 Australian Energy Regulator and Essential Energy Public Lighting

OROC's Electricity Consultant Energy and Management Services have prepared a submission in response to Essential Energy's Revised Public Lighting Proposal.

- Motion:** i) *That the proposed changes for street lighting supplied by Essential Energy be considered unacceptable for the reason stated in OROC's submission.*
- ii) *That innovative approaches to reducing charges be explored as a matter of urgency by Essential Energy addressing the issues of cost and quality of service.*

Moved: Ashley Wielinga Seconded: Clr Mathew Dickerson CARRIED

3.3 Weather Radar Service for the OROC region

The recent announcement of NSW Government's NSW Drought Strategy including \$2.5 million towards a weather radar service was confirmed by NSW Deputy Premier and Member for The Hon Troy Grant MP and that the funding is to go towards a 'new' weather radar service located in the Orana region.

- Motion:** *That OROC provide a copy of the OROC Weather Radar Study to the Minister for Primary Industries requesting that the commitment of the \$2.5million to be spent on a Doppler radar service for the Cobar region (existing Bureau of Meteorology weather station), given it is the only site in NSW without radar technology.*

- Motion:** *That OROC issue a Media Release welcoming the announcement of funding for a weather radar service in the region.*

Moved: Ashley Wielinga Seconded: Clr Bill McAnally CARRIED

3.4 Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

The correspondence supplied by The Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton be noted by the OROC Board.

- Motion:** *That Steve Loane, General Manager Warrumbungle Shire be requested to raise the concerns of OROC in respect to changes to Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements with The Minister for Agriculture, The Hon Barnaby Joyce.*

Moved: Steve Loane Seconded: Clr Doug Batten CARRIED

3.5 Responsible Pet Ownership Grant

The OROC Board noted that the application for the region-wide (OROC) project proposal to the Office of Local Government's Responsible Pet Ownership grant was unsuccessful.

3.6 NSW Planning

The OROC Board noted the information supplied by NSW Planning and Environment in respect to the process of developing the Orana Regional Growth Plan.

3.7 NSW Attorney General

The OROC Board noted the potential closures to Court House and retraction of court services to the communities of Cobar, Warren, Bourke, Narromine and Gilgandra.

Motion: *That OROC addresses its concerns in writing to the NSW Attorney General noting the lack of consultation between Department of Justice and local government in respect to the closures of Court House and retraction of court services in the OROC region.*

Moved: Ashley Wielinga

Seconded: Clr Rex Wilson

CARRIED

4. OROC Correspondence

Local Government NSW (LGNSW)

Motion: *i) That OROC extend an invitation to LGNSW President Clr Keith Rhoades and Chief Executive Donna Rygate to attend the next OROC Board Meeting on 1st May, 2015.*

ii) That OROC extends an invitation to LGNSW requesting that LGNSW elected representatives that reside in the OROC region (currently Clr Shields and Clr Matthews of Dubbo City) to attend all OROC Board Meetings.

Moved: Clr Ray Donald

Seconded: Clr Rex Wilson

CARRIED

Motion: *That the OROC correspondence be accepted.*

Moved: Clr Mathew Dickerson

Seconded: Clr Andrew Lewis

CARRIED

5. OROC Financial Report

Motion: *That the OROC financial report for the period ending 27th October 2014 be accepted by the OROC Board.*

Moved: Greg Lamont

Seconded: Clr Ray Donald

CARRIED

6. OROC Executive Officers Report

Motion: *That the OROC Executive Officer's Report be accepted by the OROC Board*

Moved: Clr Bill McAnally

Seconded: Clr Peter Shinton

CARRIED

7. General Business

7.1 Anzac Day 2015

The summary of each council's organised events for ANZAC Day 2015 was noted.

7.2 Fixing Country Roads funding

Information regarding the funding announced under the State Government's 'Fixing Country Roads' and successful projects was noted.

7.3 Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance

LMWUA Board met on Thursday 19th February 2015 in Dubbo to consider a Regional Strategic Business Plan and Strategy.

Following this workshop the LMWUA Project Officer, David Swann developed the following recommendations for consideration by the OROC Board at its meeting.

Motion: *i) The status quo remains where the Alliance and OROC retain their separate identities and their separate Boards and Chairs.*

Motion: *ii) The Alliance report to the Alliance Board as part of the OROC Board meeting agenda in accordance with the OROC 10 week meeting cycle.*

Motion: *iii) The Alliance Board continues to meet biannually but at the same time as the corresponding OROC Board Meeting. The Alliance Board Meeting will be an Agenda item on the OROC business paper for those particular days.*

Motion: *iv) No further action be taken with respect to migrating the Alliance to a Joint Organisation (JO) until such time as there is sufficient certainty within the industry as to the form JO's are likely to take.*

Moved: *Clr Rex Wilson*

Seconded: *Clr Al Karanouh*

CARRIED

7.4 Macquarie Cudgegong regulated rivers water sources

Ashley Wielinga provided the latest allocations forecasts for general security licence holders in the Macquarie-Cudgegong for the remainder of the 2014/15 water year. This information be noted by the OROC Board.

7.5 RDA Orana update

RDA Orana Chair John Walkom was congratulated on his re-appointment as Chair. An update of activities included: RDA Orana Infrastructure Study and Research Study of the Workforce Capacity of the Orana region. This information be noted by the OROC Board.

7.6 Joint Organisation

It was noted that OROC should commence to prepare and position itself to transit to a Joint Organisation and reinforce its position (as a region comprising of 12 member councils).

Motion: *i) That on the basis of all member councils resolving same, the 12 existing members of OROC consider as to how the region moves forward to transit to a Joint Organisation.*

ii) That all OROC members be requested to respond in writing, in respect of their position regarding inclusion in an Orana Joint Organisation (OROC) to the Executive Officer by 17th March 2015.

Moved: *Clr Mathew Dickerson* **Seconded:** *Clr Al Karanouh*

CARRIED

8. Close / Next Meeting

The next OROC Board Meeting is to be held on Friday 1st May 2015 in Warren.

Meeting closed 12.55 pm.

Summary of Motions:

1. That the apologies be accepted by the OROC Board.
2. That OROC Members express their concern to respective State Members in regard to the need for greater powers, being granted to the NSW Police to obtain search warrants for searches of drug dealers' properties.
3. That the Minutes of the OROC meeting held in Dubbo on Friday 21st November 2014 be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
4. That the Minutes of the GMAC meeting held in Dubbo on Friday 6th February 2015 be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
5. That the 8 recommendations contained therein be adopted by the OROC Board.
6. That the 16 determinations contained therein be endorsed by the OROC Board.
7. i) That the proposed changes for street lighting supplied by Essential Energy be considered unacceptable for the reason stated in OROC's submission.

ii) That innovative approaches to reducing charges be explored as a matter of urgency by Essential Energy addressing the issues of cost and quality of service.
8. That OROC provide a copy of the OROC Weather Radar Study to the Minister for Primary Industries requesting that the commitment of the \$2.5million to be spent on a Doppler radar service for the Cobar region (existing Bureau of Meteorology weather station), given it is the only site in NSW without radar technology.
9. That OROC issue a Media Release welcoming the announcement of funding for a weather radar service in the region.
10. That Steve Loane, General Manager Warrumbungle Shire be requested to raise the concerns of OROC in respect to changes to Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements with The Minister for Agriculture, The Hon Barnaby Joyce.
11. That OROC addresses its concerns in writing to the NSW Attorney General noting the lack of consultation between Department of Justice and local government in respect to the closures of Court House and retraction of court services in the OROC region.
12. i) That OROC extend an invitation to LGNSW President Clr Keith Rhoades and Chief Executive Donna Rygate to attend the next OROC Board Meeting on 1st May, 2015.

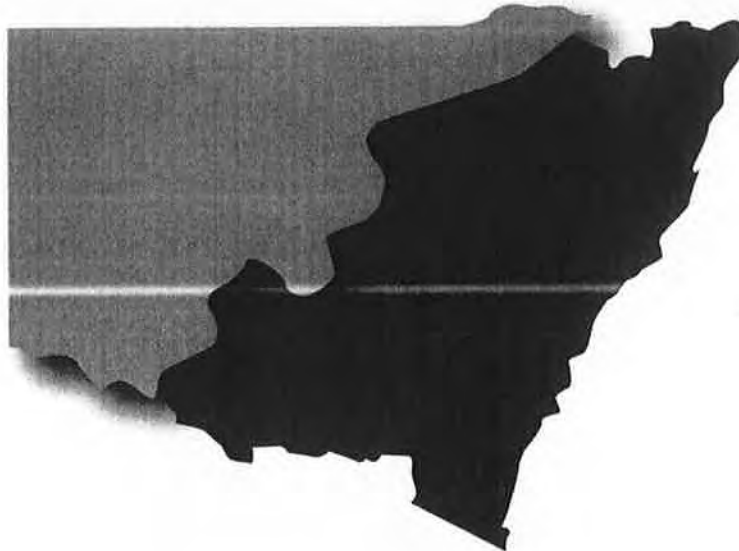
ii) That OROC extends an invitation to LGNSW requesting that LGNSW elected representatives that reside in the OROC region (currently Clr Shields and Clr Matthews of Dubbo City) to attend all OROC Board Meetings.
13. That the OROC correspondence be accepted.
14. That the OROC financial report for the period ending 27th October 2014 be accepted by the OROC Board.
15. That the OROC Executive Officer's Report be accepted by the OROC Board.

16. i) The status quo remains where the Alliance and OROC retain their separate identities and their separate Boards and Chairs.
 - ii) The Alliance report to the Alliance Board as part of the OROC Board meeting agenda in accordance with the OROC 10 week meeting cycle.
 - iii) The Alliance Board continues to meet biannually but at the same time as the corresponding OROC Board Meeting. The Alliance Board Meeting will be an Agenda item on the OROC business paper for those particular days.
 - iv) No further action be taken with respect to migrating the Alliance to a Joint Organisation (JO) until such time as there is sufficient certainty within the industry as to the form JO's are likely to take.
17. i) That on the basis of all member councils resolving same, the 12 existing members of OROC consider as to how the region moves forward to transit to a Joint Organisation.
 - ii) That all OROC members be requested to respond in writing, in respect of their position regarding inclusion in an Orana Joint Organisation (OROC) to the Executive Officer by 17th March 2015.

DRAFT

WESTERN DIVISION COUNCILS OF NSW

2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE Minutes



February 23- 24, 2015
Hosted by Lachlan Shire Council



EXECUTIVE 2013/2014

President – Councillor John Medcalf
Deputy Mayor Lachlan Shire Council

Vice President- Councillor Peter Laird
Mayor Carrathool Shire Council

Executive - Councillor Darriea Turley
Broken Hill City Council

Councillor Peter Nunan
Wentworth Shire Council

Ruth Fagan -Executive Officer

Parliamentarians:

- Prime Minister Tony Abbott MP
 - Warren Truss, MP Deputy Prime Minister,
 - Adrian Piccoli, NSW Minister for Education
 - Sussan Ley, Member for Farrar, Minister for Health, Minister for Sport
 - Stuart Ayres, NSW Minister for Police.
 - Duncan Gay, MLC NSW RMS Minister
 - Paul Toole, Minister for Local Government
 - Troy Grant, MP Deputy Premier
 - Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson

 - **OTHERS**
 - Tom Hynes, Chairman Local Land Services, Western Region
 - Donna Rygate, CE Local Government NSW
 - Alison Morgan, Senior Regional Coordinator, Department of Premier and Cabinet
 - Andrew Bell Western Lands Commissioner
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda
 - Greg Wright, Administrator Central Darling Council
- Stephen O'Halloran ??????????add more
- Moree Shire Council

Attendees

MEMBER COUNCILS:

Balranald Shire Council: Cr Leigh Byron, Mayor Cr Jeff Manix, Aaron Drenovski, General Manager,

Bourke Shire Council: Cr Andrew Lewis, Mayor, Cr Barry Hollman, Cr Cec Dorrington, Ross Earl General Manager

Brewarrina Shire Council: Cr Angelo Pippas, Mayor, Cr Phillip O'Connor, Dan Simmons General Manager

Broken Hill City Council: Cr David Gallagher, Andrew Bruggy, Manager Infrastructure and Strategy

Carrathool Shire Council: Cr Peter Laird, Mayor, Ken Croskell General Manager

Central Darling Shire Council: Mr Michael Boyd, General Manager

Cobar Shire Council: Cr Lilliane Brady OAM, Mayor, Cr Bob Sinclair, Cr Tracey Kings, Cr Marsha Isbester, Cr Peter Abbott, Gary Woodman General Manager

Lachlan Shire Council: Cr Des Manwaring –Mayor, Cr John Medcalf, Cr Brian Nelson, Cr Graham Scott, Cr Denis Brady, Cr Mark Hall. Alan McCormack, Acting General Manager.

Walgett Shire Council: Cr David Lane, Mayor, Cr Jane Keir and Don Ramsland- General Manager,

Wentworth Shire Council: Cr Don McKinnon, Mayor, Cr Bill Wheeldon, Cr Paul Cohrs, Peter Kozlowski, General Manager

MEMBERS of Parliament:

- Kevin Humphries, Minister for Natural Resources, Water and Western NSW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW President LGA Keith Rhoades, Noel Baum

OTHERS: Sharon Hawke, Lands and Property Management, Geoff Wise Chairman Western Lands Advisory Council, Phil Standen, Western Manager Roads and Maritime Services, Ben Barlow Board Member Western Local Land Services, Sarah Hopkins, Chair Just Reinvest NSW, Naamon Eurell Executive Officer Statewide Mutual, Steve Orr Acting Director General NSW Office of Local Government, Graeme Fleming

Welcome

President John Medcalf Welcomed the Delegates

NSW Minister for Natural Resources, Water and Western NSW Kevin Humphries, MP Addressed the meeting and said the Government had delivered major infrastructure projects to rural NSW and had plans to continue to do so after the election.

He said he had attended the Government's Western Leadership Group meeting in Dubbo last week and the Local Government reform was about government service delivery as well as Local Government. He said he didn't support amalgamation in the Western Division as there was too much distance to cover but the traditional model of local government had to be more strategic and there needed to be real leadership from the elected members.

He said the Government had plans to spend more money in the regions for economic stimulus but there was a need for good quality project management, more alliances and strategic planning across the region to get the best outcome from the funds.

The Native Vegetation Act was to be repealed to allow better regional development and the process would become more like putting in a Development Application for consideration overseen by a regional body.

Minister Humphries said Local Government in the Far West was providing constant good Service and there were too many Federal and State Government agencies providing overlapping services which had not made a difference.

He said Western Local Governments should be elevated to a more regional level and offer one front door for all services- they should take out the other agencies and have one front door. They may like to auspice and facilitate services but this required significant reform.

Western Roads Project

Minister Humphries said 22 Councils had taken part in the Western Roads Project and \$1 billion in funding for some of the identified strategic roads had been made available. There was a 4 billion dollar backlog across NSW and the Government had allocated \$89 million for fixing country roads, a quarter of a billion to the Newell Highway and money for Bush Bridges which was starting to make a difference, about \$500 million was going into country roads.

The Resources for Regions Program which included Cobar and Broken Hill had been a good initiative which had provided much needed infrastructure funds, he said. Water Security was also a major program for the government and it was rolling out new projects to provide potable and emergency water for all communities and raise the level of the systems through the Rural Towns Water and Sewerage Scheme. Three billion dollars had been injected into this fund which had been neglected in the past

Minister Humphries said the Government's Restart NSW Program, which meant selling off unused assets in Newcastle, Wollongong and Sydney had resulted in 30 percent of these funds going to rural communities.

In the western lease holding areas the Government was looking at freehold conversion as the present system had too many impediments to planning and development.

Minister Humphries said he had been aware of the anecdotes about the loss of frontline government employment in the region and had the Public Service Commission keeping an eye on this. He was surprised at the actual figures which had shown an increase in staff employed in Bourke 2012 – 350, 2013- 390, 2014-380. There had been a loss of employment in the rural sector as it became more automated and because of the drought in some regions.

The Minister then took questions from the floor. He was asked about the Local Government Rural Council Model. He said there had been little support for an alternative model and believed that the idea would be dropped.

Western Division Vice President Peter Laird thanked the Minister for attending and addressing the Conference.

Discussion on Fit for the Future

General Manager for Walgett Don Ramsland outlined the discussion held at the recent Western Leaders Group held in Dubbo which was attended by three GMs from Walgett, Wentworth and Broken Hill and State Government Agencies.

The Government said they would be holding separate discussions with non government and aboriginal organisations.

There was some discussion about population shift in the western communities and the Australian Bureau of Statistics had indicated from year 2000 until 2008 population had increased and there had been a slight drop since then. Broken Hill's population had halved from 45,000.

The issue of service delivery, duplication and squandering of funds had been raised again and the government said they were looking for a new approach, and an effective business model. This could only be done if the organisations offering the services banded together for more employment, less duplication, strategic planning and measurable outcomes in a one stop shop approach. A lot of the government agencies were happy to see change.

In the discussion on different models, the Government indicated there was little support for the Rural Council local government model and Mr Ramsland said he understood this was off the table in the Fit for the Future changes.

Mr Ramsland said a Government Western regional paper would be delivered in April/ May, a Far West Summit for all stakeholders would be held in July and an options paper would be delivered in October.

There was some discussion about the role of the Western Division in providing government services and how this would work.

Cr Bob Sinclair said he thought Western Division should come up with a strong business case and ask for ongoing funding to provide the services.

Cr Peter Laird said Local Government was different and he didn't think the Department of Premier and Cabinet saw LG as part of that delivery. He said the western councils would have to try and develop the best business model to defend them.

Don Ramsland said there may be a way of developing an adaptable model, not across all of the Far West but aligning in three groups, Bourke, Walgett and Brewarrina, Central Darling and Broken Hill, Balranald, Wentworth, Carrathool with the ability for other councils to opt in and out of the program delivery.
He suggested GMS work on a model and request funding.

Ross Earl said he believed the Government's Rural Council model was off the table and it would be interesting to see how a model could be developed with a Joint Organisation of Councils woven over the top.

The group agreed that there had to be a long term commitment for government funding to deliver the agency services, the model would focus on the Western Division Councils and they would all remain autonomous.

President of Local Government NSW Keith Rhoades, AFSM

Mr Rhoades said LGNSW had a released their priorities for the State election and these can be found on the LGNSW website <http://www.lgnsw.org.au>

The core themes were:

1. Greater autonomy in governance
2. Autonomy in council revenue raising
3. Fair funding for shared infrastructure and service responsibilities
4. Agreed pathways on voluntary structural reform
5. Mutual positioning on social policy priorities
6. Improved environmental legislation and settings
7. Balanced land use planning

He urged all Councils to fill out their Fit for the Future template and to fight for independence. He also warned Councils not to use the changes as a reason for a restructure.

Internally he said LGNSW was undergoing a major restructure and this would be released soon. The organisation was in a sustainable financial situation. As promised a Rural Summit would be held with the Board and Senior Executive team to hear rural issues at the end of the year.

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Councillor John Medcalf called the proceedings to order for the commencement of the 2015 Annual Conference.

FORMAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS:

STANDING ORDERS:

MOTION: That the standing orders as printed in the business paper be adopted.
Moved Carrathool, Seconded Balranald **CARRIED**

APOLOGIES:

As listed with additions from Cr Paul Phillips, Cr Peter Nunan Wentworth, Tracey Kings
Cobar and Jeff Manning

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.
Moved Brewarrina, Seconded Cobar **CARRIED**

Nominations for the Executive Positions of the Western Division Councils of NSW opened.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

2014 Annual Conference

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2014 Annual Conference held at Hillston on March 2-3,
as distributed, be adopted.
Moved Carrathool, Seconded Balranald **Carried**

Member Resignations

Motion: That the resignation letters from Hay Shire Council and Bogan Shire Council be
accepted with regret.

Moved: Cobar, Seconded Walgett **Carried**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MOTION: That the President's Report be adopted as presented.
Moved Lachlan, Seconded Cobar **CARRIED**

Executive Officers Report:

MOTION: That the Executive Officer's Report, be adopted.
Moved: Moved Carrathool, Seconded Cobar **Carried**

Matters arising –Mid Term Meeting

Motion: That a Mid Term Meeting be held in Cobar on Monday, June, 2015
Moved Cobar, seconded Brewarrina **Carried**

Sydney Seminar

Motion: That a Seminar be held at Parliament House in Sydney on a date to be decided but coinciding with the Local Government NSW Conference which is being held at Rosehill from October 11, 2015

Moved Cobar, Seconded Wentworth

Carried

Conference 2016

Motion: That the 2016 Conference be held in Walgett.

Moved: Walgett, Seconded Bourke

Carried

Sharon Hawke- Assistant Western Lands Commissioner

Crown Land in the Western Division is managed by the Far West Area of Crown Lands, which sits under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, under the Department of Primary Industries in the Government's Trade and Investment Portfolio. It covers 33 million hectares which is 42 % of the state and worth \$11 billion dollars.

The land is used for Economic benefit, Community, Recreation, Preservation of Heritage and Environment.

The Far West Region has 27 staff, 19 in Dubbo, 8 in Broken Hill, Buronga, Bourke, Cobar, Condobolin and Walgett.

Ms Hawke explained that Crown Lands have a wide range of administration responsibilities including transfer of leases, subdivisions, conversions, alteration of lease purposes, compliance and monitoring, granting of leases, access and fencing disputes.

There are over 2,697 Reserves, 767 managed by Councils and Community Trusts and 1,930 have no appointed Trust Manager.

The land is very diverse and includes: showgrounds, racecourses, cemeteries, halls, caravan parks, commons and riverine land.

The NSW Government has undertaken to provide a legal road network in the Western Division to allow for development and conversion to freehold land and to provide certainty of public access, remove liability concerns, reduce trespassers and validate private access arrangements.

There is 20,000 kms to be captured. The Unincorporated Area, Central Darling, Cobar & Bourke have been completed.

Crown lands also inspects annually the 140 Western Land grazing properties to assess land condition, establish photopoints and estimate available forage

The Tibooburra Aerodrome is a responsibility of Crown Lands. It is mainly used by RFDS, SES, Police, and Plague Locust Commission. Crown Land has a budget \$15K annually and it is reliant on external funds.

The Public reserves Management fund provides annual funding for Reserve Trusts for pest and weed control and other infrastructure projects on Crown Reserves.

In 2014/2015 – \$213K was allocated in the Far West Area.

The office has been working on developing an MOU for emergency road repairs across the Division. The MOU will allow Councils access to gravel on Crown land in lieu of a licence.

Statewide Mutual – Executive Officer Naamon Eurell explained why Statewide Mutual was established in 1993 to provide insurance exclusively for local government.