



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

COMMUNIQUÉ

Country Mayors Association of NSW - August General Meeting

The Friday, August 4 meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW was again strongly attended by our members, with more than 110 CMA members representing 84 Regional Councils from across the state.

The meeting held at Parliament House included an agenda packed with presentations from the NSW Government Ministries of Agriculture, Regional and Western NSW, Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Heritage along with the Opposition Shadow Ministries of Agriculture, Regional NSW, Natural Resources, Local Government, Small Business, and an address by the NSW Opposition Leader the Hon Mark Speakman.

CEO of NSW Reconstruction Authority, Mr Simon Draper, explained to our members the history of the authority, along with its functions and delegations under the Minns government. The department is accountable to two State Ministers - the Planning Minister and the Minister for Emergency Services. The authority has four main functions: Prevention, Preparedness, Recovery and Funding. Mr Draper made it very clear that the authority is willing to work with our Councils to gather the local knowledge and benefit from the years of experience.

Also on the agenda were many motions from our members:

- Members voted unanimously to endorse four new members: Cessnock City Council and Wollindilly Shire Council as full voting members; and Newcastle City Council and Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils as associate members.
- Deputy Chairman, Mayor Rick Firman OAM, gave a heartfelt acknowledgment of the outgoing Mayors for their dedication and service to their communities over the many years in office. We thank Mayor Neil Smith from Junee Shire Council, Mayor Ron Campbell from Narrabri Shire Council, and Mayor Peter Abbott from Cobar Shire Council
- Applications were opened for Councils wishing to host a general meeting outside of Parliament House during 2024. They will close on Friday, October 27 at 5pm. Successful Councils will be announced at the AGM in November.
- Members voted unanimously to endorse the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the NSW Rural Doctors Network. The aim of the MoU is to provide a foundation for ongoing cooperation and collaboration activities that support achievements of shared priorities between CMA and RDN.



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- The CMA Budget Priorities document was shared to MPs from the Government, Opposition and Cross bench during the sitting week. The document lists the endorsed position of the top five issues that CMA took to the NSW State election in March, and highlighted the financial commitment needed to deliver the outcomes in the September 19 budget.
- During the last sitting week, a new "NSW Parliamentarian Friends Group" for Local Government was established. As the Chairman of CMA, I was offered the opportunity to attend the first meeting. The intent of the bipartisan "friends group" is to encourage a safe zone for those currently serving in State Government and Local Government from all sides of politics to share conversations that may lead to greater outcomes for Local Government.

For more information, please view our website at nswcountrymayors.com.au.

The next General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW will be our AGM and will be held on Friday, 24 November at 8.30am in the theatrette at Parliament House. Invited speakers include the Premier of NSW, the NSW Treasurer, and the Minister for Local Government, along with the NSW Opposition Leader, Shadow Treasurer, and Leader of the NSW Nationals.

Cr Jamie Chaffey - Chairman

The NSW Opposition Leader the Hon Mark Speakman

The Shadow Local Government Minister the Hon Wendy Tuckerman





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The Minister for Agriculture, Regional and Western NSW

The Hon Tara Moriarty



The CEO of NSW Reconstruction Authority Mr Simon Draper





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Country Mayors new members

Mayor of Wollondilly Shire Council – Matt Gould

Mayor of Cessnock City Council – Jay Savaal

Lord Mayor of City of Newcastle – Nuatali Nelmes

Chairman of REROC – Mayor Rick Firman OAM



For further information, contact Cr Jamie Chaffey on 0467 402 412.