THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

MINUTES

Friday 28th August 2026

A General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc was held in the Theatrette, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney from 8:20 am until 1:00pm. The meeting had a Housing theme.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **The meeting commenced with a welcome from CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM.**

2. **Chair of the NSW Grants Commission Ms. Linda Scott**

Ms Scott discussed how and why the NSW Grants Commission is currently conducting a review of its' FA Grants distribution methodology. She stressed that the Grants Commission has no say on the size of the pool of funds it has to disperse.
Ms Scott acknowledged how much more important FA Grants are in country NSW than in Sydney LGAs. She discussed Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation.

Ms Scott said that the methodology calculated the need for funding, what Councils choose to spend their money on is a matter for them and is not factored in.

Ms Scott said that her first speech as Chair of the NSW Grant Commission was a CMA meeting.

A thank you gift was presented to Ms Scott by CMA Board Member Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire)

3. **Presentation: NSW Office of Local Government Deputy Secretary - Mr. Brett Whitworth PSM**

Mr. Whitworth addressed the code of conduct policy paper. He said that removing the GMs from the politics was important. Unsatisfactory behaviour will see a Councillor judged by a panel of their peers. Complaints will be triaged by the OLG. The time-consuming investigatory process has been cut out.

Mr. Whitworth said that the Expert Advisory Panel has produced some discussion papers, including performance ratios.

Mr. Whitworth said that the OLG will ensure Councils are not impacted by the increase of $240,000 to $2.7mil. in the Federal Disaster Recovery Framework.

On the housing front, he is keen to have contracts for property management with Councils in the regions.

A thank you gift was presented to Mr Whitworth PSM by CMA Board Member Mayor Josh Black (Dubbo Regional Council)

4. Presentation: Homes NSW CEO - Ms Rebecca Pinkstone

Ms Pinkstone has spent two years as CEO of Home NSW. With 100,000 public housing dwellings, it is the largest public housing provider in the southern hemisphere.

Ms Pinkstone said that the average age of public housing is about 60 years old. A State renewal program is underway.

2,200 new homes is the goal of a current modern home program.

Private developers are needed to upscale.

89% of Aboriginal Housing is in the regions. New homes are being built this year for the AHO (Aboriginal Housing Office).

The Key Worker Housing program was described as more a workforce development program. Local businesses are used as much as possible with the building of affordable home projects.

Presentation supplied.

A thank you gift was presented to Ms. Pinkstone by CMA Board Member Mayor Russell Webb (Tamworth Regional Council)

4. Presentation: IPART Chairman - Mr Anthony Wing

Mr. Wing has been in the role of IPART Chairman for nearly two months. In his introduction, Mayor Firman advised Mr Wing that he has big shoes to fill. Former IPART Chair Carmel Donnelly was a regular at CMA meetings.
The CMA was Mr Wing's first speech as Chairman of IPART. He said he had been advised that the CMA was a valuable meeting for an IPART Chair. He said IPART balances your financial sustainability needs with impact on your communities (of a SRV).
He discussed the pressures on Councils to help with housing. Contribution plans are one option. If above $20,000 they have to go via IPART to the Minister but the process is not as onerous as it appears. They can be a source of funding for Councils. Essential works should not be subsidised by the community but the developer. No Contribution Plan from a country Council (in excess of the $20,000 cap) has been reviewed in some time. Members were strongly encouraged to consider submitting higher developer contribution plan to IPART, if appropriate.

Mr. Wing spoke of a focus to speed up IPART's processes.

Byron Shire Mayor Ndiaye described the stressful SRV process and how drainage charges etc should be indexed.

A thank you gift was presented to Mr Wing by CMA Board Member Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire)

5. NSW Opposition Leader, Ms. Kellie Sloane MP

Ms. Sloane announced that an elected Coalition would have a stand-alone Minister for Local Government. She commended the CMA for its relentless advocacy.

She acknowledged that some LGAs are the size of small European countries, without the resources; infrastructure support is necessary. A commitment to have one-quarter of the NSW Infrastructure spend earmarked for rural, remote and regional NSW was reiterated. Ms. Sloane said that ¼ of the population should equate to ¼ of the infrastructure budget.

Ms. Sloane said that she wants more young city people building a home and a life in the country - 50% want this.

The Inland Rail Project was the cancellation of a nation building project that broke promises.

She gave a payroll tax decrease promise; that her Government would raise the threshold from $1.2mil to $1.5mil. Plus, there would be indexation to prevent bracket creep. Policies need to support business growth.
Ms. Sloane also said that reducing red tape and Government interference with businesses would be a priority. Service NSW Next would look at how AI could streamline processes.

The Oppositions plan to have a regional Parliament sitting (if elected) was discussed and the intention that it would be more than a box tick but an effort to listen to the regions.

I don't have the answers but I, we are listening, the Opposition Leader said.

A thank you gift was presented to Ms Sloane by CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM (Temora Shire)

Morning Tea took place in the Fountain Court

6. Presentation: NSW Housing Minister - The Hon Rose Jackson MLC

The Minister said that a strong connection between State and Local Government is so important for addressing the housing challenge. Regional NSW is feeling the pinch.

300 homes are to be completed by the end of the year for essential workers.

Homelessness, now evident in regional communities more and in some cases for the first time is visually evident. Local and State collaboration needed.

The Minister said encouraging longer term homelessness is not ideal but amenities that also serve the needs of seasonal workers has merit.

Members asked about energy savings in new housing, with renewables, plus water security and it's connection with housing capacity.

The Federal fund for housing supporting infrastructure was applauded by Minister Jackson.

The Minister was thanked for opposing water buybacks. She said she has expressed her opposition clearly to Minister Murray Watt.

A thank you gift was presented to Minister Jackson by CMA Deputy Chairman Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick (Bega Valley Shire)

7. **Presentation:** NSW Shadow Housing Minister – The Hon. Chris Rath MLC

Mr. Rath said that population growth is all the more important for regional communities and housing is obviously crucial for that.
Temporary accommodation is also a challenge for industry needs in the regions.

He said housing demand has risen far faster than supply has. Approximately 75,000 new homes are needed in NSW each year and we've been averaging 45,000.
Water, roads and other infrastructure is needed for housing growth and Councils cannot handle that alone. That is why the Coalition has committed at least 25% regional infrastructure guarantee. The cost of enabling infrastructure is insufficient. $5bil, $1.5bil for the regions of that infrastructure promised by the Federal Coalition at the Bush Summit.

A thank you gift was presented to Mr Rath by CMA Board Member Mayor Sue Moore (Singleton Council)

8. Presentation: Argyle Housing CEO - Ms. Carolyn Doherty

Argyle Housing provided a ground-level perspective of social and affordable housing provision.
Ms. Doherty said that regional housing is a passion of hers. Without safe secure housing people miss many opportunities.

Many clients needing social housing have not been in that circumstance long-term.

Affordable housing is another area Argyle Housing is involved in, due to the pressures around housing supply and costs.

Ms. Doherty said she sees a willingness in Local Government to innovate and housing solutions can come through partnerships.

Project with Griffith City Council – where that community had less that 1% vacancy rate and hot bedding was occurring.
Exceptional outcomes, like With BBRF funding, the Griffin Green project was a collaboration between Argyle Housing and Griffith City Council and had exceptional outcomes, according to Ms. Doherty. There were 20 rentals built and a community space developed that is valued by the community.
Ms. Doherty said that Argyle and Council stayed in their respective lanes, in terms of how they contributed to the project and both saw value in the partnership and are proud of the result.

Ms. Doherty encouraged other CMA Members to collaborate with their local social housing providers.

A thank you gift was presented to Ms Doherty by CMA Board Member Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire)

9. Excelling Council Stories – Housing

Byron Shire Council

Mayor Ndiaye said her Council had spent 20 years working on the AirBNB challenge.

No funding to do this but Byron Shire will soon have the data with which to inform others.

Housing for Council workers, essential workers is unaffordable and unavailable, with Airbnb having been a significantly contributing factor.

Post floods temporary housing has been retained.

Short Term Rental Accommodation (STRA), namely AirBnB, became the focus of Byron Shire, with that form of accommodation taking up 17.7% of the housing stock. Byron Shire established a 60-day cap on STRA and detailed how it was achieved and the outcomes.

Presentation supplied.

Forbes Shire Council

Housing shortages were recognised as an inhibitor to Forbes Shire's growth potential.
Gold Ridge was their award-winning initiative.
It consisted of 221 residential blocks. Forbes Shire got $4mil from TCorp.
Mayor Miller said that Forbes only had mum and dad investing until our project triggered larger scale investments. She said Forbes is now the second highest growth area in the Central West.

Mayor Miller also spoke of a financial gap year campaign – encouraging young people to give a country centre a go.

She said Gold Ridge in Forbes showed that Local Government can take a leadership role in stimulating housing investment.

Presentation supplied.

A thank you gift was presented to Mayors Ndiaye and Miller by CMA Board Member Mayor Sam Coupland (Armidale Regional Council)

GENERAL MEETING

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

James Roncon	GM	Armidale Regional Council
Cr. Sam Coupland	Mayor	Armidale Regional Council
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader	Mayor	Ballina Shire Council
Cr. Louie Zaffina	Mayor	Balranald Shire Council
Terry Dodds PSM	CEO	Balranald Shire Council
Cr. Robert Taylor	Mayor	Bathurst Regional Council
David Sherley PSM	GM	Bathurst Regional Council
Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Bega Valley Shire Council
Anthony McMahon	CEO	Bega Valley Shire Council
Mark Griffioen GAICD	GM	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Julia Cornwell McKean	Mayor	Berrigan Shire Council
Cameron Boardman	CEO	Berrigan Shire Council
Grant Baker	GM	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor	Blayney Shire Council
Mark Dicker	GM	Blayney Shire Council
Cr. Lachlan Ford	Mayor	Bourke Shire Council
Leonie Brown	GM	Bourke Shire Council
Cr. Tom Stanton	Mayor	Brewarrina Shire Council
David Kirby	GM	Brewarrina Shire Council
Jay Nankivell	GM	Broken Hill City Council
Cr. Sarah Ndiaye	Mayor	Byron Shire Council
Mark Arnold	GM	Byron Shire Council
Brad Byrnes	GM	Cabonne Council
Cr. Jamie Jones	Deputy Mayor	Cabonne Council
Cr. Bob Stewart	Chairman	Central Darling Shire Council
John Sevil	GM	Central Darling Shire Council
Natasha Walker		Central Darling Shire Council
Meredith Macpherson		Central NSW JO
Kate Barker	EO	Central NSW JO
Gary Fry	Secretariat	CMA
Julie Briggs	Policy Advisor	CMA
Murray Wood	GM	Coffs Harbour City Council
Cr. Dave McCann	Mayor	Coolamon Shire Council
Tony Donoghue	GM	Coolamon Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Keady	Mayor	Coonamble Shire Council
Greg Hill	GM	Coonamble Shire Council
Cr. Abb McCalister	Mayor	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council

Roger Bailey	Interim General Manager	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Cr. Paul Smith	Mayor	Cowra Council
Cr. Josh Black	Mayor	Dubbo Regional Council
Andrew Wilsmore	GM	Dubbo Regional Council
Cr.Digby Rayward	Mayor	Dungog Shire Council
Gareth Curtis	GM	Dungog Shire Council
Cr. Ashley Hall	Mayor	Edward River Council
Jack Bond	CEO	Edward River Council
Mark Ferguson	GM	Eurobodalla Shire Council
Cr. Mathew Hatcher	Mayor	Eurobodalla Shire Mayor
Stephen Dunshea	GM	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM	Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Nick White	Deputy Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Doug Batten	Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
David Neeves	GM	Gilgandra Shire Council
Nick White	Deputy Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Carol Sparks	Deputy Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr. Nina Dillon	Mayor	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Scott Gallacher	GM	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Dena Vlekkert	GM	Greater Hume Council
Cr. Lea Parker	Mayor	Greater Hume Council
Dena Vlekkert	GM	Greater Hume Council
Cr. Colleen Fuller OAM	Mayor	Gunnedah Shire Council
Eric Groth	GM	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr. Tiffany Galvin	Mayor	Gwydir Shire Council
Leeah Daley	GM	Gwydir Shire Council
Sarah Karaitiana	Acting General Manager	Hilltops Council
Cr. Brian Ingram	Mayor	Hilltops Council
Cr. Kate Dight	Mayor	Inverell Shire Council
Brett McInnes	GM	Inverell Shire Council
Bronwen Sandland	Principal Analyst	IPART
Joyce Tapper	Senior Analyst	IPART
Peter Chung		IPART
Cr. Bob Callow	Mayor	Junee Shire Council
Michael Jackson	GM	Junee Shire Council
Cr. Kinne Ring	Mayor	Kempsey Shire Council
Andrew Meddle	CEO	Kempsey Shire Council
Jane Frawley	CEO	Kiama Municipal Council
Cr. Melissa Matters	Deputy Mayor	Kiama Municipal Council
Cr. Danielle Mulholland OAM	Mayor	Kyogle Council
Cr. John Medcalf OAM	Mayor	Lachlan Shire Council
Ian Greenham	GM	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. George Weston	Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Jackie Kruger	GM	Leeton Shire Council
Cr. Darcy Byrne	President	LGNSW
David Reynolds	CEO	LGNSW
Cr. Darcy Byrne	President	LGNSW

David Reynolds	CEO	LGNSW
Cr. Steve Krieg	Mayor	Lismore City Council
Eber Butron	GM	Lismore City Council
Ross Gurney	GM	Lithgow City Council
Cr. Cassandra Coleman	Mayor	Lithgow City Council
Cr. Gail Driscoll	Deputy Mayor	Lockhart Shire Council
Gavin Rhodes	GM	Lockhart Shire Council
Adrian Panuccio	GM	Midcoast Council
Cr. Susannah Pearse	Mayor	Moree Plains Shire Council
	GM	Moree Plains Shire Council
Cr. John Harvie	Mayor	Murray River Council
Cr. Gary Pappin	Councillor	Murray River Council
Cr. Gary Pappin	Councillor	Murray River Council
Cr. Gary Lee	Mayor	Nambucca Valley Council
David Moloney	Acting GM	Nambucca Valley Council
Cr. Darrell Tiemens	Mayor	Narrabri Shire Council
Eloise Chaplain	GM	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr. Neville Kschenka	Mayor	Narrandera Shire Council
Tim Coote	GM	Narrandera Shire Council
Cr. Ewen Jones	Mayor	Narromine Shire Council
Cr. Phil Johnston	Director Community & Economic Development	Narromine Shire Council
Anthony Dickinson	Senior Advisor, Partnerships, Stakeholder Relations & Disaster response	NRMA
Cr. Andrew McKibbin	Mayor	Oberon Council
Gary Wallace	GM	Oberon Council
Anita Gambhir		OLG
Sharne Colefax		OLG
Claudia Brown		OLG
Cr. Tony Mileto	Mayor	Orange City Council
Scott Maunder	CEO	Orange City Council
Cr. Tony Mileto	Mayor	Orange City Council
Scott Maunder	CEO	Orange City Council
Cr. Neil Westcott	Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr. Marg Applebee	Deputy Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Kent Boyd	GM	Parkes Shire Council
Cr. Adam Roberts	Mayor	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Cr. Kenrick Winchester	Mayor	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Rebecca Ryan	GM	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Susan Escott	Acting EO	RAMJO
Emma Avery		RAMJO
Richard Colbran	CEO	RDN
Amy Brown	Chief - Health Enterprises	RDN
Megan Mulrooney	CEO	REROC

Andrew Constance	GM	Shoalhaven City Council
Cr. Peter Wilkins	Acting Mayor	Shoalhaven City Council
Cr. Sue Moore	Mayor	Singleton Council
Cr. Nick Elliott	Councillor	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Cr. Chris Hanna	Mayor	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Noreen Vu	GM	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Cr. Julia Ham	Mayor	Snowy Valleys Council
Jessica Quilty	GM	Snowy Valleys Council
Cr. Russell Webb	Mayor	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Rick Firman OAM	Mayor	Temora Shire Council
Kris Dunstan	Director of Environmental Services	Temora Shire Council
Cr. Bronwyn Petrie	Mayor	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr. Maurice Collison	Mayor	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Greg McDonald	GM	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr. Paul Culhane	Mayor	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Alex Waldron	CEO	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Robert Bell	Mayor	Uralla Shire Council
Toni Averay	GM	Uralla Shire Council
Peter Thompson	GM	Wagga Wagga City Council
Cr. Dallas Tout	Mayor	Wagga Wagga City Council
Cr. Eric Noakes	Mayor	Walcha Council
Cr. Sarah Derrett	Deputy Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Gary Woodman	GM	Warren Shire Council
Cr. Kathryn Rindfleish	Mayor	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr. Paul Best	Mayor	Weddin Shire Council
Matthew Sykes	GM	Weddin Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mayor	Wentworth Shire Council
Ken Ross	GM	Wentworth Shire Council
Cr. Jesse Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Lisa Miscamble	GM	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Stephen Gardiner	Advocacy Manager	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr. Matt Gould	Mayor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr. Jasmin Jones	Mayor	Yass Valley Council
Gayleen Burley	CEO	Yass Valley Council

Apologies

Cr. Steve Allan	Mayor	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Brian Monaghan	Mayor	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Kevin Beatty	Mayor	Cabonne Council
Carrathool Shire Council	GM	Carrathool Shire Council
Cr. Darryl Jardine	Mayor	Carrathool Shire Council
Cr. Ray Smith	Mayor	Clarence Valley Council
Laura Black	GM	Clarence Valley Council
Cr. Nikki Williams	Mayor	Coffs Harbour City Council
Adrian Butler	GM	Federation Council
Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mayor	Federation Council
Bernard Smith	GM	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr. Margot Davis	Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr. Doug Curran	Mayor	Griffith City Council
Scott Grant	GM	Griffith City Council
Cr. Carol Oataway	Mayor	Hay Shire Council
David Webb	GM	Hay Shire Council
Cr. Cameron McDonald	Mayor	Kiama
Cr. Adam Shultz	Mayor	Lake Macquarie City Council
David Hughes	CEO	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cian Middleton	GM	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cr. Ken Cudmore	Mayor	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cr. Claire Pontin	Mayor	MidCoast Council
Cr. Ruth McRae OAM	Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
John Scarce	GM	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr. Patricia White	Mayor	Shoalhaven City Council
Ms Melissa Boxall	GM / Secretary	Temora Shire / CMA
Stephen Parry	GM	Walcha Council
Cr. Greg Whitely	Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Lindsay Mason	GM	Warrumbungle Shire Council

Recommendation: That the apologies be accepted and noted.

Moved by: Mayor Bob Callow (Junee Shire)
Seconded by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire)
– Carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of Minutes from the 8 May 2026 meeting

Recommendation: **That the 8 Mayor 2026 Minutes be accepted as a true record.**
Moved by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire).
Seconded by: Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire)
– Carried unanimously.

3. Matters arising from 8 August 2025 Minutes

Mayor Ndiaye (Byron Shire) asked for CMA advocacy regarding bird costs, such as PPE.

4. CORRESPONDENCE - Since 8 May 2026

Outward

To	Subject
Newcastle Lord Mayor Gavin Morris	Congratulations re his election
Federal Arts Minister, The Hon. Tony Burke MO	National Cultural Policy
NSW Local Government Minister, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	Western Council rep on Expert Advisory Panel
NSW Reconstruction Authority CEO, Ms Kate Fitzgerald	Invitation to Speak at the 2 July Ballina Meeting
NSW Recover Minister, The Hon. Janelle Saffin MP	Invitation to present to the 2 July Ballina meeting
NSW National Leader, Mr. Gurmesh Singh MP	Invitation to present to the 2 July Ballina meeting
NSW Roads Minister, The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP	Invitation to present to the 2 July Ballina meeting
NSW Shadow Regional Roads Minister The Hon. Paul Toole MP	Invitation to present to the 2 July Ballina meeting
Opposition Leader, The Hon Kellie Sloane MP	Seeking stand-alone local government port-folio after the next election
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	Seeking stand-alone local government port-folio after the next election
Federal Local Government Minister, The Hon Catherine King MP	Requesting a meeting regarding the Inland Rail Cessation
Australian Local Government Minister The Hon Kristy McBain MP	Disaster Recovery funding
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	CMA support for RFDS funding
NSW Regional Health Minister the Hon. Ryan	CMA support for RFDS funding

Park	
Newcastle Lord Mayor Gavin Morris	Invitation to upcoming CMA meetings
Dominic Kennedy, Connections Experience Specialist – Essential Energy	Invitation to present to the 2 July Ballina meeting
Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW, The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC	Appreciation for the expansion of The Welcome Experience program to include Local Government
Minister for Lands and Property, The Hon. Stephen Kamper MP	Meeting request re Crown Lands amendments
NSW Environment Minister, The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Requesting a deferral of mandatory FOGO until 2035
NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, The Hon. Paul Scully MP	Invitation to Present at the 28 August 2026 CMA General Meeting
NSW Shadow Minister for Housing, Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces The Hon. Chris Rath MLC	Invitation to Present at the 28 August 2026 CMA General Meeting
Minister for Lands and Property, The Hon. Stephen Kamper MP	Invitation to Present at the 28 August 2026 CMA General Meeting
NSW Minister for Housing The Hon. Rose Jackson MLC	Invitation to Present at the 28 August 2026 CMA General Meeting
CEO - Master Builders Association of NSW Mr. Matthew Pollock	Invitation to Present at the 28 August 2026 CMA General Meeting
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government The Hon. Catherine King MP	Financial Assistance Grants
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	Invitation to the CMA PM dinner on 27 Aug.
Opposition Leader, The Hon Kellie Sloane	Invitation to the CMA PM dinner on 27 Aug.
NSW National Leader, Mr. Gurmesh Singh MP	Invitation to the CMA PM dinner on 27 Aug.
NSW Local Government Minister, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	Invitation to the CMA PM dinner on 27 Aug.
LGNSW President Mayor Darcy Byrne and CEO Mr David Reynolds	Invitation to the CMA PM dinner on 27 Aug.
NSW Grants Commission Chairman Ms Linda	Invitation to the CMA PM dinner on 27 Aug.

Scott	
NSW Legislative Council President, The Hon Ben Franklin	Invitation to the CMA PM dinner on 27 Aug.
Federal Local Government Minister, The Hon Kristy McBain MP	Invitation to the CMA PM dinner on 27 Aug.
CEO of Homes NSW, Ms Rebecca Pinkstone	Invitation to Present at the 28 August 2026 CMA General Meeting
NSW Finance Minister The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC	Invitation to be a guest speaker - 28 August CMA General Meeting and to attend the 27 Aug PM Dinner
NSW Shadow Local Government Minister Mr Tim James MP	Invitation to the 27 August PM Dinner
IPART Chairman Mr Anthony Wing	Invitation to be a guest speaker - 28 August CMA General Meeting
Mr Brett Whitworth PSM,	Invitation to be a guest speaker - 28 August CMA General Meeting and to attend the 27 Aug PM Dinner
NSW Roads Minister, The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP	Invitation to the 27 August PM Dinner
NSW Roads Minister, The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP	Great Western Highway
CNSWJO	Great Western Highway (GWH) – CMA response to advocacy request
NSW Police Minister The Hon Yasmin Catley MP	Invitation to the 27 August PM Dinner
NSW Treasurer The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Invitation to the 27 August PM Dinner
NSW Treasurer The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Invitation to be a guest speaker - 28 August CMA General Meeting
Ms. Steph Cooke MP	Invitation to the 27 August PM Dinner
NSW Treasurer The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Letter of appreciation for the Red Fleet decision
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	Letter of appreciation for the Red Fleet decision
NSW Emergency Services Minister, The Hon Jihad Dib MP	Letter of appreciation for the Red Fleet decision
NSW Local Government Minister, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	Letter of appreciation for the Red Fleet decision
NSW Auditor-General, Mr Bola Oyetunji	Letter of appreciation for the Red Fleet decision

Ms Rebecca Reardon, new President – NSW Farmers	Congratulatory letter
Mr Xavier Martin, outgoing President - NSW Farmers	Commending his service
The Hon Mike Baird AO	Congratulating him as Incoming Group Chief Executive Officer - The NRMA
Forbes Shire Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM	Congratulating and commending NSW Local Government Award recognition
Hilltops Mayor Brian Ingram	Congratulating and commending NSW Local Government Award recognition
Walgett Shire Mayor Jasen Ramien	Congratulating and commending NSW Local Government Award recognition
Lismore City Council Mayor Steve Krieg	Congratulating and commending NSW Local Government Award recognition
Shoalhaven City Council Mayor Patricia White	Congratulating and commending NSW Local Government Award recognition
Narrabri Shire Mayor Darrell Tiemens	Congratulating and commending NSW Local Government Award recognition
Snowy Monaro Regional Council Mayor Chris Hanna	Congratulating and commending NSW Local Government Award recognition
Port Macquarie Hastings Council Mayor Adam Roberts	Congratulating and commending NSW Local Government Award recognition
NSW Water Minister The Hon Rose Jackson MLC	Invitation to present at the 13 Nov. CMA meeting
Prime Minister The Hon Anthony Albanese MP	The Federation Compact
NSW Local Government Minister, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	Crown lands Amendment Bill
Shoalhaven City Council Mayor Patricia White	Well-wishes
Gunnedah Shire Mayor Colleen Fuller OAM	In-principle support for a Domestic Violence forum
Cabonne Council Mayor and CNSWJO Chairman Kevin Beatty	Appreciation for his feedback, acknowledging CMA's work and achievements.

Inwards

From	Note / Action
Waverley Council Mayor Will Nemesh	His Council's position re Code of Meeting Practice and A/V attendance in Council meetings
NSW Treasurer, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Thanking the CMA for support with the State Government's GST Distribution campaign

Federal Arts Minister, The Hon. Tony Burke MO	Response to the CMA letter about rural, remote and regional LG involvement in the National Cultural Policy
Bega Valley Shire Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick	His Council's Crown Lands letter to the Premier
Wingecarribee Council Mayor Jesse Fitzpatrick	Their evidence to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability
RFDS CEO Grag Sam	Thanks for CMA Support
Lake Macquarie City Council Mayor Adam Shultz	Advising of appointment of new CEO Mr David Hughes
NSW Energy Minister, The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Fuel Crisis
Kris Dunstan, Director of Environmental Services, Temora Shire	Proposed statewide Community Participation Plan
NSW Regional Health Minister the Hon. Ryan Park	PFAS costs
Newcastle Lord Mayor Gavin Morris	Thanks the CMA for electoral congratulations
NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, The Hon. Paul Scully MP	Response to CMA correspondence about Local Planning Panels
NSW Local Government Minister, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	Response to CMA Letter re Local Government Financial Sustainability
NSW Local Government Minister, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	Response to CMA letter regarding remote western Council representation in his Expert Advisory Panel
NSW Health Minister The Hon Ryan Park MP	Response to CMA letter encouraging funding for the RFDS
Glen Innes Severn Mayor Margot Davis	Community and Employment Benefit Program – Eligibility of Glen Innes Severn Council
Chairman of Rural Councils Victoria Cr Rob Amos	Letter to ALGA for advocacy for a dedication portion of the Fed. $2Billion Local Infrastructure Fund for rural and remote areas.
Junee Shire Council Mayor Bob Callow	Seeking CMA support in opposing an amendment that change the need for Councils to endorse a new rail crossing to just be consulted with about it.
Broken Hill City Council Mayor Tom Kennedy	Encouraging CMA support for the Regional Banking Investment Alliance campaign
NSW Roads Minister, The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP	Response to the CMA letter about the Waterfall Way
CNSWJO	Seeking CMA Advocacy Support re the GWH
Electoral Commissioner for NSW, Ms. Rachel McCallum	Seeking CMA consultation re principles to govern future costs arrangements for Local Government elections.
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	Response to CMA letter re Local Government Financial Sustainability in NSW
NSW Auditor-General, Mr Bola Oyetunji	Response to CMA letter of appreciation re the Red Fleet

NSW Roads Minister, The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP	The Roads Act Review and CMA's request to expedite the legislation
Temora Shire Council	ESL letter to the CMA
NSW Police Minister The Hon Yasmin Catley MP	Response to the CMA letter re Gun Law reforms
IPART Chairman Mr Anthony Wing	Thanking the CMA for congratulations and accepting invitation to address the 28 Aug. meeting.
Local Govt Association of Qld CEO Alison Smith	Congratulating CMA on proposed Federal Disaster Recovery cuts comments. They are interested in further collaboration.
Upper Hunter Shire Mayor Maurice Collison	Local Government (General) Amendment (Meetings) Regulation 2026 and Council Advocacy Response [briefings]
Cabonne Council Mayor and CNSWJO Chairman Kevin Beatty	Feedback, acknowledging CMA's work and achievements.
Dubbo Regional Council Mayor Josh Black	Seeking support for the re-opening of the Wallerawang to Gwabegar Railway line

Recommendation: **That the correspondence be received and noted.**

Moved by: Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire)

Seconded by: Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire)

– Carried unanimously.

5. MEDIA RELEASES

FEDERATION COMPACT WELCOMED BY NSW COUNTRY MAYORS

NSW COUNTRY MAYORS SLAM FEDERAL PLANS TO REDUCE DISASTER ASSISTANCE

NSW COUNTRY MAYORS WELCOME FRESH START EXTENSION

COUNTRY MAYORS ASK ABOUT THEIR FAIR SHARE OF THE BUDGET

NSW Country Mayors congratulate new Nationals leadership team

Country Mayors draw out political big guns

NSW Country Mayors Welcome Reopening of Inquiry

Country Mayors renew vows with LGNSW

Eugowra people, Cabonne Council honoured for Inland Tsunami response

COUNTRY MAYORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW – A BIG WEEK OF COLLABORATION

CMA backs Dr. McGirr's Rural Health Action Plan

No quick fix for NSW Red Fleet Ownership

NSW Country Mayors react to Bondi shooting

Legislation on Guns and Public Assembly too Rushed

NSW Country Mayors react to new look State Shadow Ministry

VALE DAME MARIE BASHIR

CMA discusses GST Review with NSW Premier and Treasurer

Welcome recognition for country NSW Council luminaries

CMA and NSW Emergency Services Minister progress Red Fleet issue

Emergency Services Levy a NSW Government responsibility

NSW Government drought response a good start

NSW Country Mayors welcome LG Expert Advisory Panel

NSW Premier and Country Mayors brainstorm

NSW COUNTRY MAYORS: TIME FOR NSW TO GET ITS' FAIR SHARE OF THE GST

NSW Country Mayors mourn Ray Donald OAM

Recommendation: **That the media releases be received and noted.**

Moved by: Mayor Kenrick Winchester (Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council)

Seconded by: Mayor Mathew Hatcher (Eurobodalla Shire Shire).

– Carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS

Report from CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted.**
Moved by: Mayor Miller OAM (Forbes Shire)
Seconded by: Mayor Cadwallader (Ballina Shire)

– Carried unanimously.

Finance Report – Ms. Melissa Boxall (CMA Secretary)

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted, as read.**
Moved by: Mayor Adam Roberts (Port Macquarie Hastings Council)
Seconded by: Mayor Nina Dillon (Goulburn Mulwaree Council)
– Carried unanimously

Report from the President of ALGA, Mayor Matt Burnett

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted, as read.**
Moved by: Mayor Miller OAM (Forbes Shire)
Seconded by: Mayor Ndiaye (Byron Shire)
– Carried unanimously.

Report from President of LGNSW – Mayor Darcy Byrne

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted.**
Moved by: Mayor Winchester (QPRC)
Seconded by: Mayor Lea Parker (Greater Hume Council).
– Carried unanimously.

Policy Advisor's Report – Mrs. Julie Briggs

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted and that the recommendations therein be endorsed.**

Moved by: Mayor Miller OAM (Forbes Shire)
Seconded by: Mayor Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire).
– Carried unanimously.

Mayor Paul Culhane (Upper Lachlan) raised the policy concern of data centres "being dumped on the regions,". This was deferred to Urgent Business Without Notice.

Business with Notice

a) CMA Board Recommendation: That the CMA accept NBN's application to become an Associate Member of the CMA.

Moved by: Mayor Callow (Junee Shire).
Seconded by: Mayor Miller OAM (Forbes Shire)

– Carried unanimously.

b) CMA Board Recommendation: That the CMA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) voting be modernised, with the use of Vero Voting (digital voting using smart-phones) to conduct any contested elections at the CMA AGM on Friday 13 November 2026.
Further, that Members endorse the proposed nomination timetable, with nominations opening on Thursday 1 October 2026 and closing at 5.00 pm on Friday 16 October 2026.

Moved by: Mayor Roberts (PMHC).
Seconded by: Mayor Parker (Greater Hume)

– Carried unanimously.

Urgent business without notice

1. Mayor Culhane (Upper Lachlan) initially moved That the CMA advocate for data centre renewable energy needs to be dealt with where they are required in the regions.

Wollondilly Mayor Matt Gould said it is subjective.
Mayor Miller suggested a policy paper be prepared by the Policy Advisor.

Final motion: "That the Policy Advisor be requested to prepare a discussion paper on the implications of the rapid expansion of data centres around NSW and specifically address the concern that the power requirements being met by renewable energy could lead to, if not challenged, even more renewable projects being thrust on already saturated areas of regional NSW rather than in proximity to metropolitan areas where the power is required"

Moved by: Mayor Culhane (Upper Lachlan Shire).
Seconded by: Mayor Miller OAM (Forbes Shire)

– Carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Andrew McKibbin (Oberon Council) moved That the CMA raise concerns regarding the Traffic controls changes relating to increased pilot vehicle requirements (now min. two people).
Further, that the cost implications be investigated and conveyed.
Seconded by: Mayor Callow (Junee Shire).

– Carried unanimously.

Without any further business, Chairman, Mayor Firman OAM declared the CMA General Meeting closed at 12:58 pm

The next CMA meeting will be on **Friday 13 November 2026**, in the NSW Parliament House Theatrette – 8:20am-1:00pm. There will be four core segments:

- A pre-NSW Election Forum
- Water session
- AGM
- General Business

There will be a FOGO Workshop presented in conjunction with Minister Penny Sharpe's Office and the EPA's FOGO team on the afternoon of Thursday 12 November.

NSW Premier The Hon Chris Minns will be our guest speaker for a three-course dinner and drinks at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia on Macquarie Street.