THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

MINUTES

Friday 8th May 2026

A General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc was held in the Theatrette, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney from 8:20am. The meeting had a 'Skill Shortages, Labour Solutions' theme.

The meeting commenced with a welcome from CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM.
Mayor Firman opened the General meeting to allow for an urgent motion in response to the cessation of the Inland Rail Project by the Federal Government. Motion listed.

Attendance

Cr. John Medcalf OAM	Mayor	Lachlan Shire Council
Ian Greenham	GM	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Liam Ley	Deputy Mayor	Dungog Shire Council
Cr. Chris Hanna	Mayor	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Noreen Vu	GM	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Cr. Brian Ingram	Mayor	Hilltops Council
Anthony O'Reilly	GM	Hilltops Council
Cr. Kinne Ring	Mayor	Kempsey Shire Council
Andrew Meddle	CEO	Kempsey Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Keady	Mayor	Coonamble Shire Council
Greg Hill	GM	Coonamble Shire Council
Mick Raby	Acting General Manager	Uralla Shire Council
Cr. Kath Arnold	Deputy Mayor	Uralla Shire Council
Cr. Claire Pontin	Mayor	MidCoast Council
Cr. Margot Davis	Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Bernard Smith	GM	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr. George Weston	Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Jackie Kruger	GM	Leeton Shire Council
Cr. Ruth McRae OAM	Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
John Scarce	GM	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr. Rick Firman OAM	Mayor	Temora Shire Council
Melissa Boxall	GM	Temora Shire Council
Megan Mulrooney	CEO	REROC
Gary Fry	Secretariat	CMA
Cr. Russell Webb	Mayor	Tamworth Regional Council
Paul Bennett	GM	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Jeff Budd	Deputy Mayor	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Kathryn Rindfleish	Mayor	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Lindsay Mason	GM	Warrumbungle Shire Council

Cr. Louie Zaffina	Mayor	Balranald Shire Council
Terry Dodds	CEO	Balranald Shire Council
Cr. Kate Dight	Mayor	Inverell Shire Council
Brett McInnes	GM	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. Wendy Wilks	Councillor	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. Jarrod Marsden	Mayor	Cobar Shire Council
Peter Vlatko	GM	Cobar Shire Council
Cr. Greg Whitely	Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Gary Woodman	GM	Warren Shire Council
Cr. Alan White	Deputy Mayor	Coolamon Shire Council
Tony Donoghue	GM	Coolamon Shire Council
Cr. Ashley Hall	Mayor	Edward River Council
Jack Bond	CEO	Edward River Council
Cr. Jasmin Jones	Mayor	Yass Valley Council
Gayleen Burley	CEO	Yass Valley Council
Ross Gurney	GM	Lithgow City Council
Cr. Cassandra Coleman	Mayor	Lithgow City Council
Brett Stonestreet PSM	EO	Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation
Cr. Ewen Jones	Mayor	Narromine Shire Council
Jane Redden	GM	Narromine Shire Council
Cr. Tiffany Galvin	Mayor	Gwydir Shire Council
Leeah Daley	GM	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mayor	Federation Council
Jo Shannon	Deputy GM	Federation Council
Cr. Colleen Fuller OAM	Mayor	Gunnedah Shire Council
Kelly Stidworthy	Director Corporate Services	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr. Nina Dillon	Mayor	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Scott Gallacher	GM	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Cr. Sarah Ndiaye	Mayor	Byron Shire Council
Mark Arnold	GM	Byron Shire Council
Cr. Neville Kschenka OAM	Mayor	Narrandera Shire Council
Tim Coote	GM	Narrandera Shire Council
Cr. Adam Roberts	Mayor	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Cr. Jim Hickey	Deputy Mayor	Broken Hill City Council
Laura Black	GM	Clarence Valley Council
Cr. Ray Smith	Mayor	Clarence Valley Council
Stephen Dunshea	GM	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Chris Roylance	Deputy Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM	Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Lea Parker	Mayor	Greater Hume Council
Dena Vlekkert	GM	Greater Hume Council
Cr. Paul Best	Mayor	Weddin Shire Council
Matthew Sykes	GM	Weddin Shire Council
Cr. Paul Culhane	Mayor	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Alex Waldron	CEO	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Tony Mileto	Mayor	Orange City Council
Scott Maunder	CEO	Orange City Council
Cr. Marg Applebee	Deputy Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr. Julia Cornwall McKean	Mayor	Berrigan Shire Council
Cr Catherine Healy	Councillor	Berrigan Shire Council

Cameron Boardman	CEO	Berrigan Shire Council
Cr. Dallas Tout	Mayor	Wagga Wagga City Council
Jonathan Malota	Policy Advisor – Transport & Data	NRMA
Brad Byrnes	GM	Cabonne Council
Cr. Jamie Jones	Deputy Mayor	Cabonne Council
Stephen Gardiner	Advocacy Manager	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr. Mayor Gould	Mayor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr. Darrell Tiemens	Mayor	Narrabri Shire Council
Eloise Chaplain	GM	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Bega Valley Shire Council
Anthony McMahon	CEO	Bega Valley Shire Council
Cr Melissa Matters	Deputy Mayor	Kiama Municipal Council
Jane Stroud	CEO	Kiama Municipal Council
Cr. Paul Smith	Mayor	Cowra Council
Paul Devery	GM	Cowra Council
Cr. Peter Sharp	Mayor	Lockhart Shire Council
Cr. Sue Moore	Mayor	Singleton Council
Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr	GM	Singleton Council
Roger Bailey	Interim GM	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor	Blayney Shire Council
Mark Dicker	GM	Blayney Shire Council
Cr. John Harvie	Mayor	Murray River Council
Stacy Williams	CEO	Murray River Council
Grant Baker	GM	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Lisa Minogue	Deputy Mayor	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Nick White	Deputy Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
David Neeves	GM	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Jesse Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Lisa Miscamble	GM	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Mark Griffioen	GM	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Leah Anderson	Mayor	Port Stephens Council
Cr. Eric Noakes	Mayor	Walcha Council
Stephen Parry	GM	Walcha Council
Cr. Des Kennedy	Mayor	Mid-Western Regional Council
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader	Mayor	Ballina Shire Council
Cr. Mathew Hatcher	Mayor	Eurobodalla Shire Mayor
Cr. Patricia White	Mayor	Shoalhaven City Council
Andrew Constance	CEO	Shoalhaven City Council
Cr. Julia Ham	Mayor	Snowy Valleys Council
Jessica Quilty	GM	Snowy Valleys Council
Cr. Trina Thomson	Councillor	Snowy Valleys Council
Cr. Robert Taylor	Mayor	Bathurst Regional Council
Robert Fish	GM	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Cr. Robert Mustow	Mayor	Richmond Valley Council
Vaughan Macdonald	GM	Richmond Valley Council
Kate Barker	EO	Central NSW JO
Meredith Macpherson	Manager of Water & Regional Development	Central NSW JO
Katie McDonell	Community Solutions Manager	RDN
Hamdy Amrizal	Program Lead, Knowledge Mobilisation	RDN

Zoe Honeysett	Director, Apprentices & Trainees Program	OLG
Louise Taylor	Council Engagement Manager	OLG
Katrina Annis-Brown	Council Engagement Manager	OLG
Cr. Susannah Pearse	Mayor	Moree Plains Shire Council
Natasha Cowley	GM	Moree Plains Shire Council
Cr. Lachlan Ford	Mayor	Bourke Shire Council
Leonie Brown	GM	Bourke Shire Council
Cr. Josh Black	Mayor	Dubbo Regional Council
Cr. Steve Krieg	Mayor	Lismore City Council
Cr. Jeri Hall	Deputy Mayor	Lismore City Council
Cr. Katie Graham	Deputy Mayor	Oberon Council
Gary Wallace	GM	Oberon Council
Cr. Bronwyn Petrie	Mayor	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr. Darcy Byrne	President	LGNSW
David Reynolds	CEO	LGNSW
Bronwen Regan		LGNSW

Apologies

Cr. Digby Rayward	Mayor	Dungog Shire Council
Gareth Curtis	GM	Dungog Shire Council
David Webb	GM	Hay Shire Council
Cr. Carol Oataway	Mayor	Hay Shire Council
Cr. Kenrick Winchester	Mayor	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Rebecca Ryan	GM	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Luke Ryan	GM	Dubbo Regional Council
Eric Groth	GM	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr. Sam Coupland	Mayor	Armidale Regional Council
Cr. Adam Shultz	Mayor	Lake Macquarie City Council
Tony Farrell	CEO	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr. Danielle Mulholland OAM	Mayor	Kyogle Council
Cr. Abb McCalister	Mayor	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Cr. Cameron McDonald	Mayor	Kiama Municipal Council
Adrian Butler	GM	Federation Council
Brad Cam	GM	Mid-Western Regional Council
Cr. Maurice Collison		Upper Hunter Shire Council
Greg McDonald	GM	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Ken Cudmore	Mayor	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cian Middleton	GM	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mayor	Wentworth Shire Council
Ken Ross	GM	Wentworth Shire Council
Cr. Bob Callow	Mayor	Junee Shire Council
Jay Nankivell	GM	Broken Hill City Council
Cr. Brian Monaghan	Mayor	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Steve Allan	Mayor	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Kevin Beatty	Mayor	Cabonne Council
Cr. Dave McCann OAM	Mayor	Coolamon Shire Council

Recommendation: that the apologies be accepted and noted.

Moved by Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire). Seconded by Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire). Carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of Minutes from 27 March 2026 meeting
Recommendation: that the 27 March 2026 Minutes be accepted as a true record

Moved by Mayor Kate Dight (Inverell Shire). Seconded by Mayor Jasmin Jones (Yass Valley Council). Carried unanimously.

4. Matters arising from 27 March 2026 Minutes

Nil

5. Urgent Inland Rail Motion

That the CMA Board make urgent representations to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon Catherine King MP:

1. To express NSW CMA's disappointment in the cessation of the Inland Rail Project.

2. To seek urgent clarification on the next steps in relation to the scaling back of the project.

3. To seek appropriate compensation and support measures for contractors, businesses and councils that have incurred significant sunk costs and undertaken substantial planning and investment in preparation for the project.

4. To seek clarification on how impacted rural, remote and regional communities in NSW, and associated planned infrastructure and economic development opportunities, will be supported moving forward.

5. That a delegation of affected NSW Country Mayors Association Mayors seek an urgent meeting with Minister King to discuss the impacts of the project's cessation on regional communities, councils and local economies.

Moved by Mayor Ewen Jones (Narromine Shire). Seconded by Mayor Darrell Tiemens (Narrabri Shire). Carried unanimously.

General Meeting Suspended

Presentations

CMA Chairman Mayor Firman presented immediate past Chairman, Emeritus Mayor Mr. Jamie Chaffey MP with a badge, honouring him as a CMA Patron.
Mayor Firman said that the CMA is a strong and politically influential representative body because of the work of our recent leaders and it's important to acknowledge that.
Mr Chaffey said this honour and role is a privilege he is proud of, "as is representing your interests in Canberra".

Presentation: NSW Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, the Hon. Steve Whan MP

We have worked hard to put TAFE back in the heart of the skills sector of NSW. There has been a 23% increase to TAFE's budget since we came into Government. Importantly, 87% of TAFE teachers are now permanent, which is a big increased and a real positive. I am proud that there is about $23Bil in the skills budget.
The NSW State nominated skilled migration programs continue to bring much needed skills into our regions from overseas.

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

Presentation: NSW Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Mr. Justin Clancy MP
Young people are lacking career confidence.
Our apprentice numbers are at their lowest since 2020.
Only about half of our apprentices complete their training. It is not just a funding issue; it's a system design issue.

A thank-you gift was presented to Mr. Clancy by CMA Board Member, Mayor Russell Webb (Tamworth Regional Council).

Presentation: The Welcome Experience
Mr. Craig Jenkins (Acting Executive Director, Regional Economic Delivery), DPIRD
The Welcome Experience is a free personalised settlement support program, established in 2023, in responses to essential worker shortages.
Local connectors help individuals and their families with holistic settlement, including housing, partner employment and education. 88 LGAs are now included and funding has been extended for a further 12 months. 3,400 essential workers have been supported as of this week. Over 6,000 people in total supported in regional NSW.

[Presentation supplied to members]

A thank-you gift was presented to Mr. Jenkins by CMA Board Member, Mayor Sue Moore (Singleton Council).

Presentation: Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) South Eastern Section CEO Mr. Greg Sam

There are 1.8mil people in the RFDS safety net. The 90th anniversary is occurring later in May.
Community interest is at our core, as should be the case for any charity. Not just emergency but also, dental and mental health services.
RFDS has a training role.
Value of the Service is calculated at $11 Billion over 10 years.
We continue to advocate for core funding. I ask for your help and support, calling on the NSW Government for $15mil in funding. Your valuable contribution will make a difference.

A thank-you gift was presented to Mr. Sam by CMA Board Member, Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire).

Presentation: CSU Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Renée Leon
- on the importance of Regional Universities in NSW

What keeps you up at night is what to do if you lose your last doctor or nurse. Regional universities are key to addressing those challenges. It's a deliberate pipeline.
Regional NSW is expected to grow by 600,000 by 2045. Nearly 80% of our graduates go on work and live in regional – about -7,500 in the last year.
It costs more to run a regional university. The regional loading does not cover it. Cost of delivery is 12-25% higher but regional loading is about 3%.
Our struggles are your struggles. We seek your support.

A thank-you gift was presented to Prof. Leon by CMA Board Member, Mayor Josh Black (Dubbo Regional Council).

MORNING TEA in Fountain Courtyard – this valued networking opportunity had a colour boost, thanks to RFDS photo booths.

Before proceedings recommenced, Members held up signs of support for the RFDS for photo.

Presentation: Office of Local Government Deputy Secretary, Mr. Brett Whitworth PSM

Over 1,000 people into the Local Government sector thanks to the $252mil Fresh Start for Local Government program. Funding 1,300 cadetships, apprenticeships and trainees. Also to fund workforce capacity and capabilities. 15% / 100 Aboriginal people employed through the program.
91% of NSW Councils have said they experience skill shortages.

Talk to Zoe Honeysett - Director, Apprentices & Trainees Program, about the Fresh Start program.

Supervisor workshops are coming up.
Electric vehicle upskilling, including Council mechanics – important, given the fuel price crisis.
Grant apps round 4 open mid-year.

A thank-you gift was presented to Mr. Whitworth by CMA Board Member, Mayor Phyllis Miller (Dubbo Regional Council).

Chairman of the NSW Grants Commission Ms Linda Scott gave an impromptu talk, with which she foreshadowed visits to the regions to gather input on a new formula for FAGs distribution. Initial dates:

- 6 August - Queanbeyan
- 14 August – Coffs Harbour
- 13 September - Maitland
- 14 September - Griffith
- 15 September - Dubbo
- 16 September - Webinar

Members requested further visits to the west of the Newell Highway, such as Cobar and it was taken on notice.

Chairman, Mayor Firman asked Mayor Colleen Fuller (Gunnedah Shire) what her OAM meant to her.
Speaking from the heart, Mayor Fuller said 'It is about a team, our community.'.

LGNSW President Darcy Byrne commended Mayors who presented at the summit and requested suggestion for the next summit.

Presentation: NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP

I appreciate the opportunity to address this conference. Thanks to Rick and all of you. I am indebted to you for the local expertise you provide, especially through the Premier's Rural, Remote and Regional Advisory Council (PRRRAC).

It is a steep learning curve after 12 years out of Government and we genuinely appreciate the guidance from Rick and the CMA.

I only received the drought resilience report from Dr. Colbran yesterday, so I haven't read it yet. We are going to digest that report. With over 60% of the State in drought, it is timely.

In emergencies, politics takes a back seat, especially in country Council areas. You do it for the love of your community. It's genuine civic leadership.

Mayor Firman: Invest in Us - your position?
A: I'm in favour of the 1% and always have been. It is/would be money well spent.

We need your help re GST distribution. We need a statewide campaign.
We (in NSW) now receive 83c for every dollar we send to Canberra. Victoria receives $1.07. - an additional $1.5bil. plus. The WA Government is rolling cash. They just gave everyone there $700.

GENERAL MEETING RESUMES

Correspondence (since 26 March, 2026)

Outwards

To	Subject
The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP Prime Minister of Australia	Inequitable GST Distribution
The Hon. Steve Whan MP Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Parliament of NSW	Invitation to Speak at the 8 May Meeting
Mr. Brett Whitworth PSM Deputy Secretary, Local Government NSW Office of Local Government	Invitation to Speak at the 8 May Meeting
Mr. Justin Clancy MP NSW Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education	Invitation to Speak at the 8 May Meeting
Mr Ron Dowell	Condolences for the passing of his late wife, former NSW Local Government icon, Jenny Dowell OAM

The Hon. Yasmin Catley MP, NSW Police Minister	Gun law reforms – CMA consultation
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	PFAS costs
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	The need for State and Federal Governments to appreciate the Local Government Financial Sustainability struggle
NSW Treasurer, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	PFAS costs
NSW Treasurer, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	The need for State and Federal Governments to appreciate the Local Government Financial Sustainability struggle
NSW Treasurer, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	GST Distribution and the CMA Federal Submission
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	GST Distribution and the CMA Federal Submission
NSW Minister for Local Government, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	The need for State and Federal Governments to appreciate the Local Government Financial Sustainability struggle
NSW Minister for Water, The Hon Rose Jackson MLC	PFAS costs
NSW Planning Minister, The Hon Paul Scully MP	Councillor Representation on Local Planning Panels
Emeritus Mayor Ken Keith Emeritus Mayor Jamie Chaffey MP Emeritus Mayor Katrina Humphries	Notification of their CMA Patron status
Newcastle Lord Mayor Gavin Morris	Congratulating him on his election
Federal Minister for the Arts, The Hon Tony Burke MP	National Cultural Policy: Representation from Regional Australia and Local Government
NSW Minister for Local Government, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	Advocating for the inclusion of a member of the Western Division of Councils in his Expert Advisory Panel.

Inwards

From	Note / Action
Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye	Request for urgent lobbying to oppose the current version of the Crown Land Management Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill
Bourke Shire Council Mayor Lachlan Ford	CC'd Ministerial request for small business assistance due to the fuel crisis impacts.
Mr. Jamie Chaffey Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories. Shadow Assistant Minister for Resources	Introducing himself in his latest roles.
Mr. Luke Sloane, Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Health	Thanking the CMA for input into the NSW Health Multipurpose Health Service Strategy
NSW Planning Minister the Hon Paul Scully	Response to CMA planning reforms correspondence.
NSW Emergency Services Minister the Hon Jihad Dib MP	Response to CMA correspondence re the Government's response to the Red Fleet Inquiry
Gabby Taylor RBIA Coordinator Registered Lobbyist	Regional Banking Investment Alliance update re campaign - a cost sharing model, where big banks whose branch investment in regional areas falls short continue to support regional communities, either directly by opening branches, or through funding.
Waverley Council Mayor Will Nemesh	Notifying CMA of his Council's position re the Code of Meeting Practice and the rules against remote participation.
NSW Treasurer, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Thanking CMA for our letter and collaboration re GST Distribution and the Federal Review.

Recommendation: That the correspondence be received and noted.

Moved by Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire). Seconded by Mayor Colleen Fuller. (Gunnedah Shire). Carried unanimously.

MEDIA RELEASES

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 Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire). Seconded by Mayor Cheryl Cook (Federation Council). Carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Report from CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM

The Chairman thanked members for their support of the Invest In Us campaign. He also discussed the

Mayor Julia Ham said she would like the PRRRAC report to advocate that drought be considered a natural disaster.

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted.**
Moved by: Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire Council).
Seconded by: Mayor John Harvie (Murray River Council)

– carried unanimously.

Finance Report – Ms. Melissa Boxall (CMA Secretary)

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted, as read.**
Moved by: Mayor Paul Smith (Cowra 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 Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire Council).
Seconded by: Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire)
– carried unanimously.

Report from President of LGNSW – Mayor Darcy Byrne

Mayor Byrne spoke to his report:

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted.**
Moved by: Mayor Louie Zaffina (Balranald Shire).
Seconded by: Mayor Nina Dillon (Goulburn Mulwaree 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 Sue Moore (Singleton Council).
Seconded by: Mayor Russell Webb (Tamworth Regional Council).
– carried unanimously.

Recommendation: That the recommendations contained in the Policy Advisor's Report be adopted.
Moved by: Mayor Cheryl Cook (Federation Council).
Seconded by: Mayor Julia Ham (Snowy Valleys Council).
– carried unanimously.

Business with Notice

CMA Board Recommendations:

That the CMA have a position of support and welcoming hospitality for people of all faiths and different cultural backgrounds in rural, remote and regional NSW. Further, that this position be promoted.

Moved by: Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire)
Seconded by: Mayor Paul Culhane (Upper Lachlan Shire)
– carried unanimously.

That the CMA Members endorse the Board's motions of support for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)

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

Urgent business without notice

Nil

Without any further business, Chairman, Mayor Firman declared the CMA General Meeting closed at 12:50 pm

A tutorial on accessing the data from the CMA-RDN Rural Health Access Survey for those who can stay on was conducted by CMA Policy Advisor Mrs Julie Briggs, RDN Community Solutions Manager Mrs Katie McDonell and RDN Health Data Analyst and Program Lead Mr Hamdy Amrizal.

The next CMA meeting will be in Ballina on 2 July 2026.

Theme: Roads, Transport and Disaster Recovery