

Office Bearers

As at Close of Conference June 2009

Patrons

Cr B Bott AM	Mr JD Mackay OAM
Mr AF Fifield AM	Mr W Mitchell AM
Mr JG Hawley OAM	Cr Chris Vardon OAM
Mr AJA Mack OAM	Mr J Wearne AM
Mr EH Woods MBE	Cr Mike Montgomery AM
Cr Phyllis Miller OAM	

President

Cr Bruce Miller

Vice President (Senior)

Cr Ray Donald
(C Division)

Vice President (Junior)

Cr Janet Hayes
(A Division)

Vice President General

Cr Colin Sullivan OAM

Treasurer

Cr Paul Braybrooks (G Division)

Executive members

Cr Adam Marshall	(B Division)	Cr Lindsay Renwick	(F Division)
Cr Maria Woods	(D Division)	Cr Chris Manchester	(H Division)
Cr Ken Keith	(E Division)	Cr Raymond Longfellow	(J Division)

Secretary General

Mr Bill Gillooly AM

09 - Narrabri and B Division***Mining in Agricultural Zones**

That the Shires Association seek a commitment from the State Government that any Development Applications for Long Wall Mining in land zoned for Agriculture, under a Council's LEP, be permitted to be considered by that Council under the provisions of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act. Further, if the commitment is not given and the State Government maintains its ability to 'call up' a DA of this nature as an item of 'state significance', that the Shires Association review its recent campaign 'to keep planning local and should use the full force of the 1979 EP&A. Act to support that council's continuing use of agricultural land under the Deposited Plan (DP) of those properties.

10 - Cabonne and E Division *State Assistance for Regional Solutions to Waste Management

That the Shires Association lobby the State Government to provide funding for Councils or voluntary regional waste groups to carry out Strategic Reviews on options available for Regional Solutions to Waste Management.

11 - Bogan and C Division***Catchment Management Authority Chair**

That the Shires Association contact the Minister and State Opposition to have the Chair of the thirteen Catchment Management Authorities elected by the members of the board and not appointed by the Minister.

12 - Castlereagh-Macquarie County and C Division***Noxious Weed Funding**

That the Shires Association make representation to the Minister for Primary Industries requesting noxious weed funding be allocated earlier.

13 - Warrumbungle and C Division***Recycling**

LOST

14 - Gilgandra and C Division***Weather Stations**

That the Shires Association of NSW make further representations to the Federal Government to review locations of radar weather stations and establish a new station in central NSW.

15 - Gloucester and D Division***Mining Exploration Leases**

That the Shires Association request that the State Government implement the following mining related matters:

- That no mining or mining exploration be permitted within the Scenic Protection Zone and Rural Village or Urban Residential Zones of any LEP of any Council;
- That where there is competing interest between the extraction of gas and coal over the same area, then the principal factor in considering these competing interests be the impact on the environment rather than the economic benefit to the State, and
- That the protection of agriculture and water be considered and evaluated as part of the assessment of mining development applications and in this regard agriculture be included in the State Plan.

16 - Dungog and D Division***Underground Petroleum Storage Regulation**

The Association make representation to the Department of Environment and Climate Change to put in place no interest or low interest loans to fuel operators to implement the Underground Petroleum Storage Regulations.

The Association makes representation to the NSW Government that the mandate for the regulations to be administered by Local Government in May, 2012, is another unfunded cost shift to Local Government.

28 - Parkes and E Division***Local Government Financial Services**

That the Shires Association note that the Local Government Financial Service marketed an investment product to at least 15 Councils which failed, resulting in losses of millions of dollars in principal and interest payments to those Councils and that the Association offer strong support to those Councils attempting to reclaim the funds.

29 - Warrumbungle and C Division***Councils' Investments Policies**

That the Shires Association strongly object to the State Government at the criticism levelled at Local Government regarding the Councils' investments policies which in all cases met the minimum requirements of the state government's guidelines.

30 - Carrathool and F Division***Effect of Fair Value Infrastructure Assets**

That the Shires Association request that the Department of Local Government (DLG) in conjunction with the Local Government Accounting Advisory Group (LGAAG) re-evaluate the medium and long term consequences on rural councils (and their ratepayers) in having to achieve a zero or better Operating Surplus (before capital income) – particularly when regard is given to the recent DLG requirement to Fair Value Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment assets on an ongoing basis (i.e. the funding of depreciation).

31 - Gunnedah and B Division***Request For Water And Sewerage Unit**

That the Shires Association write to the Minister for Water, Rural Affairs and Regional Development, requesting the establishment and funding of a "Water and Sewerage Unit" within the Department of Water and Energy resourced with staff with financial, engineering, strategic planning and legal expertise to advise Council in the establishment of alternative management structures and their ongoing operation.

32 - Leeton and F Division***Water Allocations and Water Buy Back Plan**

That the Shires Association of NSW be requested to make representations to the State and Federal Governments to ensure that details of all water licences being traded in and out of a council area, or purchased under the Water Buy Back Plan, are provided to the respective Councils.

33 - Carrathool, F Division and J Division***Ad Hoc Purchases of Rural Properties/ Water Buy Backs**

That the Shires Association makes representations objecting to the ad hoc purchasing of rural properties and attendant water licences (by either the Federal or State Government) without conducting a detailed cost/benefit analysis of the action.

34 - Jerilderie and F Division***Accelerated Water Buyback**

That the conference congratulates Water Minister Costa for his action to place an embargo on environmental water trading and urge him to seek, with the Federal Government, a more equitable solution to guarantee the long term future of our rural communities.

That the Shires Association advise the Federal and NSW State Governments that it fully supports RAMROC's Water4Food Australia Campaign, which aims to assist Governments in achieving a sensible and workable balance of available water resource in our region, which will satisfy the need for food security and production in a world of ever increasing population as well as the environment, and at the same time help to ensure the long term sustainability of our region and its communities.

35 - Jerilderie and F Division***Adaptive Environmental Water Management**

That the Shires Association request that the state government give the Catchment Management Authorities in NSW responsibility for adaptive environmental water in their respective valleys as a matter of policy.

46 - Warren and C Division***Rateable Land - Government Purchases**

That the Shires Association lobby both State Government and Federal Government to ensure that land purchased by National Parks, Wildlife Service or Government Agencies retain its rateable status.

47 - Greater Hume and G Division***Calculation of Workers Compensation Premiums**

That the Shires Association of NSW lobby the Workcover Authority of NSW to publish Insurance Premium Orders in April each year so as to allow for more accurate budgeting of workers compensation premiums.

48 - Corowa and G Division***Fruit Fly**

That the Shires Association of NSW make representation to the State Government to accept their responsibility and provide sufficient funding for the control of fruit fly throughout the State.

**49 - Leeton and F Division
Contributions*****Rural Fire Service (RFS) and State Emergency Service (SES)**

That the Shires Association of NSW make representations to the State Government promoting the introduction of a broad based property levy for the funding of emergency services.

50 - Warren and C Division***Population Decentralisation**

That the Shires Association lobby both State and Federal Governments to provide incentives to deter further growth in highly populated, over stressed infrastructure areas, in favour of existing centres with existing and adequate infrastructure already in place.

51 - Cabonne and E Division***Rural Railway Branch Lines**

That the Shires Association continue its objection to the closure of rural railway branch lines and seek a commitment from both sides of politics that no further branch lines will be closed without a socio-economic study and input from local communities.

52 - Coonamble and C Division***Heavy Vehicle Inspections Stations**

That the Shires Association of NSW make representation to the Minister for Transport seeking assurances that heavy vehicle inspections stations not meeting the utopian requirements now sought will not be withdrawn from small rural towns currently serviced.

53 - Warren and C Division***Foot and Mouth Disease Virus**

WITHDRAWN

54 - Snowy River***Introduction of a Holiday Lettings Rating Sub-Category**

That the Shires Association lobby the Department of Local Government for an amendment to the Local Government Act to legally enable properties which can be used for short term accommodation i.e. holiday lettings to be categorised other than "residential general" i.e. either a separate sub-category of "residential" or "farmland", or as sub category of the "business" category.

55 - Parkes and E Division***Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Funding**

That the Shires Association congratulate the Prime Minister and his Government for the release of funds for local infrastructure projects and respectfully seek a continuation of the Regional and Local Community infrastructure programme.

That Shires Association lobby future funding to be allocated in a fair and equitable way.

66 - Boorowa and H Division***Closure of Police Radio Station Wagga Wagga**

That the H Division lodge its objection to the closure of the Police Radio Communications facility at Wagga Wagga with the Minister Tony Kelly.

Refer this matter to the Shires Association and request that the Association Lobby the Government objecting to the closure of this facility.

67 - Cootamundra and G Division***Closure of Police Radio Office at Wagga Wagga.**

That the Shires Association lodge its objection to the closure of the Police Radio Communications facility at Wagga Wagga with the Minister for Police, and seek to have the intended closure postponed pending a review of the proposal.

68 - Coonamble and C Division***Police Matters**

That the Shires Association of NSW support local "C" Division Shires who have sought "special remote" classification for policing services by engaging the Minister for Police and seek a solution from the Attorney General on the incarceration of repeat offenders".

69 - Corowa and G Division***Police Matters**

That the Shires Association of NSW make representation to the Minister for Police and the Police Association to investigate changing legislation to enable police to have more power when carrying out their duties in respect to minor misdemeanours.

70 - Gilgandra and C Division***CCTV Cameras**

That the Shires Association of NSW lobby the State Government to provide funding assistance to rural Councils to assist with the installation of CCTV cameras for central business districts.

71 - Bogan and C Division***Cobb & Co Coach Syllabus**

That the Shires Association make further representations to the Minister for Education and State Opposition to have the Cobb & Co Coach syllabus become a mandatory part of NSW history taught in schools.

72 - Narrabri***Liquor Outlets**

That the Shires Association lobby the State Government for the compulsory requirement for all liquor licensees to be active members of the locally established Liquor Accord.

73 - Bogan***Daylight Saving**

That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government and Coalition to have daylight saving wound back to be held during the months of November until February as part of their policy platform for the next State Election.

74 - The Executive***Addition to the Association Policy on Cultural Planning & Development**

That the Association add the following point to existing policy:

Local Government: understands that local creative practice and pursuits by artists and others in communities is central to cultural policy making.

75 - The Executive***Culture and Tourism**

That the Association advance and promote the value of local distinctiveness to State Government and member councils, particularly as it applies to tourism, arts and cultural initiatives.

86 - Gwydir***Local Government (Review of Legislative Proposals)**

That the conference calls on the member for the NSW State seat of Northern Tablelands to reintroduce his Bill entitled 'Local Government (Review of Legislative Proposals)'.

Further that the Local Government and Shires Association actively promote and support the Bill when it is tabled before the NSW Parliament for consideration.

87 - Clarence Valley***Code of Conduct**

That the Association make representations to the New South Wales Government to amend Clause 13 of the 'The Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW' to enable independent initial assessment of complaints under the Code and remove such responsibility from the General Manager of Council.

L01 - Moree Plains***Insurance Legislation**

That the Shires Association request that State and Federal Governments enact legislation to prevent the current situation that allows insurance companies to pay the insured person an amount less than the insured value of a fire or storm damaged building as a "cash out" agreement.

That an amount of 10% of the insured value or \$25,000.00 indexed annually, whichever is the greater, be withheld until the damaged property has been rebuilt or demolished and left in a clean and tidy manner.

That Local Government is given the authority to ensure Insurance Companies carry out their responsibilities. That Local Government is given the authority to enter properties to make damaged properties safe and recover cost from the insurance company involved.

**L02 - Weddin and Parkes
(Division B)*****Council Contributions to Defined Benefits Superannuation Scheme**

That the Shires Association on behalf of its member Councils express to the LGSA Directors on the Local Government Superannuation Scheme Board its extreme disappointment at:-

- i) the decision to markedly increase councils' contributions for the Defined Benefits Scheme
- ii) the lack of consultation with councils until after the decision had been made
- iii) the lack of detailed information that has been provided to justify the increase
- iv) the poor financial management displayed by the Board
- v) the inappropriate remarks made by the CEO of LGSS

Further that the Local Government and Shires Associations provide to member Councils detailed charts showing the related entity relationships which exist between:

- * the Associations
- * the Local Government Superannuation Scheme
- * local Government Financial Services
including details of Directors, Executive Directors (if any) and Company Secretaries for each Board.

And further that the Shires Association seek an independent inquiry to:

- ascertain if the prudential standards of APRA and the guiding principles of ASIC in relation to the fitness and propriety of the Board were implemented by way of Policy, Training and Decision Making, particularly in relation to decisions taken covering the said related entities.
- examine the causes of the large cost increases to Councils in relation to the Defined Benefits Fund.
- investigate the full details of the Rembrandt CPDO purchase from LGFS, and any associated losses, and ascertain why this was purchased by the Defined Benefits Scheme.

Association membership

As at March 2009

- A** **Local councils:** Ballina; Bellingen; Kempsey; Kyogle; Nambucca; Richmond Valley; Tweed.
County councils: Far North Coast; Richmond River
Associate: Clarence Valley
- B** **Local councils:** Glen Innes Severn; Gunnedah; Guyra; Gwydir; Inverell; Liverpool Plains; Moree Plains; Tenterfield; Uralla; Narrabri
County council: New England Weeds
Associate: Armidale Dumaresq
- C** **Local councils:** Bogan; Coonamble; Gilgandra; Narromine; Walgett; Warren; Warrumbungle; Wellington
County council: Castlereagh-Macquarie
Associate: Dubbo
- D** **Local councils:** Dungog; Gloucester; Singleton; Upper Hunter; Walcha
Associate: Tamworth
- E** **Local councils:** Blayney; Cabonne; Cowra; Forbes; Lachlan; Oberon; Parkes; Weddin
County councils: Central Tablelands; Upper Macquarie
Associates: Orange; Bathurst Regional; Mid-Western Regional, Lithgow
- F** **Local councils:** Berrigan; Carrathool; Conargo; Deniliquin; Griffith; Hay; Jerilderie; Leeton; Murray; Murrumbidgee; Narrandera; Wakool
County council: Central Murray
- G** **Local councils:** Bland; Coolamon; Cootamundra; Corowa; Greater Hume; Gundagai; Junee; Lockhart; Temora; Tumbarumba; Tumut; Urana
County councils: Goldenfields Water, Riverina Water
Associate: Wagga Wagga
- H** **Local councils:** Bega Valley; Bombala; Boorowa; Cooma-Monaro; Harden; Palerang; Snowy River; Upper Lachlan; Yass Valley; Young
Associates: Goulburn Mulwaree; Greater Queanbeyan; Eurobodalla
- J** **Local councils:** Balranald; Bourke; Brewarrina; Central Darling; Cobar; Wentworth
Associate: Broken Hill