

0.0 MAYORAL MINUTE - NOVEMBER 2025

File Number: D25.116795

Reporting Officer: Louie Zaffina, Mayor

Responsible Officer: Terry Dodds PSM, Chief Executive Officer

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Minute be received and noted.

REPORT

On the 13th of November, CEO Terry Dodds PSM and I attended the Country Mayors Association Annual General Meeting held at NSW Parliament House.

The meeting was very interesting. Hon Chris Minns, Premier of NSW and opposition leader Raymond Speakman addressed the meeting, and many questions were asked from the audience, mainly about the challenges that rural councils are facing in regions.

We had the pleasure to meet with the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley at Government House and with Minister Ron Hoenig, who was very pleased to hear how things are going with Balranald Shire.

I also attended the workshop at the George Room Masonic Club to discuss the CMA Annual Survey.

The CMA association has been strongly advocating for more funding for the rural regions from the State and Federal Governments.

Premiere Chris Minns stated that the NSW return on GST is 86 cents in the dollar, while Victoria gets 107 cents in the dollar. He also went on to say that this is unfair, and the CMA should help the NSW Government lobby against this discrepancy.

In my opinion, this was a distraction from Premier Minns from the fact that the percentage of grants is forecast to be reduced in from the NSW state Government over the next few years.

The fact is that rural councils are surviving on the smell of an oily rag and cannot be sustained. Lobbying for the GST discrepancy does not necessarily mean that more money is going to flow to the rural areas.

Federal Assistance Grants were also the topic; this would certainly be welcome if it were raised to 1% from the now 0.55%. This would be great news, but the end result would be the same if state governments see this as an opportunity to reduce their funding.

We were also informed about the new *Environmental Planning & Assessment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025*. We were advised that the Joint Regional Planning Panels would be phased out and 'Local Planning Panels' (LPPs) would be formed in consultation with councils. However, we were to discover that councillors would not be members of the new LPPs. This is of concern to most.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil