

**SUPPLEMENTARY  
REPORTS**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2018**

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# WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL

Delegates Report by the Mayor  
to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers,  
Warren on Thursday 25th October 2018

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## ITEM 2 LGNSW CONFERENCE ALBURY 22ND-23RD OCTOBER 2018

(C14-5.4)

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Delegates report on the LGNSW Conference be noted.

The Mayor Cr Milton Quigley, the Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Williamson and the General Manager, Glenn Wilcox attended the Annual Local Government NSW Conference.

The conference considered 100 motions on the first day of the conference and the major motions shall be discussed in more detail as part of this report when presented.

Two (2) major addresses occurred during the conference for recording purposes, although other speakers made presentations.

### **The President LGNSW Cr Linda Scott**

Cr Scott opened the conference and thanked Albury Council for their support.

Cr Scott spoke on the following:

- Successful lobbying for library funding - \$60million towards capital works;
- Motion for the Auditor General to remove Rural Fire Service, Surf Lifesaving and other voluntary agencies assets, to be removed from councils financial statements. This is occurring; and
- Flying fox controls.

Cr Scott advised that LGNSW is working for councils to take to the Government the issues of councils including planning matters, waste management and the needs of the community.

Advice was provided on the activities of LGNSW and its financial statements, the direction of LGNSW to request changes by the Government as to waste management and betterment of communities, the new Research and Innovation Fund to benefit the whole local government sector (40 expressions of interest).

### **Minister Gabrielle Upton**

The Minister spoke to the conference and addressed the following items and took questions:

The Minister spoke for 15 minutes, thanked everyone and everything she could think of and came to the conclusion that she believes local government is going from strength to strength, and she understands as she lives in an electorate in Sydney that is doing well. She understood that councils run sporting fields and these local teams are incubators to develop sports people on local sports grounds, and that her council also undertakes tourism.

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Further the Minister;

- Indicated that councils are sustainable (most) and that councils are reducing the infrastructure backlog. That councils are more responsible for their improved financial performance and applauded councils.
- That scrutiny has increased of councils and Councillor behaviours that councils are moving to training to develop Councillors.
- The Office of Local Government has launched its new engagement team that will visit councils and look at strategy and accountability and address emerging issues of councils across NSW. Councils should use the engagement officers to support council.
- There are 13 Joint Organisations in NSW comprising of 84 councils (90% of eligible councils) and that the Joint Organisations are in a strong position to negotiate with the State Government. The Joint Organisations Chairs have meet with the Minister and have looked at the big picture items around transport, tourism and infrastructure.
- The NSW Government has invested \$1 billion into Local Government since it came to power through various funds.
- A second round of low-cost loans has been released by the government that councils can apply for housing projects.

### Questions to the Minister:

1. Waste management - Government has not banned single use plastic bags and will the Government ban bags?  
A: The Government welcomed the decision by retailers to phase out the plastic bags, threw single use bags are visible but not a large proportion of waste. The Government has implemented the Return and Earn System to recycle bottles and cans, she then advised how that program was taken up by the community.
2. IPART Compliance and Red Tape Review and compliance reports - Will the Government release the reports.  
A: The Government has them under Government consideration.
3. Amalgamation issues and raising of rates for SRV?  
A: Government has not wanted to use SRV for amalgamated councils until the process is finalised
4. Forbes Flood Study out of date unless new flood levels and funding is provided?  
A: Write to Minister and she has taken this on notice.
5. Air quality in Armidale due to wood smoke is very high. What funding can be offered to clean up air quality?  
A: Air quality is an issue especially particulate size. Additional munitions stations have been set up in NSW especially where wood fired heaters are installed. Council has a local role in education. Monitors have been installed in Gundagai and in Sydney.

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6. Crown Land Plans of Management and the cost of preparing Plans of Management is inadequate as per the approved motion of conference. Will additional funding be provided?  
A: Paul Toole is the Crown Lands Minister and she will take it on notice and provide to Minister Toole.
7. Remuneration of Councillors and superannuation provisions?  
A: Recognised that all councillors go above and beyond to serve the community. She took it on notice.
8. Has the Government considered Native Title issues and crown land transfer to council and especially along the Murky River boarder.  
A: Unaware of the issues, but took the question on notice.
9. Question on behalf of Tumbarumba residents to request they meet outside conference.  
A: Advised that councils can demerge as requested by Tumbarumba residents and if time permits she will talk to the residents outside the conference.
10. When will the Code of Meeting Practice and Code of Conduct be released?  
A: Government will consider the release of Codes through the Local Government Act Regulations. A lead time will be provided for some actions under the new Codes.
11.  
A: Waste level package allows for good waste packages to be undertaken by councils that meet the contestable application process.

Minister ended questions.

General discussion on the Conference will be provided at the Council meeting.