



RH Dougherty Award - Entries close soon

If your council has created some great communications campaigns, special events, has delved into the digital media world or has a great person working in communications, then enter the 2010 RH Dougherty awards.

Neighbourhood Safer Places Signs

Signs for RFS approved Neighbourhood Safer Places in NSW are available from the NSW Rural Fire Service

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) – Advanced Module

Advanced workshops will be delivered on the GIPA Act in Sydney and in regional areas in June and July 2010

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General Interest

Item 3: RH Dougherty Award - Entries close soon

If your council has created some great communications campaigns, special events, has delved into the digital media world or has a great person working in communications, then enter the 2010 RH Dougherty awards.

For the very first time, winning projects from 2009 are available to view on the website to give you a good idea of how your council can win.

The judges are looking for councils that are leading the way with innovative and unique communication campaigns and strategies. They aim to recognise and encourage greater understanding and accountability by councils to their local communities.

There are three award categories this year:

Outstanding Individual Contribution Award

- New award for 2010
- Communications and events staff within NSW Councils
- Must be in their position for no less than two years
- Can be self-nominated or nominated by another party

Excellence in Communication Award

- Projects completed in the 2009 calendar year
- Communications campaigns
- Public relations campaigns
- Special events

Reporting to Your Community Award

- Projects completed in the 2009 calendar year
- Annual reports
- Monthly newsletters
- Online communication
- Digital communication
- Advertising
- Specialist publications

Visit the website for judging criteria, tips on preparing your submission and some examples of award winning submissions from last year.

Winners will be announced at the Local Government Week Awards Evening, 4 August 2010 at the Tea Rooms, Queen Victoria Building, Sydney.

R09/0004: MM

Entries Close

Wed 16 Jun

Award details/Enter

www.RHDawards.lgsa.org.au

Further information

Michelle Muller: 02 9242 4031;
michelle.muller@lgsa.org.au

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General Interest

Item 4: One Association Convention 16 and 17 August

The One Association Convention will be held in Sydney.

Both Associations have resolved to progress the formation of One Association by establishing the One Association Taskforce. Work is currently being undertaken by the select committee.

The Convention

All Mayors, Councillors and General Managers are invited to participate in the formation of One Association to represent Local Government in NSW.

Invitations

Mayors and General Managers will receive a pack in the coming week comprising of an introductory letter and invitations to the One Association Convention for all Councillors and the General Manager.

Ref: R10/0015

Key dates

16-17 Aug 2010

Venue

Star City, Sydney

Online information

www.lgsa.org/oneassociation

For further information

Skye Smith: 02 9242 4052;

skye.smith@lgsa.org.au.

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Community

Item 5: 2010 Heart Foundation Local Government Awards - Entries closing

The Heart Foundation provides \$34,000 in cash awards, plaques and recognition to reward Local Government initiatives that help create healthy communities.

Are you leading the way in creating healthy communities? Are you building a sense of community, encouraging people to be active, be smoke free or make healthy food choices? If so, the Heart Foundation wants to reward you for your efforts.

Since the Heart Foundation Local Government Awards were established in 1992, the Heart Foundation has acknowledged over 1000 initiatives that have contributed to the heart health of Australian communities.

We are pleased to continue holding the awards, providing an opportunity for NSW Local Government to celebrate their achievements and seek recognition for their valued contribution to creating healthy communities, both at a state and national level.

New South Wales Councils achieved great success last year:

- Blacktown City Council became a National Category Winner with their 'Waterwise Indigenous Aquatic Education Project.'
- NSW State Overall Winner Port Macquarie Council and Wagga Wagga City were both Highly Commended nationally.
- City of Ryde and Wyong Council were National Finalists.

We encourage you to enter these awards to raise awareness of the great work you do in your communities. Awards are presented at the Associations' Local Government Awards Evening.

File Reference: R90/1183

Key dates

Entries close 5pm Fri 4 Jun 2010

Online information

Includes 2009 winners:

www.heartfoundation.org.au/lga

For further information

Nicole Aird: 02 9219 2475,

Nicole.aird@heartfoundation.org.au

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Community

Item 6: Roundtable on Productivity Commission Inquiries

The Associations will conduct a roundtable discussion to obtain councils' input into submissions to two Productivity Commission inquiries into Disability Care and Support and Aged Care.

Councillors and staff involved in aged and disability services and policy are invited to attend. The proposed agenda for the roundtable will be:

10 am to 12.30pm

Discussion about Caring for Older Australians (Aged care) Inquiry

1pm to 3pm

Discussion about Disability Care and Support (Disability) Inquiry

Caring for Older Australians

The Aged Care Inquiry follows the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) recommendations that significant reform is needed to the aged care system, including its relationship to the rest of the health system, if it is to meet the challenges of an older and increasingly diverse population.

In undertaking the inquiry, the Commission will develop options for further structural reform of the aged care system so it can meet the challenges facing it in coming decades. In particular, the Commission will:

- Examine the social, clinical and institutional aspects of aged care in Australia, building on the substantial base of existing reviews into this sector.
- Address the interests of special needs groups.
- Develop regulatory and funding options for residential and community aged care (including the Home and Community Care program).
- Examine the future workforce requirements of the aged care sector.
- Recommend a path for transitioning from the current regulatory arrangements to a new system that ensures continuity of care and allows the sector time to adjust.
- Examine whether the regulation of retirement specific living options should be aligned more closely with the rest of the aged care sector.
- Assess the fiscal implications of any change in aged care roles and responsibilities.

In the course of the inquiry, the Commission will consult widely with older Australians, their carers, aged care providers, government agencies and other interested parties.

Disability Care and Support

The Disability Inquiry will inform the development of the National Disability Strategy, which aims to enhance the quality of life and increase economic and social participation for people with disability and their carers.

The focus of the inquiry is to explore alternative approaches to funding and delivering disability services with a focus on early intervention and long-term care, and to examine options for an entitlement to disability care and support services, similar to the universal health care system.

The Government has asked the Commission to advise on a scheme that will cover those most in need, with a disability present at birth, or acquired through an accident or through a health condition, but not as a result of the natural process of ageing.

Roundtable details

16 Jun, LGSA office - Level 8, 28 Margaret St (cnr Clarence), Sydney

Disability Submission

Due 30 Jun

Aged care Submission

Due 31 Jul

Online information

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/aged-care>

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support>

For further information

Margaret Kay, Senior Policy Officer, Ageing and Disability, LGSA: 9242 4082; Margaret.kay@lgsa.org.au

Amongst other things, this inquiry will examine:

- How a scheme should be designed and funded to better meet the long-term needs of people with disability, their families and carers.
- How to determine the people most in need of support, the services that should be available to them, and service delivery arrangements.
- The costs, benefits, feasibility and funding options of alternative schemes.
- How the scheme will interact with the health, aged care, informal care, income support and injury insurance systems.
- Its impacts on the workforce.
- How any scheme should be introduced and governed.
- What protections and safeguards should be part of the scheme.

File Reference: R90/1195

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Economic Development

Item 7: MicroBiz Week

Industry & Investment NSW invites people to join in MicroBiz Week – a week dedicated to the home based, solo or micro business owner. MicroBiz Week includes free workshops, seminars, webinars, and resources to help your business grow.

MicroBiz Week has over 72 events across NSW, the week provides practical assistance and allows likeminded business owners to meet, share ideas, network, and learn.

Some MicroBiz Week highlights include:

Monday 31 May

Innovations, Gadgets and Gizmos: Showcasing Future Trends for MicroBiz Operators

Wednesday 2 June

Network and Connect: Opportunity to learn tips and tricks of networking with fellow micro business operators and explore networks operating in Sydney's metropolitan area.

Thursday 3 June

Start a Business Day: Find out the essentials for getting your own micro business started. Get helpful information from Business Advisory Service/BEC offices across the State.

Friday 4 June

Microbiz Masters Share Secrets of Success: Micro business operators will hear from a high profile finance expert and showcase of successful micro business operators.

Consultant Maximising Productivity and Profit Event: Tailored exclusively for consultants, this workshop will demonstrate how to maximise productivity and profit.

Young Entrepreneurs Roundtable: Meet like-minded young business stars under 35 and share your vision with the Minister for Small Business – 4 June from 3pm

File Reference: R90/1160lg

MicroBiz Week
31 May – 4 Jun 2010

Online information
www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au/microbizweek

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Emergency Services

Item 8: Neighbourhood Safer Places Signs

Signs for RFS approved Neighbourhood Safer Places in NSW are available from the NSW Rural Fire Service.

At the recent Local Government & Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee meeting, the NSW Rural Fire Service confirmed they would provide all Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) signs for all approved designated Neighbourhood Safer Places locations in NSW.

Councils will be able to seek reimbursement from the RFS up to \$250 for the erection of the signs.

The Neighbourhood Safer Place Sign



File Reference: R90/1033.lg

Current NSW designated NSP's

http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp_content.cfm?cat_id=1785

For further information

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

RFS: Patrick Schell,
Development Assessment &
Planning:

pat.schell@rfs.nsw.gov.au,

LGSA: Liz Gemes, Policy
Officer Rural Affairs &

Emergency Services: 02 9242
4063; liz.gemes@lgsa.org.au

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Learning

Item 9: The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) – Advanced Module

Advanced workshops will be delivered on the GIPA Act in Sydney and in regional areas in June and July 2010.

Who Should Attend?

GIPA/FoI officers, public affairs officers, governance managers and senior staff.

This course is for those who have completed the introductory module or have some Freedom of Information or GIPA Act experience.

Workshop Aims

While the workshop will briefly revisit what is required when taking public interest into consideration, it will also provide detailed information and discussion on particular elements of the GIPA Act in order to hone your knowledge in areas that are either complex or new to access of council information.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions pertinent to your council to assist your knowledge of the Act. You will also have the opportunity to engage with fellow council practitioners to discuss common concerns.

Course Presenter – Monica Kelly, Associate, Maddocks

2010 Dates	Locations
Friday 11 June	Sydney
Tuesday 8 June	Wagga Wagga
Tuesday 15 June	Queanbeyan
Friday 16 July	Sydney
Tuesday 20 July	Ballina
Tuesday 27 July	Dubbo

Please note that times and venues will be advised in the confirmation letter.

File Reference: I98/0012:RN

Cost

\$440 inc GST

Registrations

Register online at www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/150-learning-solutions.asp or download a form and fax to 02 9242 4188 or email learning@learning.org.au

Further Information

Learning Solutions:
02 9242 4181;
learning@lgsa.org.au

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Learning

Item 10: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops

A variety of public staff programs have been scheduled for June.

Sydney

English Grammar and Punctuation, 3 June

Making Consultative Committees More Effective, 10 June

Time Management, 11 June

GIPA Act Advanced Course, 11 June

Certificate 1V in Local Government (Regulatory Services) Rangers Three, 21-24 June

Wagga Wagga

GIPA Act Advanced Course, 8 June

Managing Information Overload –Speed Reading, 10 June

Queanbeyan

GIPA Act Advanced Course, 15 June

File Reference: R98/0012:RN

Registrations

LGSA Learning Solutions: 02 92424081; learning@lgsa.org.au

Further information

Learning Solutions: Ruth Niemczyk on 02 9242 4180; ruth.niemczyk@lgsa.org.au

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Roads and Transport

Item 11: IPWEA 2010 NSW Local Roads Congress Communiqué

The 2010 Institute of Public Works Engineering (IPWEA) NSW Local Roads Congress was held in Wollongong on May 17. The Congress has released a communiqué summarising the day's deliberations.

The NSW Roads & Transport Directorate, a partnership of IPWEA and the LGSA, released a communiqué after the 2010 NSW Local Roads Congress.

Please note that the communiqué does not necessarily reflect LGSA policy positions on some issues.

The communiqué is reproduced below:

"The Congress strongly requests that future rate pegging limits be removed having regard to the reduced capacity of Councils to fund the maintenance and renewal of their infrastructure assets. The 2008 Road Asset Benchmarking Report stated that the estimated life cycle cost for roads and bridges was \$1,446million and expenditure was \$839million leaving an annual funding gap of \$608million. This gap will not be reduced by a rate pegging limit which is considerably less than wage and construction cost index increases.

"The Congress supports the implementation of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines as a means of enabling Councils in New South Wales to attain a more sustainable base. The Congress requests that the Division of Local Government investigate how Councils in Group 1 that have successfully implemented the guidelines might provide mentoring for those Councils in Groups 2 and 3 that have less capacity to carry out the task. The Congress once again requests that in implementing these new provisions, the State Government provides financial assistance particularly to the smaller regional councils that currently do not have access to the resources necessary to undertake this work.

"The Congress recognises the critical part R2R funding plays in replacing local road infrastructure and applauds extension of this programme to 2014. In view of the funding gap facing Councils, the Congress calls on the Federal Government to make this programme a permanent arrangement and that the extended programme be indexed to reflect increasing road construction costs.

"The Congress calls on the State Government to provide further assistance to replace the remaining timber bridges on Regional Roads. The Congress requests that such funding be provided on more favourable terms to assist those Councils unable to raise the necessary funding under the current programme. The Congress now asks the Federal Government to provide a similar assistance program to help Local Government renew and upgrade the more than 10,000 bridges located on Local Roads, based on regional priorities. This is an essential element in providing a more efficient transport network across NSW.

"As part of the State Government's new focus on the development of integrated transport plans the Congress requests that Local Government be actively engaged in the process and that these plans be developed to include all modes of freight, tourism, cycleways and public transport, which will provide increased transport efficiency while protecting the environmental wellbeing and sustainability of local communities.

"This Congress requests that closer consultation be held with Local Government in the implementation of higher productivity vehicles such as Higher Mass Limits on Local Roads throughout NSW. This assistance should include more comprehensive assessment guidelines, assistance with the development of transport routes to facilitate freight movements, access to the Intelligent Access Programme and the development of an equitable funding model to provide funding for this purpose. Further, the Congress requests that further research be carried out to

Online communiqué

www.ipwea.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=UPLOADS&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=10662

Contact / Further Information

Mick Savage, Manager IPWEA, Roads & Transport Directorate: 0418 808 085

Greg Moran, President IPWEA (NSW): 0427 456 030.

Murray Erbs, Director IPWEA: 0427 932 462

assist Local Government in assessing the damage caused by longer Higher Mass Limit vehicles on curvilinear road alignments.

“The Congress calls on the State and Federal Governments to facilitate the development of the inland rail network to reduce reliance on the road network to meet the increasing freight task and to encourage the continued growth of regional communities.”

R92/0048: RC

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In the News

Item 12: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

Workshop helps councils manage climate change risks

Monday 24 May, 2010

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3321-24-may-2010-workshop-helps-councils-manage-climate-change-risks.asp?intSiteID=1>

NSW councils are well on their way to addressing challenges associated with climate change after attending a collaborative workshop with NSW Government agencies in Sydney.

Councils gear up to build a brighter future: 2010 NSW Shires Association Conference

Tuesday 25 May, 2010

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3322-25-may-2010-councils-gear-up-to-build-a-brighter-future.asp?intSiteID=1>

Water trading, funding for State Emergency Services and the erosion of local planning powers are some topics to be debated at this year's Shires Association Conference, to be officially opened by NSW Premier, the Hon Kristina Keneally MP.

Rate pegging ruining NSW roads

Friday 28 May 2010

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3325-28-may-2010-rate-pegging-ruining-nsw-roads.asp?intSiteID=1>

The NSW Roads and Transport Directorate called on the State and Federal Government to remove future rate pegging limits or risk the continued deterioration of the NSW road network at its 2010 NSW Roads and Transport Congress held recently in Wollongong.

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In the News

Item 13: Local Government Media

View the latest Local Government media articles

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JRPPs

Penrith Press

NSW Government to restore some powers lost by councils

<http://penrith-press.whereilive.com.au/news/story/nsw-government-to-restore-some-powers-lost-by-councils/>

POWERS to assess certain development applications that were seized by the State Government will be handed back to councils, Planning Minister Tony Kelly has announced. This will allow council staff - who already have powers of delegated authority - to determine proposals where there were no objections and those in agreed areas where detailed planning had already occurred.

ABC North Coast NSW (Lismore)

07:30 News

24/05/2010 7:33:06 AM

Tony Kelly, NSW Minister for Planning has defended the performance of the NSW Joint Regional Planning Panels which were set up last year to process significant development applications with independence. Genia Mccaffery, president, Local Govt Association says the role was already well handled by local councils and the panels have added bureaucracy.

Publication Title: Sydney Morning Herald

Headline: Staff, not councillors, to regain planning powers

Publication Date: 25 May 2010

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/staff-not-councillors-to-regain-planning-powers-20100524-w85u.html>

A REVIEW of the operation of joint regional planning panels says they have halved the time to process major development applications but council officers are still taking too long assessing applications for the panels.

Publication Title: North Shore Times

Headline: Willoughby makes curt \$1 statement

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

Link unavailable

ANY Willoughby councillor who is a delegate on the Joint Regional Planning Panel will be paid \$1. After a 10-minute debate at the last Willoughby Council meeting, councillors voted to set the nominal fee. It will be paid to elected members who represent the council as delegates on the controversial panel.

Publication Title: Coffs Coast Advocate

Headline: Councillors locked out of planning

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

Link unavailable

KEITH Rhoades is not happy. The Coffs Harbour City mayor is angry that a State Government decision to return some planning powers to local government still misses a fundamental point of a democratic society.

Publication Title: Wentworth Courier

Headline: Councils welcome return of powers

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

Link unavailable

Local Government Association president Genia McCaffery said the Joint Regional Planning Panels had disenfranchised communities and caused "a lot of distrust and friction".

Publication Title: Inner West Courier

Headline: State ditches planning rules

Publication Date: 27 May 2010

Link unavailable

POWERS to assess certain development applications which were seized by the State Government will be handed back to local councils, Planning Minister Tony Kelly has announced.

Publication Title: Mosman Daily

Headline: Some planning powers given back to councils

Publication Date: 27 May 2010

Link unavailable

THE State Government will return some planning powers to councils so they can determine "less controversial" development applications. The government's Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPP) have operated for less than a year but some of their powers will be given back to councils.

Publication Title: Mt Druitt St Marys Standard

Headline: Councils claw back power

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

THE State Government will return some planning powers to councils so they can determine "less controversial" development applications. The government's Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPP) have operated for less than a year but some of their powers will be given back to councils.

POWERS to assess certain development applications which were seized by the State Government will be handed back to local councils, Planning Minister Tony Kelly has announced. This will allow council staff- who already have powers of delegated authority – to determine proposals where there were no objections and those in agreed areas where detailed planning had already occurred.

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Biobanking

ABC1 (Sydney)

Stateline

21/05/2010 7:43:00 PM

Environmentalists are describing a new NSW Govt initiative aimed at increasing land and species conservation as 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'. The Biobank Scheme allows developers to build on environmentally sensitive urban land if they pay to protect land elsewhere. Dempster questions how the plan would differ from the kind of controversial deals that were labelled by a court last year as land bribes. The NSW Govt is under pressure to provide more land for housing, a competing problem which is hoped to be dealt with through biobanking. The NSW Govt has paid \$1.7m to protect hectares of land near Camden. Frank Sartor, NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, says the system allows private land owners to develop a privately owned system of conserving land which means they can expand the total amount of land being conserved. Father Tim Brennan of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, talks about the environmental protections put in place today by the NSW Govt's biobanking scheme. Other land developments under this scheme are detailed in this report. Sartor says the developments will

allow for more residential development to ease the state's housing crisis and that a law swap plans are different to one in the Hunter Valley which collapsed last year after being ruled illegal. Residents launched legal action after Sartor signed a memorandum of understanding with Rose Corp. The deal fell through after the Land and Environment Court ruled Sartor was biased. Aaron Gadiel, Urban Taskforce, says developers are getting the message that NSW is an uncertain place in which to invest. The biobank scheme has attracted criticism from green groups, saying it could permit the destruction of bushland. Haydn Washington, Nature Conservation Council, says the NSW Govt is more focused on protecting the interests of developers. A block in the Riverstone and Alex Avenue precinct was rezoned this week, expected to house 45,000 people. Sartor joins Quentin Dempster in the studio to discuss the latest decision to save the River Red Gums. Dempster asks whether biobanking means a developer can abandon the environmental impact assessment on land that contains threatened species by simply going to a biobank. Sartor explains that this is not the case. Sartor talks about how the Environment Department and Bob Debus developed the scheme which is based on a scheme used in the US. He talks about how a developer can access a block of land through the Environment Department biodiversity credit bank. He talks about the Red River Gums decision, saying they have estimate that 150 jobs could be affected.

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Parking fines

2BS (Bathurst)

17:00 News

21/05/2010 5:06:19 PM

Local Govt and Shires Associations have rejected claims that council impose fine quota on parking officers. Genia McCaffery, President, Local Govt Association, says a budget has to be set in order to follow good financial management practices.

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Coastal protection

ABC South East NSW (Bega)

06:30 News

24/05/2010 6:34:15 AM

Duration: 0 mins 48 secs

Compere: Newsreader

A dispute is developing between coastal councils and the NSW Govt over who should pay for managing rising sea levels. The head of the Sea Change Taskforce says a draft coastal protection act makes local councils and individuals financially responsible.

ABC South East NSW (Bega)

South East Mornings

24/05/2010 8:45:20 AM

Holt mentions that financial pressure on local govt is increasing, leaving local council's little alternative but to apply for rate increases. Holt adds that coastal councils are having to deal with the threat of rising sea levels as well as responsibilities outlined by the Draft Coastal Protections Act, which has been prescribed by the NSW Govt. Interview with Ed Blakely, professor of urban policy, University of Sydney about fears from local councils that they do not have the financial and technical resources to deal with rising sea levels and need NSW Govt assistance. Holt plays a clip of Peter Tegart, general manager, Bega Valley Shire confirming that they do not have the expertise to handle the situation, which Blakely agrees with and advises there is a shortage of coastal management expertise globally. Blakely urges State and Fed Govt to develop coastal management strategies to protect the coastline and regulate development. Blakely states that we

need to implement strategic retreat now, and anyone who doubts the science can go to places like Noosa and see evidence of houses being washed into the sea.

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Cessnock planning powers

Publication Title: Maitland Mercury

Headline: Town unites to save council

Publication Date: 24 May 2010

Link unavailable

Cessnock community members will join forces with a coalition of political parties in a fight for the town to retain its planning powers.

Publication Title: Newcastle Herald

Headline: - Complaints go to minister

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

Link unavailable

A FILE an inch thick detailing complaints about Cessnock City Council has been handed over to the council by Planning Minister Tony Kelly. A spokesman for the minister said the council had also been given a 21-day extension to respond to the State Government's demand that it show cause why its planning powers should not be stripped. Mr Kelly informed the council on May 7 that it had 21 days to show why it should not be replaced by a planning panel.

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Corruption

WIN Orange (Orange)

WIN News

21/05/2010 6:37:56 PM

Parkes Council is tackling new strategies to prevent staff or elected councillors running the risk of corruption.

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Griffith Mayor charges

WIN Wagga (Wagga Wagga)

WIN News

21/05/2010 6:30:42 PM

Pressure is mounting on Mike Neville, Griffith Mayor, to publicly declare if he will remain the city's civic leader after he was arrested and charged with the alleged sexual assault of two women. Allan Bennett, Deputy Mayor, Griffith City Council, says there is mixed community feeling as to whether Neville should stay or go. Bill Lancaster, Councillor, Griffith City Council, sent Neville and message of support. Dino Zappacosta, Councillor, Griffith City Council, says Neville should step aside for the good of the community and the mayoral office.

ABC 702 Sydney (Sydney)

11:00 News

21/05/2010 11:02:14 AM

Local Govt Minister Barbara Perry has suggested the Mayor of Griffith stand aside while criminal charges are heard. Mike Neville has been stood down from managing the Probation and Parole Service at Griffith after being charged with aggravated indecent assault and aggravated sexual assault. The mayor says he is considering his position.

Narrandera staff dismissals

Publication Title: Sunday Telegraph

Headline: Buzz over staff suspensions

Publication Date: 23 May 2010

Link unavailable

THE suspension of two staff members from Narrandera Shire Council has the Riverina town buzzing

Richardson writes off Labour

Publication Title: Sunday Telegraph

Headline: Even Richo says labor are hopeless

Publication Date: 23 May 2010

<http://www.news.com.au/national/powerbroker-graham-richardson-takes-swing-at-labor-parties/story-e6frfkvr-1225870056184>

LABOR warlord Graham Richardson has conceded defeat at the upcoming state election, sledging the scandal-prone NSW Government for not doing enough for voters in the state.

Mining

ABC Upper Hunter (Muswellbrook)

06:30 News

25/05/2010 6:31:00 AM

Singleton Council has convinced their lobby group to rethink its proposal aimed at securing a share of NSW State Govt mining royalties. The Association of Mine Related Councils was expected to finalise its position when it met last week, however the two tiered system of payments to councils and regions that was to be put to the Shires Association last month is now on hold. Scott Greensill, General Manager, Singleton Council, says the Mining Councils Taskforce accepted that it needs a stronger case to take to the political arena.

ABC Broken Hill (Broken Hill)

07:30 News

25/05/2010 7:32:13 AM

The NSW Association of Mining Related Councils has met to discuss their proposal to the State Govt regarding mining royalties. Deputy Mayor of Broken Hill, Neville Gasmier says they are going to approach a local consultancy group soon.

The Advertiser

Cessnock Council supports WA mining royalties model

<http://www.cessnockadvertiser.com.au/news/local/news/general/cessnock-council-supports-wa-mining-royalties-model/1840693.aspx>

Cessnock City Council will tell the Association of Mine Related Councils it supports a model for distribution of mining royalties based on the Western Australian model.

Mayor of Cessnock, Cr. Alison Davey raised the matter in a Mayoral Minute, She said the model is based on one that returns mining royalties to all regions in that state except for the metropolitan area.

Population growth in Sydney

ABC 702 Sydney (Sydney)

Mornings

25/05/2010 8:34:25 AM

Cameron says more housing, which is more affordable and on smaller blocks and for more people is what Sydney needs ahead of predicted population growth. The NSW Govt has approved 4,500 new dwellings for Ku-ring-gai's six suburbs. She speaks to Hornsby mayor Cr Nick Berman, who chairs the Northern Representative Group of Councils. He says the decision will have a significant impact on traffic and possibly the rail network. There has been no funding for infrastructure in the past. Berman can see Waitara railways station and trains leaving here are already full. Berman says the new dwellings must be erected until 2031. Hornsby Shire must reach 11,000 new dwellings in the 25yrs until there as part of the NSW Govt's 2005 Metro strategy but this is being revised and Berman fears it the figure will only increase. Cameron says reports suggest more population will mean economic vibrancy and a bigger yield for councils. Berman says sec 94 funding and developer contributions were capped by the NSW Govt with great fanfare and the development lobby complained. Yet this is how councils provide infrastructure for the new population. Berman says the NSW Govt wants new growth and people but are limiting local govt ability to delivery. Then there is now investment in public transport and roads, councils enter a difficult position. Cameron asks if more population will lead to more council revenue. Berman says rate pegging limits the ability of local govts to provide services to residents.

Ku-ring-gai

Publication Title: Sydney Morning Herald

Headline: North shore houses more

Publication Date: 25 May 2010

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/property/north-shore-houses-more-20100524-w85i.html>

THE state government has approved a plan for 4500 dwellings in six north shore suburbs.

The Planning Minister, Tony Kelly, gave the green light to the Ku-ring-gai Town Centres Local Environmental Plan which will reveal where apartment and commercial developments will be located in the district when it is released today.

Publication Title: Sydney Morning Herald

Headline: Multi-storey future for leafy streets

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/multistorey-future-for-leafy-streets-20100525-wb5u.html>

SIX low-rise north shore suburbs will see apartment and commercial buildings up to nine storeys high built along railway lines and main roads under a new government plan.

Publication Title: Sydney Morning Herald

Headline: Council anger over Ku-ring-gai towers

Publication Date: 28 May 2010

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/council-anger-over-kuringgai-towers-20100527-whuk.html>

KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL has accused the state government of failing to consult the community before quietly expanding the boundaries where multi-level apartment blocks are permitted.

Publication Title: North Shore Times

Headline: O'Farrell vows to save our suburbs if elected

Publication Date: 28 May 2010

<http://north-shore-times.whereilive.com.au/news/story/o-farrell-will-move-to-rid-ku-ring-gai-of-lep/>

OPPOSITION Leader Barry O'Farrell has vowed to rip up the Ku-ring-gai town centres Local Environment Plan (LEP) if he is elected premier - by giving planning powers back to councils.

Publication Title: North Shore Times

Headline: Plan riddled with broken promises

Publication Date: 28 May 2010

<http://north-shore-times.whereilive.com.au/news/story/plan-riddled-with-broken-promises/>

THE Ku-ring-gai Town Centres LEP is riddled with broken promises and fosters nothing but fear and confusion, says the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

Publication Title: North Shore Times

Headline: Removal of planning powers sounds alarm bells

Publication Date: 28 May 2010

Link unavailable

THE gazettal of Ku-ring-gai's six town centres plans by Planning Minister Tony Kelly is the final chapter in a shameful story about how democracy was taken away from residents who only wanted the best for their community.

2GB (Sydney)

Breakfast

28/05/2010 7:25:05 AM

Moore discusses controversial Ku-ring-gai development plans, where the NSW Govt has recently approved plans for 4,500 new dwellings in six local suburbs. He says that Tony Kelly, NSW Planning Min, has recently given the green light to the Ku-ring-gai Town Centres Local Environmental Plan. Moore claims he has recently received a passionate email on the subject from Barry O'Farrell, NSW Oppn Leader. He interviews Barry O'Farrell, NSW Opposition Leader, who says that this is just another example of massive over-development by the NSW Govt which he says is happening Sydney-wide and which ignores heritage, open space, public transport infrastructure and amenity issues. He says all councils have agreed under the Metropolitan Strategy to increase local housing to meet certain targets, but this decision in Ku-ring-gai will 'clearly exceed those targets'. He says there is no current NSW parliamentary measure to stop this because it has been gazetted legally. He instead calls for a change in govt in this state.

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Cessnock planning powers

Publication Title: Newcastle Herald

Headline: Complaints on council must be made public

Publication Date: 25 May 2010

Link unavailable

THE planning minister's letter to Cessnock Council on May 7 this year was an exercise of the increased power this Labor State Government has been gathering for itself since the introduction of the notorious Part 3A planning powers, initiated by Craig Knowles, implemented by Frank Sartor, continued by Kristina Keneally and now being used by Tony Kelly.

Publication Title: Newcastle Herald

Headline: Meeting defends process

Publication Date: 25 May 2010

Link unavailable

A RALLY last night heard from Cessnock city councillors that a State Government threat to strip their planning powers was an attack on democracy.

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Rate pegging

NBN Lismore (Lismore)

NBN News

21/05/2010 6:09:44 PM

Ross Brown, Kyogle Mayor, has accused the Keneally Govt of driving local councils into the dust and wants rate pegging to be scrapped. Kyogle Council will wait for the NSW Govt's decision over the proposed rate rise before voting on the issue next month.

ABC Illawarra (Wollongong)

Mornings

24/05/2010 10:14:20 AM

Barbara Perry, NSW Minister for Local Government joins the show. Perry made a presentation today about local Govts adhering to good financial plans. Rheinberger asks how local Govts in NSW stick to a budget when they have their hands tied with rate pegging from the NSW Govt level. Perry says rate pegging is about making sure that both Councils and the community have an ability to be able to increase their finances in an appropriate and reasonable way. Perry says there needs to be a sensible approach to these things. Rheinberger says the Federal Govt can make their own decisions about taxes, and they are subject to elections, as are the NSW Govt, but local Councils cannot. Perry says most councillors are happy with the situation as it does not put the political pressure on them. Rheinberger asks how significant has the ICAC investigation into Wollongong been in the way they have formulated financial governance in local Govt. Perry says it isn't about one Council, it is an evolving process.

2NM (Muswellbrook)

07:30 News

24/05/2010 7:35:43 AM

Sue Moore, Mayor, Singleton, says rate pegging is restricting local councils. She says it is irresponsible for the NSW Govt to enforce the system.

ABC South East NSW (Bega)

06:30 News

25/05/2010 6:30:51 AM

Local Govt Minister Barbara Perry says she believes rate pegging has been good for councils in NSW. Perry has addressed a Local Govt Managers Association conference on the south coast.

ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga)

Late Breakfast

26/05/2010 8:52:20 AM

Delaney mentions that Barbara Perry, NSW Minister for Local Government has said that rate pegging has been good for councils and allowed them to better address their core responsibilities. Interview with Bruce Miller, president, Shires Association who says rate pegging hasn't been good for councils and communities with the backlog for infrastructure renewal running at about \$6b and increasing by about \$500m a year, as identified in the Allen Report. Miller states that Perry doesn't understand that the responsibilities of local councils have grown significantly along with funding dropping dramatically. Miller advises that water and sewage subsidies from the NSW Govt have reduced hugely, adding that he completely disagrees with

Perry's claims that NSW Councils are in a better position for the future thanks to rate pegging. Miller says that many people on both sides of NSW politics disagree with rate pegging but for some reason it remains, adding that NSW is the only state to have the policy which he labels a nonsense. Miller urges Perry to get into the 21st century as she seems stuck in the 1970s and comments on the trend of local councils selling off assets to cope with infrastructure demands.

ABC North Coast NSW (Lismore)

07:30 News

26/05/2010 7:33:31 AM

Barbara Perry, NSW Minister for Local Government believes rate pegging is putting councils in NSW in a better position for the future. Perry made the comments while addressing a local govt conference yesterday. Perry says reforms introduced over the past two years by the NSW Govt have enabled councils to look seriously at their assets.

ABC Illawarra (Wollongong)

Statewide Afternoons

26/05/2010 2:40:56 PM

Hill talks about recent claims from local councils about the detrimental impact of rate pegging, although Barbara Perry, Minister for Local Govt has claimed the opposite. Hill notes that NSW is the only state to have rate pegging in place even though the Shire and Local Govt Association are calling for it to be abolished. Hill says that last year IPART released a report containing alternative rate pegging recommendations. Hill speaks to Jim Cox, CEO, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales about the report, who says that the Govt has not yet responded to or released it. Cox says some the recommendations included a rate pegging index, and more communication on rates between local and state Govt. Another approach suggested local councils become exempt from rate pegging if they had demonstrated a good record of community consultation. Hill notes that she spoke to Barry O'Farrell, NSW Opposition Leader who says the Opp is committed to maintaining rate pegging although they would like to experiment with some alternative systems, including one in NZ where councils submit a ten year infrastructure plan.

ABC Illawarra (Wollongong)

Statewide Afternoons

26/05/2010 2:50:49 PM

Continuing a discussion on rate pegging in NSW, Hill speaks to Genia McCaffery, President, Local Govt Association of NSW who says that all NSW road investments have been AAA rated in response to a previous caller's concerns. McCaffery says every year councils get less income in even though their costs go up. She notes the IPART report on rate pegging is greatly appreciated by her organisation. She says that as NSW is the only state with it in place, its success is questionable. McCaffery says that rate pegging is not being challenge by either the NSW Govt or Opp because it is an easy way of 'making themselves look better at the costs of councils.' She says NSW Govt has poor rapport with its local councils and discusses how pegging will not be beneficial in the long term. Local Govt being recognised in the constitution is also discussed.

ABC Online

Perry talks up rate pegging

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/05/26/2909885.htm?site=northcoast§ion=news>

New South Wales Local Government Minister, Barbara Perry, believes rate pegging is placing councils in a better position for the future.

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Disaster relief funding

Prime North Coast (Lismore)

Prime Local News

24/05/2010 6:00:30 PM

The NSW Govt is being accused of preventing two Mid North Coast councils from properly cleaning up after last year's floods. Coffs Harbour City Council claims it is still waiting for disaster relief assistance grants, while Nambucca Shire Council's request for extra financial help has been turned down. Andrew Fraser, Member for Coffs Harbour, says that grants for Coffs Harbour have been approved but are 'sitting on a minister's desk'. The claim has been denied by a media advisor for Minister of Emergency Services, Steve Whan. The office of Steve Whan says that neither Treasury nor the Rural Assistance Authority have ever received a grant application from Coffs Harbour City Council for the funding in question. Michael Coulter, General Manager, Nambucca Shire Council is unhappy with RTA's refusal to fund two road projects.

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Trade waste agreements

Publication Title: Cootamundra Herald

Headline: Local businesses face new cost

Publication Date: 24 May 2010

Publication Section: General News

Page Number: 3

Link unavailable

MANY Cootamundra businesses could be slugged with a new water and sewer cost following the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water's decision to enforce 'Trade Waste Agreements', which Cootamundra Shire Council has in the past resisted enforcing.

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Councils selling community assets

Publication Title: Daily Telegraph

Headline: Councils sell their jewels

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw-act/crisis-torn-councils-are-selling-their-jewels/story-e6freuzi-1225871292035>

CRISIS-torn councils are selling off community assets to pay the bills. Councillors across NSW are presiding over documents detailing the sales of libraries, car parks, airports and Scout halls.

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Community infrastructure funding

Publication Title: Blacktown Advocate

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

Publication Section: General News

Page Number: 25

Headline: McCaffery laments loss of vital fund

Link unavailable

LOCAL government infrastructure backlogs will worsen after the Federal Government scrapped the regional and local community infrastructure program.

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Climate change workshop

ABC South East NSW (Bega)

07:30 News

26/05/2010 7:33:32 AM

The Cooma Monaro Shire Council has attended a workshop with the NSW Environment Department on how local Govts can handle the impacts of climate change. The workshop was organised by the Local Govts Association. Peter Smith, Director of Environmental Services, Cooma Monaro Shire Council says the workshop explored strategies Councils are using now.

Prime North Coast (Lismore)

Prime Local News

25/05/2010 6:09:34 PM

Local councils have brainstormed ways of becoming environmentally sustainable in the face of climate change. Nadine White, Southern Cross University PhD Candidate says that leadership from State and Fed Govt would assist in planning for climate change.

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Rail lines

ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga)

12:30 News

25/05/2010 12:33:08 PM

Councils trying to save five rail branch lines from closure are trying to arrange talks with new Transport Minister John Robertson. They have had to cancel a meeting with former Minister David Campbell, who had vowed to set up a ministerial taskforce to examine the case for retaining the rail branch lines.

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Dogs at cafes

Publication Title: Inner West Courier

Headline: Last of the puppacinos?

Publication Date: 25 May 2010

<http://inner-west-courier.wherelive.com.au/news/story/new-laws-threaten-cafe-bones/>

HAS Cafe Bones served its last puppacino? Owners of Leichhardt's beloved pooch-friendly cafe claim the State Government's proposed amendments to the Companion Animals Act will force their four and two-legged patrons away with tails between their legs.

Cost shifting

Publication Title: Central Coast Express-Advocate

Headline: Councils cite long list of examples

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

Link unavailable

THE Local Government and Shires Association has identified 25 items where costshifting has been forced onto NSW councils.

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Coastal erosion

NBN Coffs Harbour (Coffs Harbour)

NBN News

25/05/2010 6:07:22 PM

The NSW Govt is considering asking councils to impose a levy on land owners to help combat coastal erosion. Collected taxes would be used to pay for long term protection measures. Paul Hogan, Taree Mayor, says the levy may not be fair. Concerned locals at Old Bar Beach are continuing a push for a study into the viability of an offshore reef.

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ICAC

ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga)

12:30 News

25/05/2010 12:32:34 PM

Narrandera Shire Council has circulated an investigator's report into two staff suspensions to elected councillors and the affected staff. The council says it is taking disciplinary action against the two staff in relation to the Red Hill Industrial Estate and that the report has been sent to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, in accordance with operating procedures.

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Funding

2BH (Broken Hill)

07:30 Local News

27/05/2010 7:32:09 AM

The Western Region is missing out on vital funding from the state govt according to Ray Longfellow, president, Western Divisions Council. He says a drop in population and the lack of chances for councils to raise revenue has led to councils struggling to fight rising maintenance costs. He says with extreme drought and flooding recently, local roads in serious need of ongoing repair. He met with the minister for Local Govt recently to discuss changes to the process before the next round of funding.

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Capital Cities planning

2CC (Canberra)

27/05/2010 6:21:26 AM

Lord mayors and mayors from across the country are gathering at Parliament House to present a submission to the Federal Government on planning for Australia's capital cities. Lord says he will contact Graeme Sawyer, Lord Mayor of Darwin today, who ran Frogwatch.

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Illegal council rates

ABC Mid North Coast NSW (Coffs Harbour)

Morning Show

27/05/2010 8:41:31 AM

Host mentions the Bellingen Shire Council which are trying to recover \$1.2m in unpaid rates which represents about a 12% shortfall in rate income for the council. Replays a call from yesterday's state wide afternoon program during an interview with Genia McCaffery about rate pegging. Joined by Bellingen Shire resident Terry Martin who whose the council \$20,000 and says he hasn't paid his rates in about six years and discuss his annual rate bill. Bruce Cleary Dorrigo rural land owner outlines the reasons why he believes local govt rates are illegal. Cleary says they have been in contact with the local council on this but have not had a response with

them because they know they have the matter right. Cleary mentions a recent mentions around this issues organised by the Cooee Rally who have also supported Peter Spencer around property rights.

ABC Mid North Coast NSW (Coffs Harbour)

Morning Show

27/05/2010 8:48:05 AM

Interview with Bruce Miller, president Shires Association. Miller examines arguments from some people who believe councils don't have the right to charge rates. Miller points out councils do have the right to charge rates and sell properties if rates remain unpaid after five years. Miller talks about factors around this as there is no constitutional recognition for local govt. Miller notes the importance of rates to local communities.

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Agricultural Parks

Publication Title: Rouse Hill Times

Headline: Agriculture parks to protect health

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

Link unavailable

DEDICATED agricultural parks could be the solution to urban development, wiping out farms in northwest Sydney and protecting the health of future generations.

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Roads

Publication Title: Penrith City Star

Publication Date: 27 May 2010

<http://www.penrithstar.com.au/news/local/news/general/erskine-park-link-road-pushed-back-to-2011/1835515.aspx>

WELL into 2010 and still without a definite start date for the Erskine Park link road. Whatsmore, construction that was promised for this year has been pushed back to next year.

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Developer levies

Publication Title: Rouse Hill Times

Headline: Libs slam government over levies

Publication Date: 26 May 2010

Link unavailable

THE State Opposition has slammed the Labor Government for the massive levies that will be imposed on developers within the Riverstone and Alex Ave precincts.

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Dust monitoring stations

Sydney Morning Herald

Rush to introduce Hunter coal dust monitors

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/rush-to-introduce-hunter-coal-dust-monitors-20100527-whum.html>

HARD on the heels of its decision to block the Bickham coalmine, the state government is to suspend planning controls for a series of coal dust monitoring stations in the Hunter region, expediting their construction.

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Shires conference

2WG (Wagga Wagga)

07:30 News

27/05/2010 7:31:51 AM

The NSW Shires Association Conference is due to be held next week. Bruce Miller, President, Shires Association says it is the most important event of the year on their calendar.

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New England review

ABC New England North West (Tamworth)

Mornings

28/05/2010 8:52:15 AM

Gabrielle Kibble's report into the future of the Armidale-Dumaresq, Walcha, Uralla and Guyra Councils, which made up the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils, has been handed to the Minister Barbara Perry.

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Rate rise

ABC Mid North Coast NSW (Coffs Harbour)

06:30 News

28/05/2010 6:32:49 AM

NSW Local Govt Minister says local councils must focus on providing core services. Perry yesterday met with the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council administrator and senior staff to look at progress since the former council was abolished two years ago. Perry pointed to overspending on a glasshouse as a lesson for other councils. Council administrator Garry Payne says he's still hoping an application for a special rate rise will be approved.

Publication Title: Northern Star

Headline: Silver accuses State Govt of hypocrisy in rate rise tussle

Publication Date: 28 May 2010

Link unavailable

BALLINA mayor Phillip Silver has accused the State Government of 'utter hypocrisy' for forcing the council to seek community approval for a rate rise above the pegging limit.

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Rural priorities

ABC Illawarra (Wollongong)

27/05/2010 12:38:31 PM

The NSW Farmers' Association and some key rural organisations are meeting in Sydney to thrash out their priorities for the next few months. Interview with Charles Armstrong, president, NSW Farmers' Association who set up The Rural Alliance. Cloughton notes the Local Govt and Shires Association and others are involved. Says they're focusing on issues that go across the whole rural scene. He notes issues relate to things such as health services, and notes the Royal Flying Doctor Service is also at the table. He says the group has come together to form a view as to

what they can lobby Govt for. He says the group looked at the implications of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, commenting that it puts into question the survival of some rural communities. He notes the Isolated Children's Parents Association, Rural Doctors Association, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal are all involved in the rural alliance. Armstrong states the Farmers' Associations doesn't have a position on the mining super profits tax. He says as an organisation they are philosophically against taxing people to achieve other objectives, but on the other hand some of the tax is meant to be directed into things like health services.

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Go West

Daily Telegraph

Bush councils pitch wide open spaces to space-poor city cousins

28 May 2010

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw-act/bush-councils-pitch-wide-open-spaces-to-space-poor-city-cousins/story-e6freuzi-1225872292647>

GO west - that's the cry from councils across the state's west as they put out the welcome mat for their city cousins to make the big move. As Sydney struggles to house its surging population with new developments falling short of State Government targets, bush towns are pleading for people to head west.

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