



**Liverpool
Plains**
Shire Council

BUSINESS PAPER

Late Reports

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 23 October 2024

Date: Wednesday, 23 October 2024

Time: 2:30pm

Location: Council Chambers

Gary Murphy
General Manager

Order Of Business

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5 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - RATIFICATION OF LPSC SUBMISSION OF MOTION FOR THE 2024 ANNUAL LGNSW CONFERENCE

File Number: G2024/0270
Author: Ken Cudmore, Mayor
Authoriser:
Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. That Council ratifies the submission of the motion entitled “Increased NSW Government Funding of Regionally Significant Transport Routes” by Cr Lawson, to LGNSW for inclusion in the 2024 Annual LGNSW Conference business paper.

BACKGROUND

It has been noted that the majority of motions included at previous Annual Conferences of LGNSW have been concerned with issues relating to metropolitan councils. Given that the 2024 LGNSW Annual Conference is to be held at Tamworth, it is an especially good opportunity for rural and regional councils to submit business paper motions to have issues that concern us heard and discussed. LGNSW advocates to the relevant levels of Government to lobby on motions that are passed at the conference.

It was discovered by Cr Lawson late last week that the deadline for such submissions was Sunday October 20, 2024. Given that the next ordinary meeting of council, being the first ordinary meeting for council for this term, was October 23, 2024, it was not possible to bring possible motions to the meeting prior to the deadline. In the absence of a council resolution approving the submitted motion, LGNSW accepts a letter of support signed by the Mayor and GM.

Cr Lawson drafted a submission last weekend and lodged the submission online together with the letter of support before the deadline on Sunday October 20, 2024. This issue was chosen as it relates not only to our shire but many rural shires in NSW which will improve the likelihood that it will be accepted into the business paper. It also links to the Heavy Vehicle Access Policy for PBS (Performance Based Standards) vehicles. Full text of the submission made by Cr Lawson is below. Cr Lawson plans to speak to this motion if it is included in the paper and is supported by Council to attend the conference.

Submission to 2024 LGNSW Annual Conference Business Paper

Title of Motion: Increased NSW Government Funding of Regionally Significant Transport Routes

Motion: “We call on the NSW Government to increase funding for both the maintenance and capital upgrade of regionally significant freight routes, to support PBS vehicle access to the state highway network, intermodal terminals, and consequently inland rail.”

Background: In the Liverpool Plains Shire, we have just under 200km of regional roads and a total road network of just under 1400km that we maintain. The funding provided for regional roads is significantly less than the amount we spend on these roads each year on OPEX and CAPEX works. These roads provide shorter routes for freight to other main roads, meaning that these roads are burdened with a large amount of through traffic. The main example of this is the Coonabarabran road that provides a shorter route from Dubbo and other western regions through our shire, and then North along the Werris Creek Road to Tamworth and beyond.

In addition to through traffic from outside our shire these roads provide freight links between primary producers, silos and intermodal terminals. This freight of primary produce is state significant, and it is recognised that within the NSW Governments Freight Policy Reform enabling better access to intermodal transport is a key priority. Our shire has a population of under 8000 and an area of 5086sq km. It is not fair to expect rural Councils like ours to continue to maintain these vital freight links, as vehicle loads are consistently increasing the pressure placed on our aging infrastructure, which are often not built for these loads nor for the area needed for swept paths of these larger vehicles. The Coonabarabran road needs capital works to improve flood resilience to reduce closure and damage due to flooding both for freight and for the villages it services. The Werris Creek road provides a vital link to the intermodal at Werris Creek and to the regional centre of Tamworth, but it requires further works to support higher capacity freight and improve safety. Timely and reliable access for getting our agricultural commodities to market is essential in order for our agricultural enterprises to prosper in a competitive market. The state government needs to recognise that rural shires like the Liverpool Plains are the backbone of our economy and properly fund our regional roads.