

**Shires Association Annual Conference – June 2012**

**Resolution Action and Response Summary Sheet**

Resolution	Action	Response
<p><i>1 – Digital TV Signal - Warren</i> That the Shires Association lobby the Federal Government not to switch off Analogue TV signal where the digital signal is sub- standard.</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy responded on behalf of the Minister on 3 August 2012 noting that the switchover to digital TV in southern and central NSW, the ACT and the MIA switchover region occurred on 5 June 2012. The response notes the correct antenna set-up that should be used for best reception and also alternatives (such as VAST- the Viewer Access Satellite Television Service) that are available should signal not be able to be received via the traditional antenna set-up. The <i>mySwitch</i> service can be accessed through the digital ready website (<a href="http://www.digitalready.gov.au">www.digitalready.gov.au</a>) and allows users to obtain up to date information about TV signals and coverage in specific areas and also to check eligibility for the VAST service.</p>
<p><i>2 – Accelerated rollout to regional, rural and remote areas – Broken Hill</i> That the Shires Association lobby the Commonwealth Government and NBN Co for an accelerated rollout of the NBN to regional, rural and remote areas not withstanding NBN Co’s pre-determined rollout timetable.</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy responded on behalf of the Minister on 3 August 2012 noting that “fibre will be built in regional areas as a priority and NBN Co has brought forward the introduction of wireless and satellite services so that rural and remote Australia can get access to better broadband as soon as possible.” It was also noted that “the majority of construction and planning so far in the NBN project has been in regional, rural and remote Australia. It is expected that the NBN will bring fibre technology to more than 70% of premises in regional Australia.” NBN Co also launched the Interim Satellite Service (ISS) on 1 July 2011 which provides eligible people in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia with access to enhanced broadband services before the permanent satellite service commences in 2015.</p>

<p><i>3 – Solar Energy Systems- Murray</i> That the Shires Association lobbies the State and Federal Governments to provide incentives for homeowners, business, community organisations and Local Government to implement solar energy systems to reduce greenhouse gases.</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Greg Combet AM, MP Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Office of the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency responded via email on 26 June 2012 noting that the Association’s correspondence has been referred to the Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and Industry and Innovation.</p>
<p><i>4 – Impact of Carbon Tax on Councils- Carrathool</i> That the Shires Association lobbies the Federal Government to provide full compensation to Councils for the impact of carbon tax on their operations from 2012/13.</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Greg Combet AM, MP Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Office of the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency responded via email on 26 June 2012 noting that the Association’s correspondence has been referred to the Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and Industry and Innovation.</p>
<p><i>5 – NSW Sport and Recreation Program - Forbes</i> That the Shires Association seek the expansion of the NSW Sport and Recreation Facility Grant Program to provide funding for rural and regional areas.</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Graham Annesley, MP Minister for Sport and Recreation on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>After a meeting on 2 August, the Minister for Sport and Recreation responded on 16 August 2012 noting that in 2011/12 the Sport and Recreation facility Grant Program awarded a total of \$3,272,660 of which \$1,583,284 went to greater metro areas and \$1,689,376 went to regional and rural areas. In response to a review, the new Sport and Recreation Participation and Facility Program (SRPFP) aims to increase participation in sport and recreation and also to assist people who traditionally face barriers to participation to be involved. The funding of regional and local sporting facilities in NSW is available through this program, applications for which open twice per year and are currently open (visit <a href="http://www.dsr.nw.gov.au">www.dsr.nw.gov.au</a> for more information). Grants for facility development in rural and regional areas can also be obtained through the Community Building Partnership Program, opening 14 September 2012 (see <a href="http://www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au">www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au</a>).</p>
<p><i>6 – Working with Children Checks for Councillors - Ballina</i> That it be mandatory for all Councillors to complete a working with children check within three months of being elected.</p>	<p>No further action required</p>	

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<p><i>7 – Water Safety Information - Ballina</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association write to the State and Federal Governments asking that that they give consideration to the provision of water safety information for all international tourists visiting Australia.</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Graham Annesley, MP Minister for Sport and Recreation on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>After a meeting on 2 August, the Minister for Sport and Recreation responded on 16 August 2012 noting that responsibility for water safety now lies with the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Also, as the matter raised relates to tourists, the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing should be involved. The Minister for Sport and Recreation will make representations to the other Ministers on behalf of the Association.</p> <p>The Minister for Sport and Recreation again responded on 18 October 2012 enclosing responses from the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.</p> <p>The Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing noted that the <i>Official Sydney Guide</i>, which is administered by Destination NSW and distributed at Sydney International Airport contains information regarding swimming safety and the emergency services. <i>Visitnsw.com</i> and <i>Sydney.com</i> also provide safety tips for travellers. The National Visitor Safety Program is also supported by Destination NSW and includes initiatives such as the <i>Travel Safely in Australia</i> brochure, available in seven languages and available at Sydney International Airport. This brochure can also be accessed at <a href="http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/tourism/industry-opportunities/visitor-safety-and-security">http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/tourism/industry-opportunities/visitor-safety-and-security</a>.</p> <p>The Minister for Police and Emergency Services noted that the NSW Government is working with the Water Safety Advisory Council in order to reduce drowning deaths and that the NSW Water Safety website has been operational since December 2011. The Minister also notes that “organisations are implementing the first round of projects to be funded from the Water Safety Black Sports Fund. By funding specialised programs, we are aiming to ensure notorious drowning ‘black spots’ are made safer.” The Water Safety Council is developing a NSW Water Safety Strategy, due to be released later in</p>

		2012 after consultation with experts. The Minister notes that “it is important to provide information on water safety to tourists visiting Australia. This issue will be considered when making decisions in relation to the allocation of Government funding as part of water safety election commitments.”
<p><i>8 – National Parks - Bourke</i></p> <p>That the grazing leases that make up National Parks in the Western Division be carefully assessed by a responsible and widely representative body to return a portion of the leases to private productive grazing</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Robyn Parker, MP Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage on 15 June 2012. A follow-up letter was sent on 18 September.</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for the Environment responded on 2 October noting that the correspondence had been received and that a response would be forthcoming as soon as was practical. The Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage responded on 29 November noting that “a Parliamentary Inquiry into public land management in NSW is underway. The Parliamentary Committee is examining the establishment, impacts, benefits and management practices associated with public lands in NSW, with a particular focus on National Parks. Grazing in Parks is an issue that has been raised with the Committee in written submissions and public hearings. The NSW Government will carefully consider the recommendations of the Inquiry when it delivers its report in April 2013.</p> <p>The Minister for the Environment, Robyn Parker, has announced a scientific research trial of grazing to be undertaken in river red gum and cypress reserves. The trial is based on a recommendation by the Natural Resources Commission and supported by the local community. It will be overseen by an independent facilitator. It will only be conducted on land where grazing permits were issued by State Forests before the land transferred to management by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The trial will examine the social, economic and environmental impacts and benefits of grazing.”</p>
<p><i>9 – Single Use Plastic Bags - Ballina</i></p> <p>a. That the Shires Association acknowledge that single-use plastic bags are a major litter problem in our parks and waterways, and can result in the deaths of many turtles, cetaceans, birds, as well as</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Robyn Parker, MP Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for the Environment responded on 2 October noting that the correspondence had been received and that a response would be forthcoming as soon as was practical. The Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage responded on 29 November noting that “The NSW Government is</p>

<p>other animal species</p> <p>b. That the Shires Association write to the State and Federal Government urging them to introduce legislation that would ban non-biodegradable single-use plastic shopping bags.</p>	<p>A follow-up letter was sent on 18 September.</p>	<p>concerned about all types of litter. <i>NSW 2021</i> sets a target to have the lowest litter count per capita in Australia by 2016. In order to achieve this, the Government will be revitalising its efforts, including undertaking anti-littering campaigns in conjunction with local councils, and is preparing a new litter prevention strategy. Local councils and the Local Government and Shires Associations will be consulted in early 2013.</p> <p>The Government also continues to encourage retailers to offer, and the community to use, reusable bags instead of single use bags. Regarding the use of compostable bags, NSW has worked closely with jurisdictions and other stakeholders to ensure that Australian Standards are in place for degradable plastics for both home and commercial composting. This aims to build retailer and consumer confidence that these bags will perform as claimed.”</p>
<p><i>10 – Housing – Central Darling</i></p> <p>That public housing be provided for the elderly in the Western Division and that the housing be specifically designed for to meet their needs in their existing communities.</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Pru Goward, MP Minister for Family and Community Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Family and Community Services responded on 24 August 2012 noting the NSW Government’s efforts in regards to elderly people in public housing and advising that on 9 July 2012 the NSW Government launched the NSW Ageing Strategy which outlines ways the NSW Government can work with Local Governments and the LGSA to strategically plan their response to an ageing population. The strategy includes ways to create “age friendly local communities and greater housing choices”. The Minister also notes that SRLUPs take into account the appropriate provisioning of housing in communities affected by resource developments and that the National Rental Affordability Scheme provides funding “to support the delivery of 250 new affordable rental dwellings in Local Government areas that are members of the Shires Association.”</p>
<p><i>11 – Affordable Housing Strategy - Narrabri</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association call on the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Development to develop a strategy to provide more affordable housing, including community housing, in Shires undergoing</p>	<p>The President wrote to Senator the Hon Pru Goward, MP Minister for Family and Community Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Family and Community Services responded on 24 August 2012 noting the NSW Government’s efforts in regards to elderly people in public housing and advising that on 9 July 2012 the NSW Government launched the NSW Ageing Strategy which outlines ways the NSW Government can work with Local</p>

<p>growth from resource developments.</p> <p>Covered by motion 10</p>		<p>Governments and the LGSA to strategically plan their response to an ageing population. The strategy includes ways to create “age friendly local communities and greater housing choices”. The Minister also notes that SRLUPs take into account the appropriate provisioning of housing in communities affected by resource developments and that the National Rental Affordability Scheme provides funding “to support the delivery of 250 new affordable rental dwellings in Local Government areas that are members of the Shires Association.”</p>
<p><i>12 – Accommodation Facility for Regional Patients and Relatives near Wagga Base Hospital - Tumut</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the State Government to develop an accommodation facility for regional patients and relatives near all Base Hospitals along the line of the one at the ACT Calvary Hospital.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health responded on behalf of the Minister for Health on 27 July 2012. The Secretary noted that “the Murrumbidgee Local Health District will continue to investigate a number of options to meet the need for short term accommodation for family members and carers of patients in their hospitals. The Chief Executive, Murrumbidgee Local health District, Ms Susan Weisser would welcome the opportunity, if approached by either/both non-government and charitable organisations, to fund the construction and operate such facilities.” The Secretary also notes the existing arrangements in regards to short-term accommodation in regional areas.</p>
<p><i>13 – Reimbursement of Costs to Access Health Services - Narrabri</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association call on the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner to progress the adoption of a more user friendly system for reimbursement of travel costs for regional residents accessing health service in cities and major towns.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health responded on behalf of the Minister for Health on 27 July 2012. The Secretary noted that on January 1 2012 changes were made to the IPTAAS scheme that reduced the number of times patients were required to complete IPTAAs Application forms. Regarding multiple visits to specialists, forms now only need to be filled in once and a Travel Diary kept. IPTAAS Offices are available to assist in this process.</p>
<p><i>14 – ACT and NSW Renal and Dialysis services Provision - Tumut</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association request the new cross border commission undertake a review of ACT, NSW and Victoria Renal and Dialysis services provision.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health responded on behalf of the Minister for Health on 27 July 2012. The Secretary noted that “Local Health Districts are developing Clinical Services Plans that will identify clinical service provision across the LHD for all clinical services including renal services. Local decision making</p>

		<p>ensures that consideration of local issues including workforce availability, consultation and negotiation with cross border service providers and balancing of capital requirements can be considered when planning for local services.” The Secretary also notes specifically in regards to renal services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Where needed, interstate hospitalisation for renal service by NSW residents needs to be pre-arranged between the local hospital with the interstate hospital because the availability of renal machines and medical professionals to supervise and administer drugs etc is reliant on those interstate jurisdictions.</li> <li>• NSW residents can be treated for renal conditions in other jurisdictions if they are admitted to hospital via the Emergency Department (for any medical reason).</li> <li>• NSW residents can be treated in other jurisdictions at any point in time for any medical reason under the current National Health Reform Agreement. The Medicare principles apply which provide that public hospital services for any eligible patient should be on the grounds of clinical need and not geographic residence.</li> <li>• As such, there are Cross Border adjustment processes amongst all states and territories whereby state and territories reimburse each other for their own residents treated in the other jurisdictions.”</li> </ul>
<p><i>15 – Funding Availability Review – Transport Dialysis Patients - Narrabri</i> That the Shires Association call on the Health Minister to review funding availability for transport of patients for dialysis treatment or consider providing more regional capabilities with 100km of any patient.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health responded on behalf of the Minister for Health on 27 July 2012. The Secretary noted that “patients travelling a cumulative distance of at least 200km per week to access renal dialysis services are eligible for IPTAAS travel subsidies”. The Ministry of health will be undertaking a review of its Transport for Health Policy and this review will include “consideration of options for improving transport services for patients requiring renal dialysis services.”</p>
<p><i>16 – Hospitals - Bogan</i> That the Shires Association lobby the Minister for Health to review the NSW health practice in public</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP Minister for Health, and</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health responded on behalf of the Minister for Health on 27 July 2012. The Secretary noted that the NSW Ministry of health has a policy regarding Same</p>

<p>hospitals, particular Dubbo Base Hospital, where persons of opposite sex share wards.</p>	<p>Minister for Medical Research, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>Gender Accommodation which can be found at <a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2010/PD2010_005.html">http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2010/PD2010_005.html</a>. The Secretary also notes that Chief Executives are responsible for ensuring that “patients staying overnight in a hospital are to be in a same gender room or ward within 24 hours of admission with some exceptions, where immediate provision of same gender accommodation is not possible.” In this case, the situation should be remedied as soon as is logistically possible and that in the meantime, “the privacy and dignity of all patients in their care is maintained.”</p>
<p><i>17 – Re-entry of Nurses into Workforce - Junee</i> That the Shires Association lobby the Federal Government and to allow rural based tertiary institutions to be part of the Pathway for re-entry and further that nurses when they have been non-practising for more than ten years be given a more acceptable and accessible pathway rather than to complete their Bachelor of Nursing again.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health responded on behalf of the Minister for Health on 27 July 2012. The Secretary noted that the independent organisation Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) is responsible for registration of nurses and the development of standards and that nurses in rural and regional NSW do encounter difficulties in re-entering the nursing profession. The Minister has written to the Chair of the NMBA “expressing concerns about the impact of the re-entry policy and standard on NSW nurses...and recommending a more flexible approach which takes into account previous experience and competencies at the time of re-registration.” The NMBA has approved a Re-entry to Practice policy which may allow return to practice through a supervised practice program. The NSW government has also funded 60 re-entry scholarships. The Secretary also notes that “the College of Nursing has developed a distance learning re-entry course which is before the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) for review. There is currently no indication of a commencement date for this course. The College’s submission has been with ANMAC for some time. The NSW Health Minister has made it clear that the delay in considering the proposal is unacceptable, especially for those in rural and regional NSW who would find a distance learning program more suitable for their needs. While the Minister would welcome</p>

		universities providing re-entry programs that is ultimately a decision for them to make”.
<p><i>18 – Royal Flying Doctor Service – Broken Hill</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the NSW Minister for Health for a State wide RFDS F/W (Fixed Wing) Aero medical operation across NSW with the following RFDS bases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mascot</li> <li>• Broken Hill</li> <li>• Dubbo</li> <li>• Bankstown</li> </ul> <p>For the delivery of the RFDS, IHT, Primary Evacuations and Primary Health Services.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health responded on behalf of the Minister for Health on 27 July 2012. The Secretary noted that the RFDS has “made representations to the Shires Association of NSW regarding a proposal to move to a single contract to cover all State aeromedical agreements held with RFDS. These agreements include services based at Mascot (commercial contract), Broken Hill (NGO agreement), Dubbo (NGO agreement) and Bankstown (NGO agreement). Ambulance Services NSW is currently considering a proposal from the RFDS regarding the feasibility of a single contract for Broken Hill, Dubbo and Bankstown aeromedical contracts held with the Ministry of Health. Following a meeting with RFDS held on 7 June 2012, RFDS is providing additional information including cost structures. As the Mascot service is an Ambulance Service of NSW operation [not RFDS] which from time to time is subject to a commercial tender process for the aviation components, this contract will not be included as part of the single contract proposal.”</p>
<p><i>19 – Shortage of Medical Practitioners in Rural Areas - Deniliquin</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association request the Premier to immediately take action to address the shortage of Medical Practitioners in rural areas as the responsibility for the provision of adequate medical services to the population of the State clearly rests with the State Government.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health responded on behalf of the Minister for Health on 27 July 2012. The Secretary noted that, in regards to rural workforce strategies, the funding of general practice, including training is the responsibility of the Federal government, however the State government does have several initiatives to support health services in rural communities including the GP Procedural Training Program and the NSW Generalist Training program. The Rural Preferential Recruitment Program has 106 positions available in 2013, compared to 89 in 2012 and the Rural Scholarship Fund awarded 140 scholarships in 2011. Regarding intern placements and RA classification, the Secretary notes that “the location and number of intern positions is not determined by the RA classification system. The location of positions is determined by availability of appropriate supervision</p>

		and clinical experiences.” The Commonwealth Bonded Medical Places Scheme also requires medical students to work in a District of Workforce Shortage (DWS) for a length of time equivalent to the length of their degree. This time can be reduced if the doctor goes to the DWs as a second year postgraduate doctor while completing specialist training.
<p><i>20 – Working Visas - Bourke</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association seek changes from the Federal Government to allow people employed in the Hospitality Industries in the Western Division to be able to sign FORM S1263 in order for young people working on 417 WORKING HOLIDAY VISAS to extend their stay in Australia for another 12 months.</p>		
<p><i>21 – Code of Conduct – The Executive</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association endorse and present to the Minister for Local Government the Code of Conduct as attached to this business paper.</p>		
<p><i>22 – Constitutional Recognition - Cootamundra</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association call upon the NSW State Government as a matter of urgency to change its stated position and support financial recognition of local government in the proposed referendum due at the next Federal Election.</p> <p>And that the Shires Association meet with the Minister for Local Government to assess what the factors are preventing NSW Government’s support for Constitutional Recognition.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that the Government supports “in principle consideration of symbolic recognition as a way of enhancing the status of local government” and that this is consistent with the State Plan, <i>NSW 2012</i>. However, the Minister also notes that “the Government is not in a position to support financial recognition of local government for a number of reasons” including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling the Federal Government to directly fund local government could circumvent <i>NSW 2012</i></li> <li>• Creating confusion about the roles and responsibilities of the different levels of government</li> <li>• Blurring the lines of accountability between governments and constituents.</li> </ul> <p>While the Minister notes that the <i>Pape</i> and <i>Williams</i> cases cast</p>

		some doubt over the ability of the Commonwealth to directly fund councils outside s96, he also notes that “the Government is of the view that amendments to the Constitution should not be made in the absence of clear evidence that funding arrangements are deficient.
<p><i>23 – Local Government Elections - Cabonne</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association commence early negotiations with the NSW Electoral Commission to obtain data in relation to the actual costs of the 2012 Local Government Elections, with a view to entering into early discussions with the Electoral Commission for the 2016 elections.</p>		
<p><i>24 – Voting in Local Government Elections - Bland</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government for the reintroduction of the concept of ‘first past the post’ voting in local government elections.</p> <p>Lost</p>	No further action required	
<p><i>25 – Rate Pegging – The Executive</i></p> <p>a. That the Shires Association renew its calls on the NSW Government to remove rate pegging on the grounds that it has been made redundant by the introduction of Integrated Planning and Reporting, the development of Community Strategic Plans and adoption of Long Term Financial Planning.</p> <p>And</p> <p>b. That as a minimum interim measure to the phasing out of rate pegging, that the Shires</p>	The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that he is pleased with the progress made under the IP&amp;R framework in regards to councils planning and managing their resources. The final wave of councils are currently submitting IP&amp;R plans and the DLG will review these in August 2012 which will provide “a useful picture of the extent to which IP&amp;R has been successfully been successfully implemented”. The DLG is currently undertaking an Infrastructure Audit to provide evidence of the infrastructure backlog in councils.</p> <p>The Minister also notes that “the Independent Local Government Review Panel is examining the financial sustainability of each council and the capacity of councils to meet community needs. The Panel may therefore provide analysis of and recommendations on rate</p>

<p>Association call on the NSW State Government to add a margin of (say 2%?) to the basic Local Government Cost Index calculated by IPART, as a component of the overall rate pegging limit. The additional margin should be based on the submission and recommendation of the Shires Association (The Associations).</p> <p>The additional margin would be based on recognition of the;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding roles and responsibilities of councils;</li> <li>• Infrastructure renewals backlog;</li> <li>• Increased community demands and expectations; and</li> <li>• The need and desirability to provide for “betterment”.</li> </ul>		<p>pegging if it was determined that this issue was relevant.”</p>
<p><i>26 – Rate Pegging - Eurobodalla</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association calls on all members of the New South Wales Parliament who are currently, or who were previously, Mayors or Councillors to support the removal of rate pegging imposed upon councils in New South Wales.</p>		
<p><i>27 – Rating Structures – Snowy River</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the Minister for Local Government to include a review of rating structures in NSW as part of the Independent Local Government Review into Destination 2036</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that the Independent Local Government Review Panel may include rating structures in its examination so far as they impact on the financial sustainability of councils.</p>
<p><i>28 – Access to information - Companion Animals – Kempsey</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the NSW Government to allow people who have been impacted</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> s89 provides for certain information recorded on the Companion Animals Register to remain confidential. The Minister notes that “Confidential</p>

<p>by companion animal incidents to be allowed to be advised of the intended actions and outcomes of responses to the incidents that have been formally reported to the Police or Council.</p>		<p>information is any information contained in or acquired from the Register or any other information obtained in connection with the enforcement or administration of the Act or Companion Animals regulation.” The Minister acknowledges that this does limit the information that councils can pass on to third parties in relation to incidents involving companion animals.</p> <p>However, the Minister also notes that he has asked the Division of Local Government to consult with the Office of the Information Commissioner and any other relevant agency as to whether the Companion Animals Act is consistent with the public interest guiding principle of the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>.</p>
<p><i>29 – Swimming Pool Installations – Broken Hill</i> That the Shires Association make representations to the NSW Government in support of proactive changes to NSW legislation for mandatory provisions to apply at the time of conveyance of a property that a Swimming Pool Compliance Certificate is provided to the new purchaser by the vendor as a condition of contract of sale.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that as part of its commitment to improving the safety of young children around backyard swimming pools, the Government has released the Swimming Pools Act Review Discussion Paper early in 2012. This included a proposal to require mandatory, periodic inspections of private swimming pools to be conducted by councils when a property containing a swimming pool is sold or leased. Proposals and feedback are currently being considered by the Government.</p>
<p><i>30 – Community Strategic Plans - Hay</i> That the Shires Association request the Premier to give a commitment that the State Government will address in a meaningful manner the community issues identified in the development of the Community Strategic Plans which are the responsibility of State Government.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that in order to achieve the outcomes in <i>NSW 2021</i>, Regional Action Plans are being developed with community consultation and also taking into consideration Community Strategic Plans. The Minister also notes that “most councils in NSW identified similar priority outcomes for their communities [in their CSPs]. Councils and State agencies will work in collaboration to achieve these outcomes.”</p>
<p><i>31 – Local Government Act 1993 – Amendment to Include Electronic Media at Council - Narrabri</i> That the Minister for Local Government gives consideration to amending the Local Government Act to allow formal meetings of Council to take place where</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that the Association may make a submission on this matter at an appropriate time as part of the Local Government Act Review.</p>

<p>Councillors cannot attend in disaster declared Shires to be conducted using suitable electronic media.</p>		
<p><i>32 – Local Government Review Panel – Bega Valley</i> That the Shires Association advocate to the Implementation Steering Committee and the Local Government Review Panel that for Local Government reform to be genuine and enduring, a comprehensive review of roles, responsibilities and relationships between state agencies, regional organisations of councils (ROCs) and local councils be undertaken in relation to delivery of public services, in advance of review of structures, boundaries and legislation.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that “the Local Government review Panel will examine the capacity of councils to meet community needs, deliver efficient and effective services and the financial sustainability of each council. It is expected that the Panel will consider the roles, responsibilities and relationships of councils where they impact on these issues. The Association is encouraged to make a submission and participate in other consultation opportunities provided by the Panel in relation to these matters.”</p>
<p><i>33 – Community Strategic Planning – Broken Hill</i> That the Shires Association lobby the Commonwealth and State Governments through COAG to ensure alignment of Local Government community strategic planning and Australian and State Government planning - including Regional Development Australia strategic plans.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that the IP&amp;R process requires councils to “give due regard to” State and regional plans when developing CSPs and that CSPs have been used to inform Regional Action Plans as part of <i>NSW 2021</i>. The Minister also notes that “the alignment of these plans with Regional Development Australia strategic plans is a matter for the Commonwealth Government”. It is noted that the Associations intend to lobby the Commonwealth Government in regards to this matter.</p>
<p><i>34 – Equitable Distribution of the Regional development Australia Fund - Parkes</i> That the Shires Association work with the Australian Local Government Association to call on the Federal Government to use the former Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program methodology to distribute the remaining funds in the Regional Development Australia Fund.</p>		
<p><i>35 – Regional and Local Community Infrastructure</i></p>		

<p><i>Program - Forbes</i> That the Shires Association seek the continuation of the Regional &amp; Local Community Infrastructure program to support the renewal of ageing community infrastructure.</p>		
<p><i>36 - Variation to Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant Requirements for Allocations to NSW Local Government - Cootamundra</i> That the Shires Association call upon the NSW State Government and the Commonwealth Government as a matter of urgency to review the legislated requirements restricting the distribution of Financial Assistance Grants within the State of NSW.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Don Page MP Minister for Local Government, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government responded on 1 August 2012 noting that Financial Assistance Grants are paid under the <i>Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cwlth)</i> and that the Act requires grant assessment to be conducted under the National Principles. The Minister also notes that the Commonwealth Government intends to conduct a review of Financial Assistance Grants and that the Association may take this opportunity to represent its views.</p>
<p><i>37 – Regional Infrastructure Fund Projects - Narrabri</i> That the Shires Association express strong concern over the lack of consultation by the State Government with Local Government regarding projects to be funded from the Regional Infrastructure Fund directly as a result of their study of the economic assessment of mining affected Councils.</p>		
<p><i>38 – Increased Funding for Cultural Development at a Local Level – Bega Valley</i> That the Shires Association lobby Federal and State Government Ministers for the Arts to increase the level of funding for cultural development at a local level.</p>		
<p><i>39 – Resource Company Contributions (Mining Royalties) – The Executive</i> That the Shires Association call on the NSW State</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Planning and</p>	<p>The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure responded on 15 August 2012 noting that SRLUPs include the preparation of integrated funded</p>

<p>Government to amend the EP&amp;A Act to require resource companies power generators and wind farm operators, which are granted state significant project approval to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a “community enhancement fund” to provide annual contributions to local community organisations and projects. This fund should be in place for the life of the project.</li> <li>2. Establish a “planning agreement” with the local council and affected councils in the immediate vicinity of the project to make annual contributions to the councils for the improvement/ expansion of the local infrastructure. This agreement should be for the life of the project with contributions made annually.</li> <li>3. That the conference note the Associations current policy, supporting the Association of Mining Related Councils, for a 30% hypothecation of mining royalties.</li> </ol> <p>This motion will cover motion 40 (b) and 42</p>	<p>Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>infrastructure plans for key affected areas. The infrastructure plans will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-infrastructure identification,</li> <li>-cumulative impact methodology establishment,</li> <li>- investigation of options for funding sources and mechanisms for equitable fund sharing (options may include standardised annual levies, s94 levies, standardised voluntary planning agreements and cross-boundary infrastructure)</li> <li>-establishing a resources development monitoring program to provide infrastructure providers and local councils with indicative timelines of resource-based projects.</li> </ul> <p>It is also proposed that SRLUPs will include the preparation of a guideline “to provide a consistent framework for voluntary planning agreements between mining and coal seam gas companies and local councils relating to local infrastructure provision.”</p> <p>Infrastructure funding for local councils will also be a part of the <i>Green Paper</i> review.</p>
<p><i>40 – Communities Affected by Mining – Local Infrastructure – Upper Hunter</i></p> <p>a. That the Shires Association lobby the NSW Department of Planning to include in the assessment of mining applications, the cumulative and individual impacts of such developments, both within and outside the Local Government area of the site.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure responded on 15 August 2012 noting that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cumulative impacts from mining and coal seam gas are acknowledged in draft SRLUPs</li> <li>-draft SRLUPs propose the preparation of “a cumulative impact assessment methodology to manage the cumulative health and amenity impacts of mining and coal seam gas proposals”. The methodology will also consider “whether cumulative impact</li> </ul>

<p>b. That the Shires Association lobby for the adequate disbursement of State and Federal Funds for communities directly affected by mining, not only those areas that have operating mines within their area.</p> <p>Part B covered by Executive motion 39.</p>		<p>thresholds or tipping points can be adequately described and predicted” and will also “address cumulative impacts on agriculture land and water resources”.</p> <p>- the allocation of Federal or State funds to local governments for communities affected by mining is the responsibility of Treasury.</p>
<p><i>41 - Deputy Premier's Media Release - Economic Assessment Mining Affected Communities - in particular Singleton as a member of the Shires Association - Singleton</i></p> <p>That D Division request the Shires Association to acknowledge the “Economic Assessment Mining Affected Communities” and support the identified deficiencies in particular to Singleton as a member of the Shires Association.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>See response to Motion 39</p>
<p><i>42 – Mining Royalties - Bogan</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association approaches the State Government to have a negotiated percentage of Mining Royalties from a NEW mine paid direct to the Shire where the mine is to be located</p> <p>Executive motion 39 covers this motion</p>	<p>No further action required</p>	<p>See response to Motion 39</p>
<p><i>43 – Developer Contributions – State Significant Developments – Upper Lachlan</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association of NSW make representations to the Minister for Planning to require that a mandatory condition be included within the conditions of consent for State Significant Developments requiring applicants to make contributions payable under the EP&amp;A Act of at least</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>See response to Motion 39</p>

<p>equivalent to the rates set out in voluntary planning agreements made under Section 94A of the EP&amp;A Act to the local Council of the local government area wherein the State Significant Development is located.</p>		
<p><i>44 – Mining Consultant - Gloucester</i> That the Shires Association request the State Government to form an independent panel funded by an the extractive industry with the role of this independent panel to select the consultant to carry out any of the studies required in the planning process further that they request the Government to acknowledge the recent changes the Planning Legislation have ignored Local Government submissions.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure responded on 15 August 2012 acknowledging that the Department had noted the resolution and that the <i>Green Paper</i> has now been released. The Minister also notes that the Department will consider the Shires Associations’ suggestion regarding an independent panel to select consultants for studies which are done for the development of extractive industries.</p>
<p><i>45 – Standard LEP Instrument – Amendments - Ballina</i> That the Shires Association approach the NSW State Government to amend the standard LEP instrument as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Boundary adjustment subdivision - to allow subdivision where one or more allotments involved is less than 90% of the minimum lot size specified for subdivision.</li> <li>b. Split zone and residual lot subdivision - to include a provision that clearly enables the creation of split zone and residual lots in criteria-based circumstances</li> <li>c. Structure and form of land use definitions - to see the relationships between definitions expressed via a mechanism that minimises the potential for legal</li> </ul>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure responded on 15 August 2012 noting the concerns raised regarding split zone and residential lot subdivision under the Standard Instrument Order (SI Order). Regarding subdivision of rural land, the Minister notes that c4.6 is a compulsory clause under the SI Order and prevents the subdivision of land for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“- boundary adjustments where existing lots are less than the minimum lot size;</li> <li>- for permitted purposes other than agriculture and dwellings in rural zones, and</li> <li>- where more than one zone applies (split zone clauses).”</li> </ul> <p>Similar provisions already exist in the LEPs of many councils and many of these councils wish to include these in their SI LEPs, for example, Moree Plains LEP 2010. According to the Parliamentary Counsel, clauses for rural subdivision may be included in SI LEPs without contravening cl.4.6. The inclusion of rural subdivisions in SI</p>

<p>challenge.</p> <p>d. Vegetation management - to more clearly define the role of local government in respect to vegetation management.</p>		<p>LEPs may be discussed with the Department’s regional teams which is an approach that was endorsed by the Local Planning Panel (the Panel) on 15 December 2011.</p> <p>The Minister acknowledged Council’s concern regarding definitions of land use in the SI LEP. Practice Note PN11-003 <i>Preparing LEPs Using the Standard Instrument: definitions</i> provides a guide for the use and interpretation of SI LEP definitions. The Panel has recommended to the Department that they investigate amending the SI Order to increase transparency and useability in regards to terminology.</p> <p>Regarding vegetation management, the Panel is currently considering this matter and will make its recommendations available in due course.</p>
<p><i>46 – Formal Accreditation of Fire Safety Consultants - Harden</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the State Minister for Planning to make amendments to the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation, 2000</i> and the <i>Building Professionals Act 2005</i> that would create a definition in the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation, 2000</i> of a “properly qualified person” in relation to the issuing of annual fire safety statement and the need for that “property qualified person” to attain accreditation from the Building Professionals Board in a manner commensurate with the accreditation of building certifiers.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure responded on 15 August 2012 noting that a review is currently being undertaken by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure into the laws regulating the maintenance of essential fire safety measures, including a review of fire safety consultant’s accreditation. The review “will also determine appropriate consideration of the Association’s proposal for the inclusion of ‘property qualified persons’ under the Building Professional Board’s Accreditation Scheme.”</p>
<p><i>47 – Acquisition of Land for Future Planning - Wentworth</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association approach the State Government to rethink its position on councils acquiring land for future long term development with a view to allowing councils to acquire land in advance for</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure, on 15 June</p>	<p>The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure responded on 15 August 2012 noting that the Department of Planning and Infrastructure “has no policies which seek to prevent the acquisition of land by local councils”.</p>

strategic purposes.	2012	
<p><i>48 – Rural Fire Service – Review of Local Government Engagement – The Executive</i></p> <p>That the Association advocate operational disengagement with the RFS with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFS to take over all council owned RFS equipment and vehicles including the management, maintenance and financial management and administration of local RFS units</li> <li>• NSW Government/RFS to provide councils with fair reimbursement for their proportion of assets transferred to the RFS, following extensive consultation with councils.</li> <li>• RFS to improve Local Liaison Committee engagements/processes including constructive community consultation for local budget expenditure.</li> </ul> <p>Further, that the Association:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call for the establishment of a working group with the RFS and other relevant NSW Government agencies to facilitate Local Government retraction from operational engagement with the RFS including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Investigating the issues of insurance, maintenance, utility costs, and capital expenditure for RFS facilities.</li> <li>b. Exploring possible processes for transferring of the facilities to the RFS taking into account co-located premises and the methodology for calculating valuation/payment of facilities transferred to the RFS.</li> <li>c. Any other matters related to council owned</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Michael Gallacher, MLC Minister for Police and Emergency Services, on 25 June 2012</p>	

<p>RFS facilities.</p> <p>2. Encourage councils to continue to participate in RFS Local Liaison Committees and Bush Fire Management Committees in their capacity as land managers and community representatives.</p> <p><b>Executive Note:</b> The Associations have received council feedback on the <i>LGSA Discussion Paper: Review of Local Government Engagement with the RFS</i> from 55 of the 125 councils engaged with the RFS.</p>		
<p><i>49 – NSW Rural Fire Service Funding - Cabonne</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association:</p> <p>i). Express its concern to the Premier and the Minister for Emergency Services concerning the apparent reduction in funding allocation for brigade stations and tankers;</p> <p>ii). Call on the State Government to rectify this situation through alteration of priorities in future years.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Michael Gallacher, MLC Minister for Police and Emergency Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services responded on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 26 June 2012 indicating that the resolution has been raised with the Minister and is receiving attention.</p> <p>The Minister for Police and Emergency Services responded on 8 February 2013 noting that the Government “is committed to providing the highest standard of equipment and other resources to fire fighters. Funding of \$30.1 million for tankers and other fire fighting vehicles and \$9.9 million for brigade stations and fire control centres was allocated to the NSW Rural Fire Service for 2012/13.</p> <p>During the 2011 State Election the NSW Government committed to reviewing the funding arrangements to determine whether alternative options exist which would maintain funding levels for the fire and emergency services in NSW. As part of the Government’s commitment, any proposed changes to the funding arrangements would first be progressed through a community consultation process.</p> <p>As part of the consultation process, a public discussion paper was released on 4 July 2012 to seek the views of the community on key aspects of any proposed funding model. The public consultation</p>

		<p>period concluded on 31 October 2012. The Government is closely considering community feedback before making any decision on a new model.</p> <p>In addition, a Review of the Emergency Services has been undertaken in line with the NSW 2021 Plan commitment to undertake agency reviews on a rolling basis. The Review aims to ensure that growth in Government spending matches growth in revenues and provides sustainable basis for delivering emergency services.</p> <p>The NSW Treasury and the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services collaborated with all emergency services agencies to undertake the review. Commissioners of emergency services agencies have now formed a Strategic Management Council to consider the report, the opportunities it provides and oversee implementation.</p> <p>The Government will work with the emergency services agencies to implement reforms that improve the way our emergency services work to keep our communities safe.”</p>
<p><i>50 – NSW Rural Fire Fighting Fund Contributions - Parkes</i></p> <p>1. That the Shires Association call on the NSW Government to review the framework for the NSW Rural Fire Fighting Fund to avoid the large variability from the “estimated probable contribution” and consequential impact on Councils.</p> <p>2. That the Shires Association call on the Minister raising objections to the unreasonable charges for the Government Radio Network (GRN) communication platform.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Michael Gallacher, MLC Minister for Police and Emergency Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services responded on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 26 June 2012 indicating that the resolution has been raised with the Minister and is receiving attention.</p> <p>The Minister for Police and Emergency Services responded on 8 February 2013 noting that the Government “is committed to providing the highest standard of equipment and other resources to fire fighters. Funding of \$30.1 million for tankers and other fire fighting vehicles and \$9.9 million for brigade stations and fire control centres was allocated to the NSW Rural Fire Service for 2012/13.</p> <p>During the 2011 State Election the NSW Government committed to reviewing the funding arrangements to determine whether alternative options exist which would maintain funding levels for the fire and emergency services in NSW. As part of the</p>

		<p>Government’s commitment, any proposed changes to the funding arrangements would first be progressed through a community consultation process.</p> <p>As part of the consultation process, a public discussion paper was released on 4 July 2012 to seek the views of the community on key aspects of any proposed funding model. The public consultation period concluded on 31 October 2012. The Government is closely considering community feedback before making any decision on a new model.</p> <p>In addition, a Review of the Emergency Services has been undertaken in line with the NSW 2021 Plan commitment to undertake agency reviews on a rolling basis. The Review aims to ensure that growth in Government spending matches growth in revenues and provides sustainable basis for delivering emergency services.</p> <p>The NSW Treasury and the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services collaborated with all emergency services agencies to undertake the review. Commissioners of emergency services agencies have now formed a Strategic Management Council to consider the report, the opportunities it provides and oversee implementation.</p> <p>The Government will work with the emergency services agencies to implement reforms that improve the way our emergency services work to keep our communities safe.”</p> <p>The Minister also noted that regarding Government Radio Network (GRN) pricing, a copy of the Association’s correspondence has been forwarded to the Hon Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services for direct reply as this falls within his portfolio.</p>
<p><i>51 – Emergency Services Responses to Flooding Disasters – The Executive</i></p> <p>That in response to widespread flooding events in late 2011/2012 that the Shires Association requests the Minister for Emergency Services to review the existing</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Michael Gallacher, MLC Minister for Police and Emergency Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services responded on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 26 June 2012 indicating that the resolution has been raised with the Minister and is receiving attention.</p> <p>The Minister for Police and Emergency Services responded on 8</p>

<p>legislation dealing with flood emergencies to ensure more local knowledge, control and consultation takes place in determining the way in which emergency services respond to and communicate natural disasters.</p> <p>That the Minister support payment to the local SES controller at times of emergency.</p> <p>This motion covers motion 52.</p>		<p>February 2013 noting that “the State Disaster Plan (DISPlan) has been reviewed and renamed the State Emergency Management Plan (EMPlan). Amendments to the <i>State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989</i>, which facilitated this name change, commenced on 26 November 2012.</p> <p>The EMPlan recognises the importance of local capability in emergency management and also emphasises communication and consultation at all levels as principals of emergency management. Local Emergency Management Committees will shortly be asked to review Local DISPlans and recast them as Local EMPlans. These plans determine the framework for how operations at a local level are conducted.</p> <p>The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Review of the 2012 NSW Floods recognised that regular briefings at all levels should be emphasised during significant events to assist individual agencies in planning their response activities.</p> <p>The NSW SES has responsibility for the development of local Flood Plans. Local Government has the opportunity to participate in the development of local DISPlans and flood plans through the Local Emergency Management Committee.</p> <p>Local Emergency Operations Centres coordinate local services and provide the forum for local input. However emergencies of a scale of state significance require State input. During protracted events, it may be necessary to appoint external controllers due to fatigue management and resource limitations.</p> <p>With respect to the payment of the local SES controller at times of emergency, I have been advised by the NSW SES that all Local Controllers receive an annual payment of \$1000 to assist with administrative expenses incurred in undertaking the functions of their appointment.</p> <p>Local Controllers have previously been consulted on this issue on a number of occasions and the majority of Controllers did not support the receipt of a payment, believing it would reduce their standing as</p>
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		<p>volunteers supporting their communities.</p> <p>In light of the extended operational events across the state earlier this year, the NSW SES Commissioner Murray Kear is consulting with Local Controllers to reassess the option of payment during periods of operational activity.”</p>
<p><i>52 – Review of the Natural Disaster Operational Systems and Recovery Plans - Narrabri</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association call on the NSW State Government to request an urgent review of the operational systems used in flood emergencies, including the lack of natural disaster recovery plans with a view to more local input with disaster management.</p> <p>This motion is covered by motion 51</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Michael Gallacher, MLC Minister for Police and Emergency Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services responded on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 26 June 2012 indicating that the resolution has been raised with the Minister and is receiving attention.</p> <p>The Minister for Police and Emergency Services responded on 8 February 2013 noting that “the development of the EMPlan has provided an opportunity for the Ministry [of Police and Emergency Services] to review operational systems in the context of response and recovery. De-brief information and feedback from the floods of 2012 has assisted in this process. The request for increased local input has been noted and further, ‘Interagency Introduction to Recovery Training’ has been piloted in five locations including Penrith, Bankstown, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo and Wagga Wagga. The pilot has been jointly delivered by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services and District Emergency Management officers (DEMOS). Following completion of the pilots, the program will be reviewed and refined with a view to being delivered in locations across NSW over the 2012/13 financial year. Representatives from 20 local councils and a number of state government agencies are participating in the training.</p> <p>In addition, the Ministry for Police and emergency Services has developed a NSW Recovery plan. The NSW Recovery Plan is supported by a range of guidelines and tools to support Local Government and communicates in recovery processes. Recovery Plans can be completed at a local level utilising the resources developed by the Ministry. The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services is currently developing additional tools to enable Local Government to tailor Recovery Plans to address the inherent needs</p>

		of their communities.”
<p><i>53 – Natural Disaster Declaration - Temora</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association seek a review from the NSW Government of the process for the declaration of a Natural Disaster in NSW to ensure equitable treatment of all affected by an event.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Michael Gallacher, MLC Minister for Police and Emergency Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services responded on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 26 June 2012 indicating that the resolution has been raised with the Minister and is receiving attention.</p> <p>The Minister for Police and Emergency Services responded on 8 February 2013 noting that “I am advised that eligibility criteria for Natural Disaster Declarations are prescribed by the Federal Government under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).</p> <p>In rural shires, an agricultural declaration can be made based upon the level of agricultural damage sustained, should damage to public infrastructure be below the Natural Disaster Declaration threshold. The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services has developed draft Standard Operating Procedures which are currently being updated in line with the impending release of the new 2012 NDRRA Determination.”</p>
<p><i>54 – Natural Disaster Funding – Central Tablelands Water Company</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association of NSW make urgent representation to the NSW State Government for the removal of the “Trading Undertaking” classification applied to all NSW Local Water Utilities (LWU) which currently is an impediment to any LWU in accessing emergency disaster funding where Natural Disaster Declarations have been made in the Local Government Areas covered by the LWU.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Michael Gallacher, MLC Minister for Police and Emergency Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services responded on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 26 June 2012 indicating that the resolution has been raised with the Minister and is receiving attention.</p> <p>The Minister for Police and Emergency Services responded on 8 February 2013 noting that “under the Commonwealth NDRRA and the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines, Local Water Utilities are determined to be a ‘Trading Undertaking’ as they charge a fee for service. I understand that there are no plans at this time to change this.”</p>
<p><i>55 – Assessment Criteria for Bushfires - Uralla</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association call on the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Michael Gallagher to request a review into the assessment process required for integrated development referrals for subdivision</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Michael Gallacher, MLC Minister for Police and Emergency Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services responded on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 26 June 2012 indicating that the resolution has been raised with the Minister and is receiving attention.</p> <p>The Minister for Police and Emergency Services responded on 8</p>

<p>under Section 100B of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> and especially to take into consideration the allowing of Councils to prepare the required bushfire assessments for subdivision up to Bushfire Attack Level 40.</p>		<p>February 2013 noting that “the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) assesses Development Applications against the requirements of <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006</i> and issues a bush fire safety authority under Section 100B of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> (the Act) for conforming developments.</p> <p>Under Section 100B of the Act, it is NSW RFS standard practice to accept bush fire assessments (reports) from any party including councils, applicants and consultants. However, in particularly complex situations, the level of detail required for some bush fire assessments may require the skills of a suitable qualified consultant. Local circumstances and individual development application vary widely. <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006</i> recognises this and the NSW RFS approaches each application on a merits basis. <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006</i> requires subdivisions in bush fire prone areas to achieve radiant heat levels not exceeding 29 kilowatts per square metre, and the application of appropriate bush fire protection measures.</p> <p>The NSW RFS is the appropriate authority to utilise relevant technical skills in the assessment of bush fire risk and to apply the requirements of <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006</i> to ensure consistent application across the state and provide for community and fire fighter safety outcomes.</p> <p>The NSW RFS has available on its website a Single Dwellings Applicants Kit for use with applications lodged under Section 79BA of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>. Also available is an Asset Protection Zone calculator designed to assist in determining the width of the Asset Protection Zone required by a development for either residential subdivision or Special Fire Protection Purposes in bush fire prone areas.</p> <p>I understand that there was no current Applicants Kit available for 100B developments on the NSW RFS website, despite this being referred to in the Council Checklist. I am advised that the Council Checklist has now been amended accordingly.</p>
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		The NSW RFS is currently undertaking a review of <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006</i> . This review will ensure the guideline continues to deliver a balanced, risk based approach to planning and development in bush fire prone areas.”
<p><i>56 – Establishment of Interagency Committees - Walgett</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to establish interagency committees with representation from all relevant state agencies in each local government area in Western Division. And also provide the chairperson and appropriate level administrative support for each Committee. That each local Community Working Party be entitled to have a representative on the LGA Interagency Committee.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Michael Gallacher, MLC Minister for Police and Emergency Services, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services responded on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 26 June 2012 indicating that the resolution has been raised with the Minister and is receiving attention.</p> <p>The Minister for Police and Emergency Services responded on 8 February 2013 noting that the Association “may wish to raise the issue of the establishment of Interagency Committees directly with the Department of Premier and Cabinet.”</p>
<p><i>57 – National Drought Policy - Bogan</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association approaches the State Government, the Federal Government and Federal Opposition to have the current national Drought Policy changed to return the status of major droughts to one of drought being considered a Natural Disaster.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, and to the Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities on 15 June 2012. A follow-up letter was sent to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities on 18 September.</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 noting that the different nature of drought places it in a separate category from other natural disasters. It also warrants “separate, purpose designed, support arrangements.” The National Drought Policy has been under review since 2008 and had included input from agencies such as the Bureau of Meteorology and the Productivity Commission and many other groups, for example farmer and community groups. This process has also involved an “extensive, two-year, trial in Western Australia of potential alternative drought support arrangements.” The Standing Council on Primary Industries has adopted key principals regarding drought support including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“- an income support safety net for farm families based on need rather than on climatic triggers of area declarations – or ‘lines on maps’</li> <li>- the permanent presence of social support services to assist farmers and rural communities,</li> <li>- continuing opportunities for farmers to engage in and implement</li> </ul>

		<p>strategic farm business planning, to help build capacity to better manage drought, climate variability and other risks; and</p> <p>- the retention and improved promotion of appropriate taxation provisions that can assist in managing risk, such as the Farm Management Deposits Scheme.</p> <p>It is expected a new drought policy will be announced in the coming months.</p>
<p><i>58 – Country Towns Water and Sewer Scheme - Cabonne</i></p> <p>That:</p> <p>i). The Shires Association call on the State Government to carry out an audit of current commitments under the Country Towns Water &amp; Sewer Scheme as well as backlogs to obtain an accurate assessment of the current status of this important infrastructure in country areas;</p> <p>ii). The results of this audit be made widely available to Local Government with a view to seeking commitment from the State Government to re-institute and adequately fund this essential program for rural communities.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 noting that the “government is committed to funding the remaining eligible backlog projects in the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme. The Scheme has a funding cap of \$1.209 billion. About \$200 million remains available for funding projects under the Scheme from which \$64 million will be allocated to projects for the 2012/13 financial year.”</p> <p>The Minister also noted that a 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy for NSW is currently being developed.</p>
<p><i>59 – Fruit Fly Control - Young</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association seek a commitment from the State Government to request the Department of Primary Industries to investigate and implement processes to remove the risk to commercial orchards from insects, such as fruit fly.</p> <p>That the Shires Association request the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority not to totally ban the pesticides Dimethoate, Fenthion and</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 noting that fruit fly management is the responsibility of landowners but that “all cases of abandoned or neglected orchards are investigated in accordance with current Department of Primary Industries’ policy”.</p> <p>Regarding the banning of the pesticides, the Minister notes that Dimethoate can only be used on produce with inedible peel (use on cherries is no longer legal). The use of Fenthion is currently under review and the draft review has not yet been released.</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries can help councils to develop</p>

<p>Omethoate as this ban will destroy the fruit and vegetable industry in Australia.</p>		<p>landholder management plans for fruit fly.</p>
<p><i>60 – Fruit Fly Control – Greater Hume</i> That the Shires Association of NSW lobby the NSW Department of Primary Industries to introduce programs to assist in the removal of neglected and unwanted fruit trees in NSW.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 reiterating the points raised above in motion 59 and also noting that the Department of Primary industries does not have the legal powers to authorise the removal of trees from private backyards. The Minister also notes that “councils could consider a tree removal program as part of a fee for service towards fruit fly management.”</p>
<p><i>61 – Rentals for Local Government on Crown Land - Ballina</i> That the Shires Association request the State Government to conduct a review of the practices being implemented by the Land and Property Management Authority whereby substantial increases are being implemented across the State in respect to crown land that is being used by councils for community purposes.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 noting that the Deputy premier is now responsible for the administration of Crown Lands in NSW and that this matter has been forwarded to him.</p>
<p><i>62 – Noxious Weed Funding Revision - Wellington</i> That the Shires Association lobby the State Government to ensure noxious weed funding and noxious weed management plans be revised in light of the major flooding and wet seasons experienced in the last two years.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 noting that NSW government has announced funding for weeds worth \$11 million for 2012/2013, an increase from the \$8,080,301 for NSW Weeds Action Program (WAP) projects in 2011/2012. The WAP allows regional committees the autonomy to prioritise programs on a regional scale.</p>
<p><i>63 – Funding for Noxious Weed Control Programs – Upper Lachlan</i> That the Shires Association of NSW makes representation to the Minister for Primary Industries requesting a review of the strategy and system for funding noxious weed control programs, which historically places a lower priority on many widespread</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 reiterating the above points regards the WAP and also adding “regarding serrated tussock grass specifically, the government funds a serrated tussock coordinator who works closely with local tussock managers to encourage use of best practice approaches; recognise outstanding initiatives; and coordinate activities across NSW.</p>

<p>weeds species such as Serrated Tussock, African Lovegrass and Fireweed, despite the severe and increasing impact of these established weeds species on local regions.</p>		
<p><i>64 – Legislated Rights and Powers of Local Water Utilities – Riverina Water County</i> That the LGSA consult with Riverina Water County Council and Goldenfields Water County Council and other water authorities to identify deficiencies in legislation following which G Division request the Shires Association of NSW to lobby the NSW Government to undertake a review of the legislation applying to utilities in NSW with a view to granting utility providers comparable rights and protection to other service providers.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 noting that many of the legislative amendments which are expected to take place will come from the Destination 2036 initiative and also that this issue falls within the scope of the Local Government Review Panel and as such, the Minister has written to the Minister for Local Government to advise him of this issue. The Minister also notes that the Shires Association can directly bring this issue to the attention of the panel through the Review process.</p>
<p><i>65 – Water Consumption Charges - Wellington</i> That the Shires Association make application to the State and Federal Governments to remove the obligation to pay for water consumption and re-instate the availability charge and excess water calculations that existed previously to the user pay system.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 noting that the proposal to revert to ‘free water allowances’ is not supported as “such allowances are contrary to best-practice pricing and the 1994 COAG Strategic Framework for Water reform, National Competition Policy, the 2004 National Water initiative and the <i>NSW Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Framework</i>.” The Minister also notes that further detail regarding estimating future water sales and tariff setting was featured in the Circular LWU 11 of March 2011.</p>
<p><i>L02The Executive</i> That the Shires Association immediately establish a working group to investigate which, if any, of the current functions of LHPAs would be suitable for Local Government to deliver. That the working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate suitable structures to deliver these</li> </ul>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business responded on 20 July 2012 noting that a full scale review of the LHPA model was conducted, resulting in the Ryan Report which was released for public consultation. The Government is currently reviewing the resulting submissions and will develop a response. The Minister thanks the Shires Association for its positive engagement with the process, which took the form of both a</p>

<p>functions, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate funding models to finance these functions,</li> </ul> <p>Further, the working group is to consist of two (2) representatives from each Association. That the Shires Association meet with stakeholders including LHPAs and CMAs.</p>		<p>written submission and direct meetings with the interagency panel. The results of the working group are highly anticipated by the Minister.</p>
<p><i>66 – Livestock Health and Pest Authority - Gwydir</i> That the Shires Association lobby the State Government to transfer the control of Travelling Stock Routes (TSR) to Local Government areas, and that Local Government provide all services currently provided by the Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA).</p> <p>Further, that the rates collected by the Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) be paid to said Local Government area's as many shires are currently providing many of these services de-facto already.</p> <p>Covered by L02</p>	<p>No further action required</p>	<p>See resolution L02.</p>
<p><i>67 – Murray Darling Basin River Modelling Data - Walgett</i> That the Murray Darling Basin Authority should use the most recent data including the last two years (2010 – 2011) for river inflows in the Murray Darling Basin System in its' modelling for the Murray Darling Basin Plan.</p> <p>To be able to quantify and record the resilience factor of the basin environment.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	

<p><i>68 – Electricity prices - Balranald</i> That the Shires Association lobby the State Government to review its policies that are impacting electricity prices causing upward pressure.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Chris Hartcher, MP Minister for Resources and Energy and Special Minister of State, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Resources and Energy and Special Minister of State responded on 15 August 2012 noting that the NSW Government has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“- commenced reform of the State’s three electricity distribution businesses to place downward pressure on network charges, which contribute to around half the total cost of electricity bills,</li> <li>- capped electricity company dividends at forecast levels and is requiring electricity company directors to personally certify that dividend payments place no additional pressure on prices or reliability of supply;</li> <li>- commissioned a review of the electricity network reliability licence conditions in response to concerns about the impact of reliability-related capital expenditure on power prices;</li> </ul> <p>Closed the former government’s Solar Bonus Scheme to new customers to minimise costs being passed on to all NSW households;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- closed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme upon the commencement of Federal Labor’s tax; and</li> <li>- called for the closure of the Federal Government’s Renewable Energy Target to minimise electricity price increases for NSW households.”</li> </ul> <p>The Minister also notes the range of financial assistance measures available to NSW households.</p>
<p><i>69 – Privatisation of electricity - Junee</i> That the Shires Association call upon the State Government to rule out privatisation of electricity producing assets including the Snowy Hydro Ltd energy project.</p> <p><i>Withdrawn</i></p>	<p>No further action required</p>	
<p><i>70 – Air Strips - Bourke</i> That the Shires Association lobby the State</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP</p>	<p>The General manager for Customer Relations and Strategic Coordination for Transport for NSW responded on 10 July 2012</p>

<p>Government to fund kangaroo proof fencing and solar lights for Royal Flying Doctor regular clinic air strips.</p>	<p>Minister for Transport, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>noting that the letter sent by the Association has been forwarded to Transport for NSW. The Minister for Transport responded on 4 October 2012 encouraging the Association to contact the Commonwealth Government as they hold responsibility for safety, security and operational requirements relating to intrastate air services.</p>
<p><i>71 – RMS Contracts – Central Darling</i> That RTA payments for work performed by councils on State roads be made in advance of the works being undertaken, or as progressive payments throughout the duration of projects.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 4 October 2012 noting that “RMS pays quarterly in advance for routine maintenance. RMS adopted this policy with the introduction of road maintenance council contracts to assist councils with their cash flow. Councils may invoice monthly for ordered works. This is appropriate for large projects or where cash flow may be an issue.”</p>
<p><i>72 – Development of NSW Intermodal Transport Plan - Cootamundra</i> That the Shires Association seek an assurance from the NSW State Government that the development of a systematic and strategically located intermodal transport network will be made a priority in the present development of an integrated transport plan for NSW, and lobby the Commonwealth Government for funding assistance towards such a network.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP Minister for Transport, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>The General manager for Customer Relations and Strategic Coordination for Transport for NSW responded on 10 July 2012 noting that the letter sent by the Association has been forwarded to Transport for NSW.</p>
<p><i>73 – State Government Transport Plan - Bogan</i> That the Shires Association urgently request the Roads Minister to identify some areas of regional and rural benefit from the current Draft State Transport Plan, to be funded from the State Budget, and commence well prior to the end of 2012.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP Minister for Transport, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>The General manager for Customer Relations and Strategic Coordination for Transport for NSW responded on 10 July 2012 noting that the letter sent by the Association has been forwarded to Transport for NSW. The Minister for Transport responded on 4 October 2012 noting that the draft NSW Long Term Transport Master was released on 4 September 2012 and offers an integrated approach to transport planning. Feedback on the draft Master Plan is encouraged and closes on 26 October 2012. Information is available at <a href="http://www.transportmasterplan.nsw.gov.au">www.transportmasterplan.nsw.gov.au</a>.</p>

<p><i>74 – Establishment of ‘Betterment’ Funding Program for Flood Damaged Roads - Walgett</i></p> <p>That the NSW State Government combine with the Federal Government to establish a specific “betterment” funding program for flood damaged local roads maintained by Western NSW Local Government Authorities. “Betterment” is the sleeping giant of achieving disaster resilience for the smaller and more isolated communities in Western NSW.</p> <p>This motion covers motion 75</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 4 October 2012 noting that “the federal government provides financial assistance to councils to improve the disaster resilience of essential public assets. Eligibility requires NSW Government agreement that the asset is an integral and necessary part of State Infrastructure and/or the loss of the asset would disrupt normal functioning of the community. The council must also demonstrate that the increased disaster resilience of the asset is worth the cost.”</p>
<p><i>75 – Federal Government ‘Betterment’ Funding - Narrabri</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association call on the State Government to press the case for Federal Government “Betterment” funding under the Natural Disaster Recovery Program to upgrade continually flood affected infrastructure to mitigate future flood damage in NSW.</p> <p>Covered by motion 74</p>	<p>No further action required</p>	<p>See response to resolution 74.</p>
<p><i>76 - Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) Funding for Bicycle/ Walking Paths Construction Programmes - Leeton</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the NSW Government seeking to restore the level of funding for Bicycle/Walking paths construction programmes able to be accessed by Councils through the Roads and Maritime Services.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 4 October 2012 noting that “RMS prioritises council applications for Bicycle Facilities Program funding to ensure equity. This is why RMS funded only one of Leeton Shire Council’s two cycle facility submissions for 2011-2012. The council applied for \$60,000 for bicycle facilities and RMS provided \$30,000.”</p>

<p><i>77 – Regional Roads Block Grant Funding - Wellington</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to recognise the reduction in real funding it is providing for Regional Roads and correct this trend by increasing the block grant by at least 50% or \$80 million per year.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 4 October 2012 noting that “councils have other funding sources other than the NSW Government. The federal government provides funds through the Black Spot and Roads to recovery programs. Councils may also obtain funds from rates and developer contributions. The NSW Government will give councils a total of \$139 million in 2012-2013 under the Regional Road Block Grant program. The NSW Government allocates Block Grant funding in recognition of the fact that regional roads support the arterial road network. The Block Grant pool is indexed annually at about 2.5 per cent. The pool was increased by \$3.5 million in 2012-2013 following the expiry of the funding safety net for councils affected by a net loss of regional road length in 2009”.</p>
<p><i>78 – Railway Crossings – Liverpool Plains</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association call on the NSW Government to introduce a funding methodology for the construction of over or underpasses at key road/rail crossings in towns that are or will be affected by vastly increased coal train movements. Funding for construction should be allocated between the RMS, ARTC and coal companies</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 4 October 2012 noting that this is a matter for the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and that the Associations’ correspondence has been forwarded accordingly. The Chief Executive Officer of ARTC responded on 6 November 2012 noting that they recognise that an increase of coal related rail traffic has and will occur through Qurindi, Werris Creek and Willow Tree. There is currently a potential for 24 coal movements in 2015 in this area, compared with 104 in the Lower Hunter Valley. The CEO of ARTC also noted that “should future Hunter Valley rail capacity requirements trigger major works, then treatment to associated level crossings would be considered as part of the project development process. In such a circumstance the funding would be the responsibility of the project. In some Local Government Areas ARTC has interface agreements which guide the role of the parties involved including the appropriate cost allocation. Such Interface</p>

		Agreements are not specific on a funding allocation or methodology because the circumstances of each project, area and the type and level of traffic can vary greatly." In regards to emergency situations where trains are crossing at level crossings and reducing emergency access to other parts of town, "ARTC has worked with local councils to provide emergency level crossing access where required, plus ARTC also coordinates with the Police or emergency services to amend train operations for specific events if safe to do so."
<i>79 – School Safety Zones - Leeton</i> That the Shires Association oppose any move by the NSW State Government to implement the recommendation by the NSW Parliament's Staysafe Committee to extend the current hours of operation of School Safety Zones.	The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.	The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 4 October 2012 noting that "contrary to media reports, the NSW Parliament's Staysafe Committee did not recommend, and the Government does not support, 24 hour, seven day, school zones. School zones are in force at times when children are likely to be near their school."
<i>80 – Safety Around Schools Program - Griffith</i> That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to continue to fully fund the Safety Around Schools Program	The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.	The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister responded on 4 October 2012 noting that "councils are responsible for traffic control facilities, including school crossings, on the roads under their care and control. RMS provides councils with funds under the Block Grant Program to assist in this task. RMS considers the current system to be satisfactory. The Safety Around Schools Program is funded by Transport for NSW. This program aims to improve the safety of school students with engineering works and other road safety measures near schools."
<i>81 – Speed Zones Around Schools – Richmond Valley</i> That the Shires Association lobby the Roads and Maritime Services for 40km signage, dragons teeth and, if appropriate, flashing lights (during school speed restriction times) on all highways that have school generated traffic and that pass near schools.	The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.	The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 4 October 2012 noting that "school zones are located on roads that have direct school access points...School zones are therefore restricted to the roads with school entry points and operate for a

		short period at each end of the school day. All school zones have 40 km/h signs, patches and dragons teeth. Flashing lights are installed where justified by the assessed pedestrian risk.”
<p><i>82 – Uniform Truck Loading Restrictions - Carrathool</i> That the Shires Association lobby for the implementation of uniform truck loading regulations across Australia.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister responded on 4 October 2012 noting that “the NSW Government is working with the other states and territories and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to harmonise the heavy vehicle laws across all jurisdictions. The Government is also working with all members of the livestock supply chain, RMS and local government to develop an efficient livestock loading scheme while ensuring that the State’s road and bridge assets are protected.”</p>
<p><i>83 – Weed and Litter Control Along State and National Highways - Harden</i> That the NSW Shires Association meet with the Minister for Roads to discuss and clarify the areas of responsibility regarding weed and litter control along the State and National highways.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads and Ports, on 15 June 2012. A follow up letter was sent on 18 September 2012.</p>	<p>The office of the Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 19 July 2012 acknowledging receipt of the letter and noting that a response will be forthcoming. The Minister for Roads and Ports responded on 4 October 2012 noting that RMS is responsible for all matters relating to freeways, roads and motorways, and the road formation of State roads, including drains. “Councils are responsible for the road reserve of State Roads, except for any matters individually specified by RMS, and all matters relating to regional and local roads. This includes litter and the control of noxious weeds. Full details of the road management arrangement between RMS and local councils may be obtained by visiting the RMS website (<a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au">www.rms.nsw.gov.au</a>) and following the links to the NSW Road Arrangements page (Home&gt; Partners and Suppliers&gt; Downloads&gt; NSW Road Management Arrangements).”</p>
<p><i>84 – Council Contribution Towards State Government Events - Warren</i> That the Shires Association lobby the NSW Government to instruct its Departments to cease requiring councils to make a financial contribution towards community based events that are either a</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Mike Baird, MP Treasurer, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Treasurer responded on 15 August 2012 noting that this issue is a matter for the Minister for Local Government and as such has been forwarded to him. The Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government replied on behalf of the Minister of Local Government on 10 September noting that “on occasions, State Government agencies may seek to conduct events in partnership with local</p>

public relations exercise or an educational opportunity for that Department		councils that meet common objectives” and that it is for individual councils to decide, based on their strategic objectives and resources, whether to participate and make a financial contribution.
<p><i>85 – Local Government Election Costs - Bland</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to have all income raised from the 'failure to vote' fines from the 2012 local government general elections reimbursed, on a pro rata basis, to NSW councils to offset the cost of those elections.</p> <p>This motion covers motion 86.</p>	The President wrote to the Hon. Mike Baird, MP Treasurer, on 15 June 2012	The Treasurer responded on 15 August 2012 noting that this issue is a matter for the Minister for Local Government and as such has been forwarded to him. The Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government replied on behalf of the Minister of Local Government on 10 September noting that “The NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) is responsible for the maintenance of the electoral roll, including the enforcement of compulsory voting and other associated processes...The NSWEC is funded by the NSW Government and does not charge councils for this function. For this reason it is considered appropriate that non-voter fine revenue goes to the Government’s Consolidated Fund.”
<p><i>86 – Revenue from local Government Elections - Warren</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to return to councils the revenue raised by penalties for failing to vote at Local Government elections.</p> <p>This motion is covered by motion 85.</p>	No further action required	The Treasurer responded on 15 August 2012 noting that this issue is a matter for the Minister for Local Government and as such has been forwarded to him. The Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government replied on behalf of the Minister of Local Government on 10 September noting that “The NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) is responsible for the maintenance of the electoral roll, including the enforcement of compulsory voting and other associated processes...The NSWEC is funded by the NSW Government and does not charge councils for this function. For this reason it is considered appropriate that non-voter fine revenue goes to the Government’s Consolidated Fund.”
<p><i>87 – Reportable Sales of Farmland - Junee</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the Federal Government to substantially reduce the ‘reportable’ amount for sales of farmland, from the present \$231 million – reportable being that amount which will trigger Government intervention.</p>	The President wrote to the Hon. Mike Baird, MP Treasurer, on 15 June 2012	The Treasurer responded on 15 August 2012 noting that this issue is a matter for the Minister for Local Government and as such has been forwarded to him. The Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government replied on behalf of the Minister on 10 September noting that this is a matter for the consideration of the Federal Government.
<i>88 – Relay for Life - Bogan</i>	No further action required	

<p>That the Shires Association approaches the NSW Cancer Council to have a percentage of the money raised from a Relay for Life allocated to a cancer prevention project in that community.</p> <p>Lost</p>		
<p><i>89 – Small Towns Study (less than 5,000) - Wentworth</i>  That the Shires Association of NSW conduct a study on small towns affected by the Murray Darling Basin Authority, below a population of 5000, with a view to providing these towns with strategies to deal with the impacts of less water availability through the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, the lack of outcomes from State and Federal governments in relation to policies of decentralization and the inability to deliver flexible land use planning policies.</p>		
<p><i>Replacement to 89.1 – Reduction of Red Tape – Greater Hume</i>  That the Shires Association lobby the NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure seeking a reduction of ‘red tape’ allowing councils as consent authorities to be given the ability to perform a merit assessment of the information to be included with development applications and associated applications.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure responded on 15 August 2012 noting that “there is currently no scope in the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> or <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i> for council staff to use their professional judgement in relation to the documentation required to be provided with an application for a complying development certificate, construction certificate or development application having regards to the terms of clauses 126, 139 and Schedule 1 of the EP&amp;A Regulation.”</p>
<p><i>L01 – Regional access to Sydney Airport - Parkes</i>  That the Shires Association vehemently represent the needs of Regional NSW for equitable access to Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport both now and into the future by lobbying the Federal and State Governments to</p>		

reject the concept of 'up gauging' of aircraft using the Airport from 2015 onwards.		
<i>90 – Vandalism Caused by Children - Coonamble</i> That the Shires Association lobby the State Government to introduce legislation to make parents responsible for compensation for vandalism damage caused by their children.	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<i>91 – Impact of Carbon Tax on Local Government - Cabonne</i> That: i). The Shires Association carry out investigations to ascertain the true impacts of the Carbon Tax on Local Government;  ii). The results of this survey be communicated to both Federal and State Governments.	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<i>92 – Waste Levy Charges to Rural and Regional NSW - Tumut</i> That the Shires Association make a submission to the review of the NSW Waste and Environment levy, requesting that the levy not be extended to include rural and regional Councils.	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<i>93 – Container Deposit Legislation - Ballina</i> a. That the Shires Association acknowledges the significant environmental and economic benefits to ratepayers that could be gained by adopting a Container Deposit Scheme in NSW.  b. That the Shires Association write to the NSW	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	

<p>Premier, and other NSW Ministers urging them to implement such a scheme in NSW.</p> <p>c. That the Shires Association write to the Prime Minister, Senators and other Federal Ministers encouraging them to adopt a National Container Deposit Scheme.</p>		
<p><i>94 – Review of Native Vegetation Legislation - Walgett</i> That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to review its Native Vegetation Legislation as a means of promoting development and employment generation within the Western Division of NSW.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>95 – Roads to Recovery Program – Broken Hill</i> That the Shires Association continues its lobbying and support to ensure the continuation of the Roads to Recovery Program as a recurrent program.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>96 – Asset Management Plan Funding - Wellington</i> That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to ensure councils receive funding to help them cope with the backlog of infrastructure work that has become evident since the completion of the ten year Asset Management Plans.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>97 – Rating of Multi-Occupancy Development - Ballina</i> a. That the Shires Association approach the NSW State Government and Division of Local Government to review the Local Government Act to allow councils to implement a fairer and more equitable system for rating multi-occupancy developments, particularly</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	

<p>with the increasing trend for exclusive estates.</p> <p>b. That this matter be forwarded for consideration in the Destination 2036 Action Plan.</p>		
<p><i>98 – Review of Local Government Act for exempt Land for Rates - Tumut</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association call for a review of the Local Government Act for land exempt for rates being leased land in National Parks, for commercial/business purposes, State Forest Lands for commercial plantations and land managed by State Water for water supply purposes.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>99 – Return of Country Service - Warrumbungle</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobbies State and Federal Government agencies to provide a return of ‘country service’ of government agencies and services to country towns and regions.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>100 – Constitutional Financial Recognition of Local Government – Broken Hill</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association continues to lobby the Commonwealth and State governments in relation to Financial Constitutional Recognition for Local Government and that a consistent national public awareness campaign continue to be developed and implemented to increase the success of a “Yes” vote on the matter in a referendum.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>101 – Mount Thorley Warkworth Approval and Planned Community Appeal - Singleton</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing</p>	

<p>Government to include an independent social impact statement that includes “a sense of place”, including the health both mental and physical. These factors are not currently being considered in the planning assessment.</p>	<p>representations.</p>	
<p><i>102 – Joint Regional Planning Panels - Tweed</i> That the Joint Regional Planning Panels be disbanded as soon as possible and all their powers be relinquished back to the elected councils in their areas.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>103 – Background Zones Given to State Government Infrastructure - Harden</i> That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to have State Government Infrastructure zoned commensurate with its current and/or approved use, rather than the ‘background zoning’ of adjoining lands.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>104 – Emergency Services Levies and Charges - Walgett</i> That the Shires Association of NSW make strong representations to the NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services for all future increases to emergency services levies and charges to be restricted to same percentage increase as the NSW State rate pegging limit.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>105 – Local Policing - Carrathool</i> That the Shires Association seeks an assurance from the Minister for Police that Police Officers stationed in smaller towns and villages remain in their communities and will not be used to boost police numbers in their Local Area Command.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	

<p><i>106 – Police Numbers - Bogan</i>  That the Shires Association make a fresh approach to the Police and Emergency Services Minister to implement a policy for Police transfers “that a transfer out not occur until a transfer in is appointed.”</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>107 – Local Policing - Carrathool</i>  That the Shires Association seeks an assurance from the Minister for Police those Police Officers stationed in smaller towns and villages are not indiscriminately sent to serve in larger stations in their LAC thereby reducing the effective police presence in these smaller communities as a matter of exception rather than as a matter of rule.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>108 – Policing - Temora</i>  That the Shires Association seeks consultation with the Police Minister to inform and determine the government’s plan for community policing in one officer stations.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>109 – Police – Liverpool Plains</i>  That the Shires Association calls on the NSW Government to increase police numbers stationed in rural and regional areas</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>110 – NSW Rural Fire Service - Weddin</i>  That the Shires Association request the Rural Fire Service to review the stringent requirements for Councils to provide training, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and plant identification prior to making plant available for fire break assistance at the</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	

request of the Rural Fire Service.		
<p><i>111 – Rural Fire Service Funding Contribution - Wentworth</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association request the State Government conduct an inquiry into the funding of the Rural Fire Service and the reasons for escalating costs which has resulted in councils’ annual contributions often substantially exceeding CPI.</p>	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<p><i>112 – Control of Noxious Weeds on State Controlled and Crown Land - Castlereagh-Macquarie County</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association of NSW make strong representations to the Minister for Primary Industries to adequately fund the control of noxious weeds on all State controlled and Crown Land.</p>	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<p><i>113 – Grants for Weed Control - Junee</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association make it known to State Government, yet again, that the grants to local government for weed control are risible and that representatives of the Government should come west and observe the way St John’s Wort for example is spreading, well, like a weed. That is, the State Government needs to take weeds more seriously.</p>	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<p><i>114 – Noxious Weed Funding - Parkes</i></p> <p>That the Shires Association press the State Government and Minister for Agriculture/Minister for Land and Water Conservation for a substantial increase in funding for the control of noxious weeds.</p>	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<i>115 – Release of Funding for Noxious Weeds -</i>	This motion is consistent with	

<p><i>Wellington</i> That the Shires Association lobby the Minister of Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, to direct the Department of Primary Industries to make a commitment to councils that they will release funding under the noxious weed action program to local Advisory Committees by the 1<sup>st</sup> October each year.</p>	<p>past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>116 – Country Link - Tumut</i> That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government for Country Link rail and bus services to remain a reliable and equitable public service and this be pursued through any enquiry held.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>117 – Air Services to Rural Communities - Coonamble</i> That the Shires Association of NSW approach the Minister for Transport to ensure air services are available to the rural communities of NSW.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>118 – Livestock Transport – Central Darling</i> That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to implement volumetric loading of livestock in NSW, in a similar manner to the approach taken in other states.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>119 – Heavy Vehicle Inspection Stations - Coonamble</i> That the Shires Association of NSW make representations to the Minister for Transport to ensure heavy vehicle inspection stations are made available to owners and operators without the need for travel in excess of 100 kilometres each way.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>120 – Carriage of Heavy Freight - Junee</i></p>	<p>This motion is consistent with</p>	

<p>That the Associations pressure the State Government to give due weight to more carriage of heavy freight, particularly wheat, on both main and branch rail lines throughout NSW in the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan, presently being formulated.</p>	<p>past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>121 – Rail Closures - Bland</i> That the Shires Association lobby both State and Federal Governments to ensure that the current infrastructure is maintained and that there are no further rail closures that will result in continuing increased damage to Local and State roads by heavy freight and that serious consideration be given to much greater use of the railway infrastructure for the transport of heavy freight.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>122 – Regional Road Funding – Gilgandra</i> That the Shires Association of NSW encourage the State Government to significantly increase funding levels for regional roads to ensure Councils can improve and maintain these important assets.</p> <p>That the State Government, after consultation on a regional basis (Councils) recognise roads of “regional significance” and make funds available for improvements on a partnership basis with relevant Councils</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>123 – Timber Bridge Program on Shire Roads – Gilgandra</i> That the Shires Association of NSW continue its representations to the State Government to provide funding for replacement of timber bridges on local roads on at least a 50:50 basis to ensure a safer and</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	

longer term solution for the community.		
<i>124 – Infrastructure Renewal Scheme - Uralla</i> That the Shires Association support the re-establishment of the NSW Government’s Timber Bridge Partnership for the 50/50 funding of replacement of old timber bridges on regional roads, and request that the Shires Association takes this proposal forward to the State Government.	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<i>125 – Roads to Recovery Program - Corowa</i> That the Shires Association use all available means to lobby the Federal Government for the continuation of the Roads to Recovery program on a permanent basis, retaining the current administrative arrangements and with an increased level of funding recognising the current shortfall of funding for local roads	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<i>126 – Fringe Benefits Tax Rules for Motor Vehicles - Cowra</i> That the Shires Association raise with the Federal Government the impact the new taxation levels will have on regional and rural councils with the introduction of the new Fringe Benefits (FBT) rules for motor vehicles	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<i>127 – State Government Funding to Support Regional Tourism - Forbes</i> That the Shires Association urge the continuation of State Government funding to support the tourism sector in New South Wales	This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.	
<i>128 – Daylight Saving – Bogan</i>	This motion is consistent with	

<p>That the Shires Association continues to lobby the NSW Government to wind back day light saving to the four core months November to February.</p>	<p>past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>129 – Container Deposit Legislation and Whole of Life Responsibility for Waste Generated by the Product – Bega Valley</i>  That the Shires Association lobby the NSW State Government to introduce container deposit legislation and legislation for manufacturers to be responsible for appropriate disposal or recycling of wastes generated by production of their goods.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>130 – Draft EP&amp;A Scrutiny Period - Narrabri</i>  That the Shires Association call an emergency meeting when the Draft EP&amp;A Act is finalised and that all Councils have at least a three month scrutiny period in which to make comment before it is presented to the State Governor for approval.</p>	<p>This motion is consistent with past policy positions and is subject to ongoing representations.</p>	
<p><i>L01 – Coal Seam Gas</i>  That the Shires Association convene and host a public forum in Narrabri within 6 weeks of the meeting to allow time for landowners across NSW who are concerned with the Coal Seam Gas industry, make brief documented statements, together with brief questions to be submitted to a panel of three including a chairman, at least 7 days before the Forum date to answer concerns of land owners of their loss of freehold rights, the methods of coal seam gas extraction and the ownership of the gas and of the coal, and that the motion support be included in the</p>		

business paper for distribution.		
<p><i>L02 – Road Funding</i> That the Shires Association reaffirm its commitment to make every effort to seek an increase in Rural Road Funding for local roads from every avenue possible.</p>	<p>The President wrote to the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP Minister for Transport, on 15 June 2012</p>	<p>The General manager for Customer Relations and Strategic Coordination for Transport for NSW responded on 10 July 2012 noting that the letter sent by the Association has been forwarded to Transport for NSW.</p>
<p><i>L03 – Regional Access to Sydney Airport</i> That the Shires Association vehemently represent the needs of Regional NSW for equitable access to Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport both now and into the future by lobbying the Federal and State Governments to reject the concept of ‘up gauging’ of aircraft using the Airport from 2015 onwards.</p>		