



LATE ITEMS

Business Papers 2022

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING
WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022

*A prosperous and progressive
community we proudly call home*



LATE ITEMS

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Item 0: Office of the General Manager

L.1 Declaration of Statewide Road Emergency

REPORT BY THE MAYOR
TO 16 NOVEMBER 2022 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400098, GOV400012

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **joins with Local Government NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW in declaring a Statewide Road Emergency;**
2. **writes to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, and the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier of New South Wales, seeking immediate action for:**
 - **an acceleration and significant increase in funding for the \$1.1 billion Fixing Local Roads and Fixing Country Bridges program from the New South Wales Government;**
 - **a boost to Road Block Grant funding to compensate for the damage to the regional road network from the Federal Government; and**
 - **new funding to provide councils with plant machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs from the Federal Government.**

Executive summary

The Country Mayors Association has asked NSW Member Councils to give consideration to supporting the Declaration of a Statewide Road Emergency, and write to the Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese and the Premier of New South Wales Dominic Perrottet seeking immediate action.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

We are all well aware the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA has been hit by a seemingly relentless wave of extreme wet weather and flooding events during the past 12 months, and we are not alone. A total of 126 of New South Wales' 128 local government areas have had natural disaster declarations within the last 12 months, according to the President of Local Government NSW, Darriea Turley.

On 3 November 2022, Local Government NSW declared a Statewide Roads Emergency. The declaration – and urgent call for the NSW and Federal governments to increase their existing road

funding commitments in the wake of the floods – comes on the back of an estimated \$2.5 billion in road damages and a collapse of the local and regional road network.

I call on Mid-Western Regional Council to show our support for this move and whole-heartedly endorse the Local Government NSW declaration of Statewide Road Emergency.

The declaration has already been publicly supported by our peak regional body, the Country Mayors Association of New South Wales.

As part of the Statewide Roads Emergency, LGA NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW are calling for:

- An acceleration and significant increase in funding for the \$1.1 billion Fixing Local Roads and Fixing Country Bridges program from the New South Wales Government;
- A boost to Road Block Grant funding to compensate for the damage to the regional road network from the Federal Government; and
- New funding to provide councils with plant machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs from the Federal Government.

We have faced, and may continue to face, an unprecedented and unrelenting series of natural disasters that have caused continued damage to public infrastructure and had land owners cleaning up and repairing property again and again. We have had people isolated, workers unable to get to work and students unable to get to training or school. Add to this our very real and immediate concern for our primary producers.

This latest rain event has hit at a critical time. Winter crops are ready to be harvested and the planting of summer crops is questioned given the saturated ground. Transportation of livestock to the sale has become increasingly difficult.

The local and regional road network is critically-enabling infrastructure. It is absolutely vital to our primary producers, and the key to keeping affordable food on the table across New South Wales and beyond.

Our road network, and the road network of shires across the state, have disastrous damage. We are facing a task that is beyond the reasonable scope of any local government authority. We face an unprecedented disaster that requires an unprecedented response.

We need help. Our community needs help. Other regional and rural communities across the state and beyond need help. We desperately need our leaders to lead.

We need to support our peak bodies in their declaration of Statewide Road Emergency.

This is an emergency, and it is time to seek help, and by supporting this report you are endorsing that I write to the Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese and the Premier of New South Wales Dominic Perrottet seeking immediate action.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Connecting Our Region
Goal	High quality road network that is safe and efficient
Strategy	Provide a roads network that balances asset conditions with available resources and community needs

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not Applicable

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

Not Applicable

Associated Risks

Not Applicable

DES KENNEDY
MAYOR

16 November 2022

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER