

## ADDITIONAL / LATE MOTIONS FOR DEBATE – CATEGORY 1

### 100 Albury City Council

### Solar bulk buy

That Local Government NSW seeks an amendment to the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) that will enable local councils to apply a voluntary Special Charge Scheme (opt in system) to council rates to fund environmental programs such as solar photovoltaic (PV) bulk buy programs.

#### Note from Council

To enable a Special Charge Scheme through the Council rating system similar to VIC and SA to fund voluntary environmental programmes. Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) wants to encourage and enable the promotion of solar PV systems for individual households through a discounted PV Bulk Buy Programme, with a focus on low-income households as a specific target audience. This would enable councils to source reliable solar PV systems and installers through the bulk buy program, and for the residents to repay the costs through their rates over a 10-year period as a percentage of the savings received from the PV system. This would leave participating rate payers with no up-front or out of pocket costs, and enhance the energy resilience of these households.

Currently the *Local Government Act 1993* enables commercial building owners to participate in Building Upgrade Finance (BUF) also known as Environmental Upgrade Agreements. BUFs enable building owners to implement environmental improvements and then repay the loan via a council's rating system. The BUF amendment to the Act also provides a mechanism for councils to include an administration charge so they do not incur a financial burden from implementing the program. A Special Charge Scheme would enable individual households to participate in a similar scheme on a voluntary basis, and thereby increase the opportunity for uptake of solar PV systems to these households.

### L1 Castlereagh-Macquarie County Council

### New Weed Incursions

That Local Government NSW approaches the NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Land and Water in an endeavour to source funding over and above that available under the 2015/20 Weeds Action Plan for all Local Control Authorities to allow timely identification, control and monitoring of new weed incursions likely to occur following a break in drought conditions across NSW. It is anticipated there will be many outbreaks of weed infestations from other States not familiar to NSW land holders.

#### Note from Council

As a result of drought conditions a massive quantity of hay and other fodder has been sourced from interstate. This hay/fodder may have contained weed seed, not familiar to local landholders, that may germinate following a change in seasonal conditions and as a result see the introduction and growth of new weed infestations in NSW.

This situation could also apply to the roadsides leading to properties where such fodder has been carted across NSW.

It would be appropriate for the Department of Primary Industries, Land and Water to establish a new funding program which can be accessed by Local Control Authorities to help identify, control and monitor any such infestations before they get a strong hold and become a major concern to both the environment and the economic sustainability of the agricultural industry.

## **LATE MOTION NOT PROPOSED FOR DEBATE – CATEGORY 2**

*Category 2 motions are not proposed for debate because they are already:*

- *existing LGNSW policy;*
- *supported by Conference resolutions from recent years; and/or*
- *the subject of recent or ongoing representations by LGNSW.*

*LGNSW will use the content of Category 2 motions to strengthen our position on these issues.*

<b>X48 Bega Valley Shire Council</b>	<b>Tourism levy</b>
That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW State Government to facilitate legislative change to allow local councils, impacted by tourism, to specifically apply a tourism levy similar to the Coastal Protection Service Charge to those properties which are the direct beneficiary of tourism marketing and promotion, Visitor Information Centres and tourism infrastructure.	

### **Note from Council**

Presently rating categories across NSW don't allow for councils to have a category of tourism. This makes the possibility of applying a special rate variation, which is complicated, lengthy and costly, to those properties who are the direct beneficiaries of tourism marketing and promotion of the LGA difficult.

Given the implementation of the Coastal Protection Service Charge, the NSW Government should look at a charge or levy to allow Councils to more easily apply a levy to those tourism properties so they can contribute to the marketing and promotion of the LGA.

### **Note from LGNSW**

This is consistent with current LGNSW policy. LGNSW understands that councils have the powers to place levies on all businesses and/or businesses in one location (main street levy). This would capture tourism businesses (cafes, newsagents etc). While the business levy is unlikely to capture short-term holiday letting, the introduction of a 'booking tax or tariff for online accommodation brokers' is a 2017 conference resolution which we will continue to pursue.