

LATE MOTIONS – LGNSW SPECIAL CONFERENCE 2022

CATEGORY 1 – FOR DEBATE

L1 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council

Deputy mayor remuneration

That Local Government NSW call on the Minister for Local Government to give consideration to remunerate the role of deputy mayor in local councils. The role of deputy mayor currently has no remuneration provision in the Local Government Act. Where two events are held for simultaneous celebrations (events such as Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day) the mayor cannot attend both ceremonies and some are many kilometres apart in regional and rural areas. The role of deputy mayor is increasing and the proposal for the role to be remunerated is not unreasonable.

Note from Council

Remote, rural, regional and amalgamated councils have large areas with many miles between townships and villages. For events such as Australia Day, ANZAC Day, school celebrations, award ceremonies and others a mayor cannot attend all. Deputy mayors are required to attend more ceremonies that are undertaken to represent councils where mayors are already committed. Remuneration for the responsibility of deputy mayor should be considered. 25 – 33% of the mayoral allowance would be reasonable.

L2 Broken Hill City Council

Affordable housing solutions for regional communities – regional tax incentive

That Local Government NSW calls on the Federal Government to create a regional tax incentive to equalise the current remote area Fringe Benefit Tax concessions from 50% to 100% to enable all employees residing in regional and remote communities across Australia access to the same allowances as their employers. The tax incentive will assist to drive regional relocation, to smooth out the volatility of housing prices with the aim to address the regional housing affordability crisis across Australia (especially in regional areas affected by the boom-bust cycle of mining industries).

Note from Council

Broken Hill City Council's motion aims to address the housing affordability crisis which is currently affecting many regional communities in Australia.

At the 27 October 2021, Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to contribute \$20,000 to stage two (2) of the 'More than Mining' Campaign as a founding member of the Australian Mining Cities Alliance.

The More than Mining campaign was launched to unite regional councils to fight for affordable housing solutions for their communities which are being crippled by skyrocketing housing prices.

The goal of the campaign is to create "sustainable, stable and inclusive regional communities, home to skilled and diverse residential workforces who continue to fortify our Nation's economic prosperity." It seeks to ensure that residents who do not have a large income base are not forced out of rural, regional and remote communities because of unaffordable housing during economic boom periods when rents and housing prices increase and aims to retain a permanent resident base in these communities.

The More than Mining campaign now has national representation from:

- Australian Mining Cities Alliance, as representative body for:
 - Broken Hill City Council (NSW)
 - Isaac Regional Council (QLD)
 - Mount Isa City Council (QLD)
 - City of Karratha (WA)
 - City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (WA)
- Regional Development Australia Pilbara
- Karratha & Districts Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Additional funding support from partnering remote mining Local Government Areas:
 - West Coast Council (TAS)

- Shire of East Pilbara (WA)
- Town of Port Headland (WA)
- Shire of Coolgardie (WA)
- Shire of Leonora (WA)
- Shire of Dundas (WA)
- In-principal support from:
 - Mareeba Shire (QLD)
 - Tablelands Regional Council (QLD)
 - Regional Development Australia Tropical North QLD

The support gained from across the country validates the strength of the tax reform proposal. The Councils involved in the More than Mining Campaign want to put their weight behind solutions that will result in sustainable, stable, and inclusive regional communities, attractive to skilled and diverse residential workforces who will continue to fortify our Nation's economic prosperity.

The More Than Mining tax reform proposes that current remote area Fringe Benefit Tax concessions be equalized from 50% to 100% to enable all employees residing in regional and remote mining communities across Australia access to the same allowances as their employers.

This means that individuals could buy a house, or rent a house, completely with pre-tax dollars. With a lower tax payment, people can be more secure in a decision to buy a house with improved borrowing capacity. This helps to normalise house prices and smooth out the boom-bust impacts on property values, making it financially more attractive for residents to live in regional mining towns and cities, and ultimately slowing population churn and stabilising the demand for housing in regional Australia.

It is a proposal for a systemic change to build strength and cohesion into the future within the communities who contribute so much to the nation's economic prosperity.

L3 Randwick City Council

Waste to energy incinerators

That Local Government NSW:

- a) Acknowledges concerns regarding the impact of waste to energy incinerators on communities and the environment;
- b) Notes that the Draft Regulations and the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan would prohibit waste to energy incinerators in some places and not others;
- c) Considers burning waste for energy an outdated technology and encourages diversion rather than incineration.

Note from Council

There is a current State Significant Development Application (SSD-10373) for the construction and operation of a Waste from Energy Recovery Plant (ERP) to produce steam and electricity for the Opal Recycled Paper Mill at Matraville.

According to the Scoping Report dated 2 September 2019, the proposal would:

- Burn 165,000 tonnes of rubbish a year including plastic, textiles and furniture.
- Transport 21 semi-trailer loads of rubbish to Matraville every day.
- Result in a chimney stack being built 60m high – the same height as the Sydney Opera House.
- Operate 24/7

Additionally, there is a significant residential population located less than 1km from the site, with the closest properties being approximately 120 metres away.

Given the concerns regarding the impact of waste to energy incinerators on communities and the environment, it is proposed that Local Government NSW resolve to oppose burning waste to energy.