

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS HELD AT WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL
31 VICTOR STREET, CHATSWOOD ON THURSDAY,
12TH NOVEMBER 2009**

The meeting commenced at 8.05 pm

QUORUM

The Chairman referred to Article 13.i) of the Constitution that provides:

A quorum at a meeting of the Organisation shall consist of a number being half of the number of Councils plus one.

Member Councils of NSROC include:

Hornsby	Hunter's Hill	Ku-ring-gai	
Lane Cove	North Sydney	Ryde	Willoughby

Councils represented on the evening included:

Hornsby	Hunter's Hill	Ku-ring-gai	
Lane Cove	North Sydney	Ryde	Willoughby

Accordingly, a quorum was present.

1. ATTENDANCE

Clr N Berman	Hornsby Council
Clr R Browne	Hornsby Council
Mr R Ball	General Manager, Hornsby Council
Clr R Quinn	Hunter's Hill Council
Clr R Sheerin	Hunter's Hill Council
Mr B Smith	General Manager, Hunter's Hill Council
Clr I Cross	Ku-ring-gai Council
Clr W Gaffney	Lane Cove Council
Clr P Palmer	Lane Cove Council
Clr I Longbottom	Lane Cove Council (Acting Chair)
Clr R Tudge	Lane Cove Council
Mr P Brown	General Manager, Lane Cove Council
Clr G McCaffery	North Sydney Council
Clr Z Baker	North Sydney Council
Ms P Holloway	General Manager, North Sydney Council
Clr I Petch	Ryde Council
Clr V Tagg	Ryde Council
Mr K Woodbury	Act. General Manager, Ryde Council
Clr T Fogarty	Willoughby Council
Clr M Stevens	Willoughby Council
Clr B Thompson	Willoughby Council
Clr W Norton	Willoughby Council
Clr L Saville	Willoughby Council
Mr N Tobin	General Manager, Willoughby Council
Mr S Head	Willoughby Council
Ms C James	NSROC Executive Director
Ms L Ridley	NSROC Executive Assistant

2. APOLOGIES

Clr S Hoopmann	Hunter's Hill Council
Clr M Butterworth	Ryde Council
Clr S Yedelian OAM	Ryde Council
Clr P Reilly	Willoughby Council (Chair)
Clr S Holland	Ku-ring-gai Council
Mr J McKee	General Manager, Ku-ring-gai Council

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 12th November 2009.

CHAIR

794/09 **RESOLVED** Moved: Clr R Browne
That the Apologies be received.

Seconded: Clr I Petch **CARRIED**

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

795/09 **RESOLVED**: Moved: Clr R Browne

Seconded: Clr V Tagg **CARRIED**

That the Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 13th November 2008, held at Hunter's Hill Council, a copy of which were circulated to all parties and member Councils, were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON NSROC FOR 2008/2009

The President's Report was delivered by Clr Ian Longbottom (outgoing Vice President), on behalf of Clr Pat Reilly who due to illness, was unable to attend the meeting.

This is our final meeting for the year and on behalf of the President I want to thank all of you for contributing to the ongoing work of both NSROC and local government.

A year on from local government elections has seen our new councillors develop their familiarity with council issues and operations. NSROC is about broadening that outlook beyond individual council boundaries.

Our region faces many challenges. Last year the new Rees Government and Ministry took office. NSROC had reservations but some hope that a "new look" leadership might generate a new approach. In some ways this has occurred. One could argue that the fresh approach has been implemented by the State government but not in a form welcomed by our member Councils but I will come back to this later.

In the last year we have gone through what now appears to be a mild recession. While there is relief that the economy is improving, the experience exposed our vulnerability as a region and reinforced the need to have all our priorities in order and protect ourselves from future downturns.

The greatest exposure for our region is our failing transport links and the economic, social and environmental consequences that it brings. Our region is suffering from increased congestion, greater car ownership and longer travels times which can only be exacerbated by our increased population growth. For 10 years there has been a clear plan to expand the North West rail links and other supporting public transport improvements. This has now been blatantly abandoned by the State Government and replaced by a CBD Metro which is no-one wants and does not address the real transport issues for the people of Sydney.

However we are not alone in our concerns I am pleased to say that our issues are recognised and supported. It has been heartening that the NSROC resolution for the reinstatement of the North West rail link and supporting rail and public transport improvements was unanimously endorsed at the LGA conference in Tamworth. Further the efforts by the current Sydney Morning Herald inquiry can only help to maintain the spotlight on this important issue.

Other challenges that have emerged in the last year include the imposition of Joint Regional Planning Panels. These panels, and their relationships with councils, have caused much debate. We will be closely following the operations of these new bodies to see if they deliver their promised better outcomes or, as we suspect, slow down approvals and bypass local community input.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 12th November 2009.

CHAIR

Alongside these State government activities we are seeing a dramatic shift in the role that the Federal government is playing in local government support and in particular in infrastructure provision some of which Maxine McKew outlined in her earlier address.

The Prime Minister's recent announcement that Federal funding would be contingent on the States agreeing to planning targets which match expected population growth is a dramatic shift for infrastructure management. Federal funding criteria will include more effective release of land, the provision of public transport, and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. These actions promise a new interest and possibly a new system of decision making and infrastructure planning for NSW which I hope can address some of the inadequacies of the current State arrangements.

With these circumstances as background, in the last financial year NSROC continued to deliver quality products for its member councils. In particular given our many new councillors following the 2008 elections, it was an appropriate year to review our role and set a new path reflecting the new representatives in our region.

Under Dominic our former Executive Director, NSROC developed our key NSROC Strategic Plan for the next 3 years and our NSROC Regional Sustainability Plan for 2009 to 2014.

These plans are key tools for our councils as we move forward to a more regional perspective in terms of our economic, social and environmental management. As you know the NSW Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework requires each council to take account of the regional context in the development of their individual Community Strategic Plans. Our NSROC Strategies effectively summarise many regional perspectives and this gives our region a head start in complying with these requirements.

In terms of advocacy NSROC developed regional submissions for key inquiries and issues including the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into the Transport Needs of the North West Sector and the Draft Master Plan for Sydney Airport.

In the past financial year, NSROC also established the regional Code of Conduct Committee to provide a consistent, independent and efficient approach to considerations of code of conduct matters across the region.

We continue to encourage, and benefit from, NSROC coordination of Professional Officers Groups which cover areas including:

- the environment,
- sportsfields,
- waste group,
- community services,
- finance,
- media,
- planning,
- transport and;
- Integrated planning.

These groups are valuable links between our councils and are a great tool for building professional capabilities of our officers.

Our procurement group continues to manage over \$12 million in regional contracts, providing savings through economies of scale and reduction in administration costs. These contracts include purchasing of hardware, stationery, turf, traffic and street signs, tree services, line-marking, and asphalt.

Clr Sue Hoopmann, Mayor Hunter's Hill Council, was nominated for the office of Vice President.

Moved: Clr R Browne

Seconded: Clr G McCaffery

Clr P Reilly, Mayor of Willoughby Council, was nominated for the office of Vice President.

Moved: Clr I Petch

Seconded: Clr R Quinn

That Clr Hoopmann, Mayor of Hunter's Hill Council and Clr P Reilly, Mayor of Willoughby Council, as the only nominees, were then declared elected as Vice Presidents for 2009/2010.

6. SECRETARY/TREASURER/PUBLIC OFFICER

798/09 **RESOLVED:** Moved: Clr G McCaffery Seconded: Clr R Quinn **CARRIED**

1. That the Chair of the General Managers Advisory Committee, Mr Barry Smith, is appointed Secretary/Treasurer.
2. That the General Manager of Lane Cove Council, Mr Peter Brown, is appointed Assistant Treasurer.
3. That the Executive Director, Carolynne James, is appointed as the "Public Officer" for the purposes of the Incorporations Act.

Carolynne James vacated the Chair and Clr Nick Berman resumed the Chair

7. NSROC 2008/2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

799/09 **RESOLVED:** Moved: Clr G McCaffery Seconded: Clr I Petch **CARRIED**

That the Financial Statements for 2008/2009 be received and noted.

8. NSROC MEETING DATES AND VENUES FOR 2010

800/09 **RESOLVED:** Moved: Clr R Browne Seconded: Clr I Cross **CARRIED**

That the Meeting Dates and Venues for 2010 be received and noted.

Ordinary Meeting No. 129	11 th February 2010	Ku-ring-gai Council
Ordinary Meeting No. 130	13 th May 2010	Lane Cove Council
NSROC Annual Conference	12 th August 2010	T.B.C. Mandalay
Ordinary Meeting No. 131	9 th September 2010	Hunter's Hill Council
Ordinary Meeting No. 132		
& Annual General Meeting	11 th November 2010	Hornsby Council

The Meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.