



Ordinary Meeting of Council

LATE REPORTS

Thursday 24 July 2025

4:00 PM

Yass High School

Grampian Street, Yass

PRAYER:

All Stand:

Mayor: *Let us be still and remember the presence of God. As we commence our meeting let us together pray for guidance and help.*

Join me in the prayer or take this moment to reflect:

Almighty God, we ask your blessing upon this Council.

Direct and prosper our deliberations to the true welfare of Australia and the people of Yass Valley Amen.

FUTURE MEETINGS

August 2025

Thursday 28th

4:00 PM

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Ordinary Meeting of Council

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attendance at National General Assembly 20256

Gayleen Burley

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

5.4 MAYORAL MINUTE - NOTING A RECENT VISIT FROM NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER

SUMMARY

Recent visit from the NSW local Government Minister, The Hon. Ron Hoenig, accompanied by Office of Local Government Secretary, Mr. Brett Whitworth, and Local Member The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the recent visit from the NSW Local Government Minister, The Hon. Ron Hoenig, accompanied by Office of Local Government Secretary, Mr. Brett Whitworth, and Local Member The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman.

REPORT

On the 16th of July, Minister Hoenig took time to visit Yass Valley Council on his way to announce the demerger of Gundagai-Cootamundra Council, and I would like to acknowledge his active listening and interest in the concerns I raised, including:

- The need for Local Government emergency announcement access to the National Alert Messaging System, currently under development by NEMA. This would greatly assist local governments in managing public health and safety issues, such as Boil Water Alerts.
- Protecting our community's amenity, established agriculture, and space sectors from the over saturation of wind turbines being proposed for our region. We also discussed Council's representations to NSW Planning Minister, The Hon. Paul Scully, on this matter.
- The need for a fairer ongoing legacy scheme for councils hosting Humelink transmission lines, and our previous meeting with NSW Minister for Climate Change, Energy, Heritage and the Environment, The Hon. Penny Sharpe.
- Invitation to attend the Drought Summit co-organised by Yass Valley Council. Minister Hoenig, having just toured the region of councils noted he was seeing the impact firsthand.
- The importance of retaining the Yass Fire & Rescue CT511 CAFS 4WD vehicle in our local fleet, and our advocacy to NSW Emergency Services Minister, The Hon. Jihad Dib.
- The action needed from the NSW Government to either assist in making the Parkwood cross-border development financially sustainable for Council or to consider moving the border.

We also briefly touched on the Council's financial roadmap and our commitment to delivering efficient and sustainable services to our community.

Minister Hoenig was pleased to learn that the Crago Mill Precinct is on budget and appreciated the difference between the current and future staff and library accommodation. He demonstrated a clear understanding of the various roles the Crago Mill itself has played in our community. CEO Ms Burley made it clear we are committed to reviewing our financial capacity to proceed with stage 2 construction.

Our tour also included the water treatment plant, which will be redeveloped thanks to grant commitments from both the NSW and Federal governments. We visited the impressive paddock planting seedlings work being undertaken by Yass Landcare that council recently ensured could proceed with certainty thanks to town water access covered by grants. It was also meaningful for the Minister to meet YVC apprentice Callum and other team members at the Works Depot. We informed Minister Hoenig about the two new NSW apprenticeship grants the Council has applied for and our keenness to grow our own skilled workforce.



ATTACHMENTS: Nil

5.5 MAYORAL MINUTE - SUCCESS OF YASS VALLEY COUNCIL'S MOTIONS AND SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE AT NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025

SUMMARY

Success of Yass Valley Council's motions and summary of attendance at National General Assembly 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the success of Yass Valley Council's motions and summary of attendance at National General Assembly 2025.

REPORT

More than 1,300 local government leaders from across Australia gathered in Canberra from 24- 27 June for the 31st National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

We were welcomed to country for the National General Assembly by Ngunnawal woman and Co-Chair of ACT Reconciliation Council, Selina Walker. The Assembly recognised the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognised any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. The Assembly paid its respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledged the vital and ongoing contributions First Nations peoples continue to make to our nation.

Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, formally opened the Assembly and spoke about the role of community leadership and local engagement in building national resilience and unity, including the importance of teaching our younger generation the importance of civic governance.

We heard from a range of Federal Ministers across the Assembly including: The Honourable Kristy McBain MP, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, The Honourable Julian Hill MP, The Honourable Josh Wilson MP, The Honourable Darren Chester MP, Dr Anne Webster MP and the Honourable Kevin Hogan MP.



There was broad acknowledgement from Ministers that councils play a critical role in supporting their communities and that the role has expanded significantly, as has the financial pressure councils face. That is why local government is calling for urgent action to ensure the financial sustainability of councils.

Delegates heard from Mark Bouris AM and Dr Merriden Varrall who unpacked global economic forces shaping Australia's local economies, including trends in trade, security, and investment. Jason Clarke, world leading consultant on issues of leadership and innovation, closed Day 1 of the NGA with an energising and practical presentation on how councils can take bold ideas and translate them into tangible, community-focused change.

Day 2 of the NGA featured the launch of ALGA's exciting new research "Adapting Together: Local Government Leadership in a Changing Climate". The report finds that Australia's councils are expected to spend more than \$2 billion over the next five years to future-proof their communities from the changing climate, resulting in up to \$4.7 billion in avoided costs to communities.

ALGA President Mayor Matt Burnett noted "Climate-resilient infrastructure is expensive and takes time to build, so we need sustainable funding from the Federal Government to implement long-term planning and adaptation now and into the future". That is why "We are asking the Government for a new \$400 million climate adaptation fund, distributed to all Australia's councils each year, to deliver ongoing and sustainable place-based climate solutions" Mayor Burnett said.

Councils considered the way AI is shaping the future with presentations from Stephen Scheeler, founder of The Digital CEO and co-founder and CEO of Omniscient, and Tim Golsby-Smith, co-founder and CEO of myLot.

The 2025 NGA saw the return of concurrent listening sessions providing an interactive platform for delegates to engage directly with federal agencies and sector experts on key policy issues.

The listening sessions included:

- Housing and community infrastructure – where the discussion covered a range of challenges from housing affordability, the prohibitive cost of housing infrastructure, ideas around housing and homelessness.
- Emergency management capacity and capability – where attendees shared examples of what has worked in their communities and highlighted remaining challenges. This included the need for long-term funding certainty and better integration of local knowledge in disaster preparedness and recovery frameworks.
- Local government jobs and skills – where attendees highlighted key issues attracting workers to the regions, promoting council careers to young values-led workers, better access to local training, cost-shifting concerns, migrant workforce support, and housing shortages as a major staffing barrier.
- Safer roads - discussed infrastructure funding and general maintenance, speed management, driver behaviour, and the broader questions of regional vs urban specific
- problems.



Motions and Assembly Outcomes

Yass Valley Council was successful in its motion on requesting access to the National Messaging System currently under development (that can be localised to an area) to assist manage communication of emergencies such as Boil Water Alerts. It was passed with collaboration with Maribyrnong City Council as part of an amendment to a national disaster management motion.

Similar Financial Sustainability/Financial Assistance Grant funding motions were passed negating the need for YVC's motion to be debated. Yass Valley Council also assisted a number of successful motions through debating arguments such as the reform of building certified accreditation processes to fast-track persons with appropriate equivalent competencies into the industry and list Building Certification on the Occupation Short List.



Opportunities to engage with key stakeholders were also leveraged, including the Cross Border Commissioners breakfast where I was able to alert the NSW Commissioner and ACT Executive Branch Manager, Regional Infrastructure, Planning and Transport of current and emerging issues of concern for Yass Valley and ACT culminating in a recent accepted invitation and meeting in Yass.

I also directly discussed with National Emergency Management Agency Coordinator-General Mr Brendan Moon AM, the need for Local Government to have access to the National Messaging System currently under construction with NEMA.



Yass Valley Council also raised and debated key issues concerning our community and regional areas such as drought, the need for greater rural and regional health support including maternity, the disproportionate burden of industrial scale turbine energy projects on regional communities and their impacts, the need to support regional housing supply to build resilience into the regional localities that will produce the food required for a growing national and world population. This will aid the liveability of the regions and attraction of supporting services such as health and education and secondary industries such as haulage. The conference was also a valuable opportunity to broadcast our visitor desirability and of course cool climate wine region of excellence, listen to other Councils success stories and challenges and meet other community leaders.

Almost 190 motions were debated across a range of policy areas including financial sustainability, roads, disaster resilience, health, housing, and climate. Motions passed by the NGA will be referred to relevant Ministers for response and also used by the ALGA Board to inform national policy positions.

On behalf of Deputy Mayor Kristin Butler, Cllr Alvaro Charry and CEO Gayleen Burley, I would like to thank Councillors for supporting our attendance and commend Yass Valley Councils consideration of future attendance at National General assembly.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil