



MEDIA RELEASE

Royalties for regions scheme endorsed by NSW Shires Association

The Shires Association of NSW Conference in Sydney this week strongly supported a motion that calls for practical positive outcomes for communities affected by mining and backs the Association of Mining Related Councils (AMRC) campaign for a 'Royalties for Regions' scheme.

At the 2012 Shires Association of NSW Conference yesterday, the following motion was passed:

- that the Shires Association call on the NSW State Government to amend the EPA Act to require resource companies and in-farm operations, which are considered State significant projects approval to establish a community enhancement fund to provide annual contributions to local community organisations and projects (the fund should be in place for the life of the projects).
- that a planning agreement be established with the council and affected councils in the immediate vicinity of a mining project, to make annual contributions to councils for the maintenance, improvement and expansion of local infrastructure. Agreements should be in effect for the duration of a mining project.
- That the Shires Association support the Mining Related Councils negotiations to return 30% (percent) of all mining and petroleum royalties to local and regional communities.

Chair of the AMRC, Cr. Colleen Fuller of Gunnedah Shire described the motion as an extremely positive step. "For the Shires Association of NSW to endorse the Association of Mining Related Councils' position in regards to a proposed 'Royalties for Regions' scheme shows unity on the issue throughout regional NSW. It shows that both organisations are working together towards resolving this issue and achieving a just outcome for councils burdened with the physical and social impacts of mining."

"It is important that the NSW Government is officially being presented with a united and consistent approach. The O'Farrell - Stoner Coalition can clearly see that, throughout the State, communities (their constituents) are calling for a fair return on the mining dollars extracted from their area and the most equitable and secure model is a 'Royalties for Regions' scheme."

"The provision of a secure revenue stream is sorely needed to help councils to meet demands for services and infrastructure exacerbated in their local government area by mining and exploration."

"The Association of Mining Related Councils has also written to the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Andrew Stoner MP, requesting a second meeting on the 'Royalties for Regions', in August 2012. This follows the AMRC deputation to Mr Stoner on 24 April, 2012, on the need for a 'Royalties for Regions' scheme, as promised by the Coalition, while in Opposition and campaigning for the last election. Four AMRC delegates met with Mr Stoner in his Sydney office. We felt that a genuine, constructive dialogue on the issues that mining related councils face was initiated through our April meeting and we would like to build on that beginning."

For further information, contact AMRC Chair, Cr Colleen Fuller: 0429 420 290 or 02 6742 0290

Caption:

Chair of the Association of Mining Related Councils, Cr. Colleen Fuller of Gunnedah Shire.

The Association of Mining Related Councils comprises:

Bland Shire Council, Blayney Shire Council, Broken Hill City Council, Campbelltown City Council, Cabonne Shire Council, Cobar Shire Council, Gloucester Shire Council, Gunnedah Shire Council, Lachlan Shire Council, Lithgow City Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mid-Western Regional Council, Narrabri Shire Council, Newcastle City Council, Orange City Council, Parkes Shire Council, Singleton Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council, Warrumbungle Shire Council, Wollondilly Shire Council and Wollongong City Council.

[as at April, 2012.]