

MEDIA RELEASE

ASSOCIATION of MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS ELECT EXECUTIVE FOR 2019-2020

The Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils (NSW) Incorporated “MERC” held its Annual General Meeting in Gloucester on 8th November 2019 which involved the annual Executive Committee elections. The returning officer was Mr Adrian Panuccio, General Manager, Mid Coast Council, assisted by Life Member Chris Connor. The new Executive is below.



Executive Committee from left - Councillors Phyllis Miller, OAM – Forbes Shire Council; Owen Hasler (Deputy Chair) – Gunnedah Shire Council; Peter Shinton (Chair) – Warrumbungle Shire Council; Sue Moore (Deputy Chair) – Singleton Council; Melanie Dagg – Cessnock City Council and Michael Banasik – Wollondilly Shire Council.

Chair, Clr Peter Shinton said “ This is a formidable group of experienced Councillors to lead the Association for 2019 -2020 and build on the very successful year we have had with the finalisation of the Voluntary Planning Guidelines for Councils in NSW, commencement of a PhD Research project with the University of Technology on Participatory Modelling to improve the planning development consultation process, involved in the Resources for Regions review and reviewed our Coal Seam Gas Policy, to name a few of our achievements’.



The Chair also paid tribute to retiring Deputy Chair Councillor Lilliane Brady, OAM, Mayor of Cobar Shire Council and Councillor Jim Nolan, Broken Hill City Council, for their contributions to the Association over the years when he said “ Whilst the experience of Clrs Brady and Nolan will be sorely missed, their departure will not weaken the Association as the incoming Executive Committee members in Councillors Hasler and Miller will strengthen our capacity as an advocacy entity for our respective communities on mining & energy related activity matters”.

“The next twelve months will be even more successful than the last, as we will be reviewing our Strategic Plan in March for the next few years and embracing the challenges of renewable energy and its impacts on society. More members are needed from mining and energy related Councils to increase our voice and advocacy clout with the government and industry”.

Enquiries: Chair MERC, Councillor Peter Shinton on 02 6849 2000, Warrumbungle Shire Council or the Executive Officer Greg Lamont on 0407937636 or email to info@miningrelatedcouncils.asn.au.