

INFORMATION REPORTS



DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS – MAY 2014

Below is a list of Development approvals determined during the month of May 2014 for your information.

DA No.	Applicant	Construction	Address	Determination Date/Method	Value of Works	Type: DA/CC, Mod, s68, s96 etc.
DA2014/28	Toshack Building	Erection of a Dwelling	7a Palmer Street, Blayney	5 May 2014, Delegated Approval	340,000	DA/CC
CDC33/2014	Gregory J Coleman Pty Ltd	Erection of a Dwelling	32 Johnston Crescent, Blayney	5 May 2014, Delegated Approval	175,000	CDC
DA2014/37	Picton Bros Home Improvements	Erection of a Glass Enclosure	3 Somers Place, Blayney	Withdrawn	N/A	DA/CC
DA2014/29	Toshack Building	Erection of a Dwelling	268 Marshalls Lane, Blayney	7 May 2014, Delegated Approval	500,000	DA
DA2014/31	George Kostoglou	Demolition of Shed & Subdivision into Three (3) Lots	18 Elliott Street, Millthorpe	7 May 2014, Delegated Approval	N/A	DA
DA2014/25	R Bywater	Erection of a Shed	11 Mt McDonald Road, Lyndhurst	8 May 2014, Delegation Approval	29,495.80	DA/CC
DA2014/20	Department of Education & Communities	Installation of Two (2) Demountable Buildings	32 Park Street, Millthorpe	Council Delegation 4 April 2014	Nil	S68
DA2014/36	Mr & Mrs McNally	Erection of a Carport	35 Maple Crescent, Blayney	22 May 2014, Delegation Approval	5,458	DA/CC
DA2014/40	L Thom	Erection of a Shed	20 Somers Place, Blayney	22 May 2014, Delegation Approval	12,000	DA/CC
DA2014/43	GJ Gardner Homes	Erection of a Dwelling	3 Vidler Place, Blayney	27 May 2014, Delegation	285,841	DA

				Approval		
DA2014/16/1	V Calov	Modification – Installation of a Transportable Home	36 Cherry Street, Mandurama	28 May 2014, Delegation Approval	N/A	S96
DA2014/35	B Cook	Change of Use – Retail & Workshop	13 Lawson Street, Blayney	28 May 2014, Delegation Approval	N/A	DA
DA2014/39	J Amies	Demolition, Dwelling Alterations & Additions	7 Montgomery Street, Millthorpe	27 May 2014, Delegation Approval	80,379	DA/CC
DA2014/32	C Jenner	Change of Use – Mill to Residence & Minor Building Works, Dual Occupancy	23 Naylor Street, Carcoar	28 May 2014, Delegation Approval	48,000	DA/CC
DA2014/46	PO & PK Hahn	Installation of Glass Enclosure	3 Somers Place, Blayney	28 May 2014, Delegation Approval	35,000	DA/CC

DA's Approved in May 2014: 14

DA's Lodged in May 2014: 21

Total Value of Works approved in May 2014: 1,511,173.80

DA's Approved in May 2013: 20

DA's Lodged in May 2013: 20

Total Value of Works approved in May 2013: \$ 3,412,373.54



GilgandraShireCouncil
meeting community needs

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Gilgandra NSW 2827

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Email: council@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au
Visit: www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au

**BLAYNEY SHIRE
COUNCIL**

- 9 May 2014

Doc. No.

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GA39:**

Sent.

ED.EM.1 (DB:JP)

Contact: Doug Batten

6 May 2014

The Mayor
Blayney Shire Council
PO Box 62
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

Dear Sir/Madam

Centenary of Cooee March – Re-enactment

Next year marks 100 years since the 320 miles (515 km) "Coo-ee" recruitment march of World War I left Gilgandra with a small band of some 26 men on 10th October 1915 and arrived in Sydney on 12th November 1915 with its numbers increased to 263 marchers. The Coo-ees stopped in each town and village along the route to be welcomed by local officials and members of the local community and to hold recruiting speeches to increase their ranks.

The original route was from Gilgandra to Balladran, Eumungerie, Mogriguy, Dubbo, Wongarbon, Geurie, Wellington, Dripstone, Mumbil, Stuart Town, Euchareena, Boomey, Molong, Orange, Millthorpe, Blayney, Bathampton, Bathurst, Yetholme, Wallerawang, Lithgow, Little Hartley, Mt Victoria, Katoomba, Lawson, Springwood, Penrith, Parramatta, Ashfield and ended in Sydney. This march started a snowball of other similar recruitment marches in late 1915 and early 1916.

Following the success of an earlier re-enactment of the march that took place in 1987, plans are now well advanced to commemorate the centenary of this significant event with another re-enactment march planned to leave Gilgandra on 17th October and arrive in Sydney on 11th November 2015, following the original route as closely as possible.

A re-enactment of the march took place in 1987 and plans are now well advanced to commemorate its centenary leaving Gilgandra on 17 October to arrive in Sydney on 11 November 2015 after generally following the original route. The march will pass through your shire and early indications are that a substantial number of marchers will be participating and be supported by a well prepared support team.

In the Cooee March and 1987 re-enactment, the marchers overnighted in towns and villages along the way and received excellent support and encouragement from the respective Councils and communities. It is envisaged the re-enactment will visit memorials in each town and village to conduct a remembrance service for the community and interested schools.

Over the next few months the timing and route will be finalised and representatives from the Re-enactment Committee will be in touch to brief your Council and outline any assistance that you may be able to offer from extending an informal welcome to the marchers, attendance at and assistance with conduct of memorial services and traffic control.

2.

To assist with the planning, it would be appreciated if you could provide details of war memorials within your Council area and a listing of schools and contact numbers.

The re-enactment will be led by Mr Brian Bywater OAM, the face of the 1987 re-enactment march, and he and his Committee will be contacting each of the schools to detail the march and invite their participation in activities.

Brian and his team will also provide your Council with a detailed timing of the March program through your area as it is finalised.

Further information regarding the Cooee March can be viewed at our website:
<http://www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au/community/cultural-heritage/cooee-march>

Any assistance your Council can offer will be very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Cr Doug Batten
Mayor

From: Licence Reform [mailto:LicenceReform@ipart.nsw.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 22 May 2014 12:20 PM

Subject: IEM/8129 - IPART's review of licences in NSW – Draft Report on Reforming Licensing in NSW released today

Dear Stakeholder,

We have released our Draft Report on *Reforming Licensing in NSW*.

There are currently about 780 different types of licences in NSW. They cover every aspect of the economy – including trades and professions, transport and motor vehicles, environmental protection, health, education, liquor, gaming and recreational activities. The NSW Government asked IPART to review these licences and identify those licences where reform would produce the greatest reduction in costs to business and the community.

Today IPART released a Draft Report on *Reforming Licensing in NSW*, which recommends reforms of priority licences among 269 licence types identified as significant. These licences represent 95% of all licences by volume and 99% by revenue, impacting the largest number of businesses and individuals (eg, vehicle registrations, driver's licences, home building licences and fishing licences). The report also identifies a number of other reform opportunities based on our public consultation process.

Key red tape savings that could be achieved include:

- \$108 million per year by extending the validity of a light vehicle safety inspection report (a “pink slip”) from 6 weeks to 6 months, so motorists can have the inspection done when their vehicles are serviced.
- \$8 million per year by removing the mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) requirement for home building licence and certificate holders (and allowing for the development of voluntary programs).

IPART has developed a ‘Top 32’ licence reform priority list that also includes other transport related licences, occupational licences and environment protection licences.

IPART has also released a Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide to assist regulators to assess whether their existing or new licensing schemes are justified and well designed. The Framework and Guide are available at:

<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Regulation_Review/Reviews/Licence_Design/Licence_Rationale_and_Design>

Use of this tool by regulators will allow further reforms to be identified to realise additional red tape savings in the future.

We encourage you and other stakeholders to make a submission in response to our Draft Report on *Reforming Licensing in NSW* to ensure that our recommendations achieve the best possible outcomes. Our Draft Report is available at:

<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Regulation_Review/Reviews/Licence_Design/Licence_Rationale_and_Design>

A short Fact Sheet summarising the Draft Report is **attached** to this email. Submissions are due by **4 July 2014**. Late submissions may not be accepted at the discretion of the Tribunal.

Submissions to our Draft Report can be made through our website:

<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Regulation_Review/Reviews/Licence_Design/Licence_Rationale_and_Design>

If you have any questions about the Draft Report, or the Final Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide, please email us at LicenceReform@ipart.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9290 8432.

Please feel free to circulate this email or the links to the Draft Report to your associates and other parties affected by licences.

We also encourage industry and stakeholder associations to **please publicise or circulate the links to our Draft Report amongst members and other stakeholders (eg, via regular newsletters, meetings, or association website)**. We are keen to find out from your industry members or stakeholders what NSW licences should be reformed and why.

We look forward to receiving your input on our Draft Report: *Reforming licences in NSW*.

Kind regards,

Felicity Hall
Acting Program Manager, Regulation Review



Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

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FACT SHEET

Reforming licensing in NSW – summary of Draft Report

May 2014

Overview

The NSW Government has a target of \$750 million in reduced 'red tape' for business and the community by June 2015.¹ To help achieve this target, IPART was asked to undertake a series of reviews. One of the first areas for review has focused on reforming licensing in NSW.

This review aims to identify all licence types in NSW and prioritise those where reform would produce the most red tape savings. We have also developed a Framework and Guide for regulators to use when assessing their existing or new licences.

Our recommended reforms of priority licences are expected to reduce red tape to individuals and businesses by between \$117 million and \$130 million per year. When considering the community as a whole, this provides between \$108 million and \$129 million in net benefits each year.

What have we found?

There were about 22 million licences in force in NSW on 30 June 2012. This represents a licensing burden of around 3 licences per NSW resident.

From our survey of government agencies, we have identified that there are currently about 780 different licence types administered by the NSW Government. Of these licence types, we have identified 269 'significant licences' that represent 95% of all licences by volume and 99% of licence revenue raised.

Our estimates indicate that improvements to the design and administration of the 269 significant licences could save at least \$320 million per year across the NSW economy.

Our 'Top 32' licence reform priority list

We have developed a 'Top 32' licence reform priority list. These licences:

- ▼ directly affect a large number of people or businesses and/or collect a large amount of licence revenue
- ▼ appear to have relatively high scope for administrative reform, based on Government agency survey returns.

Our estimates indicate that improvements to the design and administration of these 32 licences could save at least \$200 million per year across the NSW economy.

Our analysis provides a starting point for regulators to undertake a more comprehensive assessment of their licences using our proposed Licensing Framework.

¹ Premier's Memorandum, M2012-02 *Red tape reduction - new requirements*, February 2012.

‘Top 10’ priority licences

We conducted detailed analysis of the ‘Top 10’ priority licences and, where possible, made specific reform recommendations.

The major savings from specific licence reforms are:

- ▼ between \$100 million and \$115 million per year from extending the validity period of a light vehicle safety inspection report (previously called a ‘pink slip’)
- ▼ about \$8 million per year by removing the mandatory continuing professional development requirement for the Home Building Licences and certificate holders (and allowing for the development of voluntary programs).

Other potential reform opportunities

In addition to the ‘priority’ licences, we have also identified a number of other potential reform opportunities. These arose from our public consultation process and our analysis of survey returns to identify licences where their design and administration could be improved.

We are also seeking feedback on any other licences which have potential for reform.

Licensing Framework

We have developed a Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide for regulators to use when reviewing or considering licensing schemes.

Given our analysis and findings in this review, we consider significant net benefits and red tape savings can be realised if the Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide are correctly applied by government agencies when assessing their existing or new licences.

The Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide are available on our [website](#).

Our draft recommendations

The Draft Report presents our draft recommendations.

We note the NSW Government has already implemented some of our draft recommendations (see draft recommendations 15 and 18 below).

Implementation of the Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide to assess licences in NSW

1 NSW Government agencies should:

- ensure their licences are reviewed using the Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide:
 - as part of any statutory requirement to review legislation that governs a licensing scheme, or
 - at least once every 10 years, where there is no statutory requirement to review a licence
- apply the Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide when developing proposed new licences.

2 The NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet should amend the NSW Guide to Better Regulation (November 2009) to:

- include reference to the Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide for regulatory proposals that involve licensing, and
- require agencies submitting a regulatory proposal that involves licensing to include an assessment of their licensing proposal against the Licensing Framework, with their Better Regulation Statement (significant regulatory proposals) or other supporting documentation (non-significant regulatory proposals).

'Top 32' licence reform priorities

- 3 The NSW Government should review the 'Top 32' licences listed in Table 5.1 using the Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide. The reviews should particularly focus on the key reform areas identified in Appendix I of this report as well as those outlined in specific areas in Chapter 5.

Specific reforms for 'Top 10' licences

- 4 NSW Roads and Maritime Services should, by the end of 2014, extend the validity of light vehicle safety inspection reports to 26 weeks for the purpose of renewing light vehicle registrations, except for public passenger vehicles.
- 5 The NSW Government should review, by the end of 2014, the annual safety inspection requirement for light vehicle registration (administered by NSW Roads and Maritime Services) using the Licensing Framework.
- 6 NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) should, by the end of 2014 provide a 10-year licence duration option for driver's licence classes C and R (unrestricted) for drivers aged between 21 and 44 years.
- 7 The NSW Government should, by the end of 2014, review the recreational fishing fee licence (administered by the Department of Primary Industries) using the Licensing Framework with respect to duration, fee-setting and administration.
- 8 NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) should, by the end of 2014, provide an option of a 5-year registration of a recreational vessel.
- 9 NSW Fair Trading should, by the end of 2014, remove mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) for all Home Building Licences and certificate holders, and allow for the development of voluntary professional development programs.

- 10 NSW Fair Trading should, by the end of 2014, initially raise the value threshold for requiring a Home Building Licence to \$10,000, and then \$20,000 after 3 years. The threshold should be indexed at least once every 5 years.
- 11 NSW Fair Trading should, by the end of 2014, initially raise the value threshold for requiring an Owner Builder Permit to \$10,000. NSW Fair Trading should then raise the value of this threshold and the threshold for compulsory owner-builder training to \$20,000 after 3 years. The thresholds should be indexed at least once every 5 years.

Licences identified for reform from our review

- 12 NSW Trade & Investment should:
 - implement any remaining recommendations from the former Better Regulation Office's review of the electricity Accredited Service Provider (ASP) Scheme in 2010
 - work with Distribution Network Service Providers to coordinate the development of a single training requirement that would authorise ASPs to operate on all networks, rather than separate training for each network.
- 13 The NSW Government should review the fee setting principles for Child Employment – Employer Authority (administered by the Children's Guardian), using the Licensing Framework.
- 14 The NSW Government should evaluate the Commercial Fishing Licence (administered by the Department of Primary Industries) using the Licensing Framework, and take into account PwC's preliminary analysis of this licence as a case study in the Licensing Guide. Concurrent with this review the registered fish receiver licence should also be reviewed.

- 15 The NSW Government should exempt commercial property agents who sell or manage property for a related corporate entity from the requirements of the *Property Stock and Business Agents Act 2002*.

Note: Exemption from the requirement to obtain professional indemnity insurance was introduced in 2012/13 for certain commercial property agency work.²

- 16 The NSW Government should evaluate the farm milk collector's licence (administered by the NSW Food Authority) using the Licensing Framework, and take into account PwC's preliminary analysis of this licence as a case study in the Licensing Guide.
- 17 The NSW Government should evaluate the need for a licence to cultivate spat (administered by the NSW Food Authority), including the level of licence fees, using the Licensing Framework.
- 18 The NSW Government should remove the requirement for food businesses to provide notification of Food Safety Supervisors (administered by the NSW Food Authority).
Note: This recommendation was implemented in January 2014.³
- 19 The NSW Government should evaluate the licences under the *Liquor Act 2007* (administered by the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing) using the Licensing Framework, with a particular focus on licence duration, conditions and administration.
- 20 The NSW Government should abolish the LPG distributor licence and natural gas reticulator's authorisation (administered by IPART on behalf of the Minister for Resources and Energy).
- 21 The NSW Government should abolish property valuer licences.

- 22 The NSW Government should abolish travel agent licences in line with the COAG Legislative and Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs' Travel Industry Transition Plan for transition to self-regulation of the travel industry.

- 23 The NSW Government should abolish the air-conditioning and refrigeration licence (administered by NSW Fair Trading).

- 24 The NSW Government should review the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for conveyancers (administered by NSW Fair Trading) using the Licensing Framework. This could be achieved as part of the recommended broader review of CPD (as per draft recommendation 27).

- 25 The NSW Government should review administration of dangerous goods notifications (administered by WorkCover NSW), using the Licensing Framework and taking into account stakeholder comments about online notification and compliance processes.

- 26 The NSW Government should investigate consolidating environmentally hazardous chemical licences (administered by the NSW Environment Protection Authority) within Environment Protection Licences.

Opportunities for ongoing licence reform in NSW

- 27 The NSW Government should commission a review by an independent body of the training and continuing professional development conduct rules for all occupational licences to ensure they are the minimum necessary. In doing so, the reviewing body should refer to the Licensing Framework.

- 28 NSW Government agencies should review their licences against our assessment of areas of licence design and administration that could be improved as set out in Appendix M, taking into account the findings made in this Draft Report.

² *Property, Stock and Business Agents Regulation 2003* (NSW), clause 13B.

³ NSW Food Authority (2014), *Notifying FSS details*, <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/fss-food-safety-supervisors/notifying-fss-details/#.UyjP7NgU9Hg>, accessed 19 March 2014.

Our draft findings

Our Draft Report presents 18 draft findings on our licence survey results, licence reform priorities, and opportunities for ongoing licensing reform in NSW.

What happens next?

We invite all interested parties to make written submissions on the Draft Report by 4 July 2014.

Late submissions may be considered at IPART's discretion.

In general, we seek your response on the draft recommendations and findings explained in the report. Submissions may also comment on any other issues stakeholders consider relevant to the review.

We would prefer to receive submissions electronically via our online submission form:

www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Consumer_Information/Lodge_a_submission

You can also send comments by mail to:

Regulation Review – Licence Reform
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Our normal practice is to make submissions publicly available on our website www.ipart.nsw.gov.au as soon as possible after the closing date for submissions.

If you would like further information on making a submission, IPART's submission policy is available on our website, as well at the front of our Draft Report.

Table 1 sets out our indicative review timetable.

Table 1 Licence review timetable

Task	Timeframe
Survey to local councils	13 Sep 2012
Survey to NSW Government departments and agencies	12 Oct 2012
Online survey released for licence holders on <i>Have your say</i> website	25 Oct 2012
Release Issues Paper	30 Oct 2012
Release Draft Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide	30 Oct 2012
Stakeholder submissions due and licence holder survey closes	12 Dec 2012
Public roundtable	12 Feb 2013
Preliminary Draft Report to Department of Premier and Cabinet	15 April 2013
Consultation with NSW Govt. departments and agencies	May/June 2013
Revised Draft Report to Department of Premier and Cabinet	23 July 2013
Further consultation with agencies undertaken	August/Sept. 2013
Further revised Draft Report to Department of Premier and Cabinet	1 November 2013
Release Draft Report	22 May 2014
Release Consultant's Final Licensing Framework and Licensing Guide	22 May 2014
Receive submissions to Draft Report	4 July 2014
Deliver Final Report to Government	September 2014

Note: These dates are indicative and may be subject to change.



Australian Government

Department of Communications

Mr Glenn Wilcox
General Manager
Blayney Shire Council
PO Box 62
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

7 May 2014

Dear Mr Wilcox

Mobile Coverage Programme

Thank you for your Council's submission to the discussion paper for the Government's \$100 million Mobile Coverage Programme. Submissions to the discussion paper which comment on the delivery of the Programme are being considered by the Government as the design of the Programme is being finalised.

Submissions will be made publically available (subject to confidentiality requirements) on the Department of Communications' website at www.communications.gov.au/mobile_coverage

Under this Programme, the Commonwealth Government has made a funding commitment of \$100 million to improve mobile coverage and competition in regional and remote Australia, by investing in telecommunications network infrastructure.

In this letter I describe some aspects of the competitive selection process the Government expects to use, and the role that local councils can play – and I seek some specific information from your Council should you wish to provide it.

As the policy document issued by the Coalition in August 2013 stated, there are two components to this Programme, with the mobile phone network providers eligible for the first, \$80 million component, and a range of parties including these providers, as well as local government, state government and commercial entities, eligible for the second, \$20 million component.

In a Discussion Paper issued in December 2013, the Government sought comment about how best to administer the funding. Based on the feedback received the Government has decided to conduct an integrated competitive selection process across the two components.

The first step in the process is to develop a database of locations eligible for funding, based on the locations reported to the Department. To date, over 2,000 locations have been reported to the Department of Communications as having poor or no mobile phone coverage.

BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL
13 MAY 2014
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The next step is to supplement this database with any relevant information about each location, including particularly whether other parties such as state governments, local councils or others wish to make a contribution, either in cash or in-kind, towards the cost of building a mobile phone base station at that location.

This database will then be provided to the parties which are potential builders and operators of new mobile phone base stations. These will include Telstra, Optus and Vodafone, as well as companies which specialise in building and operating communications towers (such as Crown Castle and Broadcast Australia.)

In formal terms, it will be these parties (collectively, the 'Bidding Parties') which will lodge bids under the competitive selection process - specifying at which locations they would be prepared to build and the contribution they would make to the cost.

However, the Government envisages that there will be locations where state or local government (and in some cases other parties) will in effect act as the project proponent. In particular, this might occur where the proponent is prepared to contribute funding or other resources towards construction of a base station at the location, or to coordinate the provision of such resources from other sources.

To that end, the Government has directed the Department of Communications to give all regional councils containing areas eligible for funding under this Programme the opportunity to notify the Government of any locations within your Council area where your Council (or other third parties of which you may be aware) may be prepared to co-contribute funding, or resources, towards the construction of a base station at a particular location under the Programme.

Specifically, in respect of any such location, I request that you notify me if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested to do any of the following things:

- Make a financial contribution to the cost of installing the base station;
- Provide leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- Provide civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- Provide access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- Provide a connection to an existing power source.

It may assist you in determining the amount of resources you allocate to respond to this letter to know that your entire local government area is eligible for funding under the Programme, and in total there are nearly 500 local government areas eligible for funding under the Programme.

Should you wish to do so, please write to me, as the official with responsibility for this Programme within the Department of Communications, to nominate any such locations and the extent of such proposed co-contribution. I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the Bidding Parties can consult on your co-contributions and the relevant locations. I ask that you do this by the end of June 2014 by email to mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au

I emphasise that there is no requirement for a location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council or other party before it can receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Programme.

However, the Government aims to have all relevant information gathered together in relation to a location, and made known to the Bidding Parties, before they lodge their proposals with the Government. Clearly, if a third party such as a local council has an appetite to provide a co-contribution towards the construction of a base station at a particular location, it makes sense for that information to be captured and included in the database which is provided to the Bidding Parties.

Finally, you should be aware that the selection of a location to be funded by the Commonwealth under this Programme will depend upon a number of factors. The availability of funding from sources other than the Commonwealth will not be determinative. In other words, while the Commonwealth is interested to learn from you if there are any locations where your Council is interested in providing a co-contribution, I cannot give you any assurance that such a location will necessarily be chosen for funding from the Commonwealth.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, I can be contacted on 1800 113 486 or mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Lachlann Paterson
Assistant Secretary
Regional Communications



Australian Government

Department of Health

Ref No. MC14-004966

Mr Scott Ferguson
Mayor
Blayney Shire Council
PO Box 62
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

Dear Mr Ferguson

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 April 2014 to the Minister for Health and Minister for Sport, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, regarding support for the Murray-Darling Medical School. The Minister has asked me to respond.

The Government understands that the access to doctors in Australia, particularly in rural and regional areas, is an important issue and a complex one.

The decision regarding the significant investment represented by a new medical school will be very carefully considered by the Government, particularly in the current environment of fiscal restraint and competition for available funds.

While the views of all stakeholders will be carefully considered, the decision to allocate Commonwealth-supported medical places to a new medical school is ultimately one for the Minister for Education, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

Kate McCauley
Assistant Secretary
Training and Reform Branch
5 May 2014

**BLAYNEY SHIRE
COUNCIL**

- 8 MAY 2014

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Paul Toole MP

MEMBER FOR BATHURST ELECTORATE

29th May, 2014

Mr Glenn Wilcox
General Manager
Blayney Shire Council
PO Box 62
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL
- 2 JUN 2014
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Dear Mr Wilcox

I refer to previous correspondence in relation to a recent incident at Environment Treatments Solutions' Blayney Plant.

I wrote to the Minister for the Environment on Council's behalf and have since received a reply, a copy of which is enclosed.

It is noted that the EPA has visited St Joseph Catholic School to discuss the incident and confirmed that the meeting was beneficial for all involved.

It has been advised that the EPA is still investigating the incident and will take some months to complete.

I trust that this information is to your satisfaction.

Yours faithfully



Paul Toole MP
Member for Bathurst Electorate

bathurst@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Unit 1, 229 Howick Street
(PO Box 2237)
Bathurst NSW 2795

ph 02 6332 1300
fax 02 6332 1900





MD14/1497

Rob Stokes MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
Minister for the Central Coast
Assistant Minister for Planning



RECEIVED
28/5/14

Mr Paul Toole MP
Member for Bathurst
Minister for Local Government
Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister *Paul,*

Thank you for your representations to the former Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Robyn Parker MP, on behalf of Mr Glen Wilcox, General Manager, Blayney Shire Council regarding an incident earlier this year at Environment Treatments Solutions Blayney Plant (ETS). I appreciate you raising Mr Wilcox's concerns.

I acknowledge Mr Wilcox's request to have a representative from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) visit St Joseph Catholic School at Blayney to discuss the ETS incident. I am pleased to advise that the EPA met the Principal, Mr Gerard Davies and his staff on Wednesday 9 April 2014 to discuss what action the EPA has taken and will be taking in the future.

The EPA has informed me that the meeting was beneficial for all involved and clarified the issues the school had in regard to the EPA's regulation of this incident and the facility. I understand that Mr Davies and his staff appreciated the opportunity to discuss the incident with the EPA.

For your information, the ETS incident occurred as a result of operator error during a hazardous waste treatment process. The EPA is still investigating the incident to determine whether licence breaches have occurred. I am advised that this investigation will take some months to complete.

Following the incident, the EPA issued a Prevention Notice prohibiting ETS from undertaking any further treatment of hazardous waste at the facility until fail proof operating procedures are established to the satisfaction of the EPA. The Notice requires that these treatment activities can only recommence with written approval of the EPA. These activities are still prohibited.

If Mr Wilcox has any further questions on this issue, Mr Darryl Clift, Acting Manager Central West Region, EPA, can be contacted on 6332 7602.

Yours sincerely

Rob Stokes MP
Minister for the Environment

25.05.14.



Office of Local Government

5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541

Our Reference: A369406
Your Reference:
Contact: Innovation
Phone: 02 4428 4100

Mr Glenn Wilcox
General Manager
Blayney Shire Council
Secretariat, WBC Strategic Alliance Board
PO Box 17
MOLONG NSW 2866

Glenn

Dear Mr Wilcox

SHARED SERVICES PROJECT – WBC ALLIANCE

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2014 regarding the update on the progress that the WBC councils have achieved in relation to this project.

I would like to commend WBC Councils for their efforts so far in developing this project and I strongly support innovative ideas that share knowledge and capacity across the boundaries of individual councils in creating greater efficiencies. It is essential that councils work in partnership to drive greater strategic effectiveness.

As you have noted, this project has significant links to the findings and recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel. A key theme of the Panel's Final Report concerns improving strategic capacity through sharing of resources and expertise among councils. It is clear that your proposal has the potential to offer a contribution in this regard.

As you would be aware, public consultation on the final reports of the Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce has recently concluded. The consultation was designed to help inform the Government response to the proposals. Once the Government has determined its response, it will be then better placed to explore and examine potential funding proposals. Any decision to fund council initiatives is however, likely to consider the extent to which the project contributes to the overall State Government objectives, in particular to build the strategic capacity and capability of councils to work on a regional basis, and the appropriateness of funding projects that will likely generate savings for member councils over the medium term.



The Office of Local Government is happy to work with WBC Alliance members to continue to explore these issues. To discuss further please do not hesitate to contact myself or Corin Moffatt, Manager Innovation and Development. Ms Moffatt can be contacted on (002) 4428 4174 or at corin.moffatt@dlq.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

 24/4/14

Ross Woodward
Chief Executive
Office of Local Government



The Hon Warren Truss MP

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development

Leader of The Nationals

Member for Wide Bay

PDR ID: MC14-001011

**BLAYNEY SHIRE
COUNCIL**

- 6 JUN 2014

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GA39:**

Sent.

3 June 2014

Cr Scott Ferguson

Mayor

Blayney Shire Council

44 Church Street

BLAYNEY NSW 2799

Dear Mayor

I am writing to inform you of some of the decisions in the 2014 Federal Budget which will affect Local Government.

On coming to office, the new Coalition Government faced a \$47 billion budget deficit for the 2013-14 financial year and \$123 billion of projected deficits to 2016-17. Already Australians are footing a \$1 billion interest bill every month on Labor's debt.

This Budget begins the task of restoring budget integrity for the long-term, making savings in recurrent expenditure so we can invest in the infrastructure necessary to rebuild our national economy.

The Coalition Government's 2014-15 Budget outlined a \$50 billion investment across Australia to deliver vital transport infrastructure for the 21st Century.

The Budget includes many large scale commitments which will trigger more than \$125 billion in infrastructure investment but importantly there is also a significant boost to road funding at the local level.

As a part of this agenda, we have committed \$2.5 billion for the continuation of the Roads to Recovery Programme to support the maintenance and upgrade of local roads. This includes an additional payment of \$350 million to councils during the 2015-16 financial year.

To fix dangerous and accident-prone sections of local roads and streets, \$565 million will be provided through the ongoing Black Spot Programme. This includes an extra \$100 million in both the 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years.

I am pleased to confirm that the Government's Bridges Renewal Programme will commence in 2014-15. Partnering with local councils and State Governments, this programme will invest \$300 million in Commonwealth funding into the repair and replacement of local bridges. I will be releasing the guidelines for this new programme in the near future and they will be available on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's website <www.infrastructure.gov.au>.

To improve productivity and safety in the heavy vehicle industry the Australian Government has committed to continue the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Programme with \$200 million available over the next five years for projects such as road enhancements, rest areas and technology trials. Additionally, on top of our major capital commitments to the national highway network, we have allocated \$229 million to a new National Highway Upgrade Programme that will provide funding for improvements to Australia's national highways through works such as shoulder and centreline widening, overtaking lanes and pavement improvements.

In addition to these road and bridge infrastructure programmes, the Budget also confirmed a \$314 million investment in 300 projects in local communities through our Community Development Grants Programme, which is designed to deliver the Coalition's election commitments and some residue projects from the previous Government.

The Government's new \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund aims to promote economic development through investment in infrastructure projects at a local level. The programme will help communities with lower than average socioeconomic circumstances and higher than average unemployment by improving local facilities, creating jobs and building needed infrastructure. The programme guidelines will be announced shortly and grants from the programme will commence next year. Funding has also been provided to support a network of regional development advisory committees across the nation.

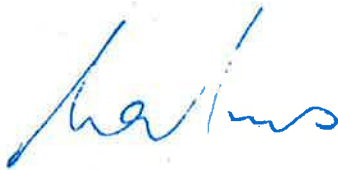
The Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Jamie Briggs MP, and I have recently released *Building Stronger Regional Communities*, a publication outlining the many Budget initiatives that will benefit non-metropolitan and regional communities. We are focused on delivering a strategic plan that generates economic growth and supports thousands of jobs in key regional areas across Australia. This document highlights the considerable measures within the Budget that may be of interest to local governments across the country and is also available on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website.

The Coalition Government understands that this is a tough Budget and we have not hidden from that. All Australians are being asked to play a part in repairing our nation's financial woes, including Local Government.

The Local Government Financial Assistance Grant will not be indexed for three years. However, additional funding for infrastructure investment, along with the Roads to Recovery, Bridges Renewal and Black Spot programmes, is expected to offset the indexation pause.

I trust that this information is of assistance to your Council and I look forward to engaging with councils in Canberra during the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly later this month.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Warren Truss', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

WARREN TRUSS