



## Country Women's Association of New South Wales

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### Issues Agenda

#### AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Engage support of National and International women's organisations to lobby their governments to urgently resume World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations for the removal of tariffs and agricultural subsidies.

Objection to any proposal by the State Government's to sell land at agricultural high schools and agricultural colleges.

Request that the State and Federal Governments develop legislation to protect prime agricultural land from mining activities that could impact on agricultural food production and ground and surface water systems.

The Murray Darling Basin Plan must include environmental, social and economic issues to ensure that a fair and balanced sharing of water resources can be achieved.

A call for the Federal & NSW Governments to restore farmers' rights to sustainably manage and develop their properties, pass legislation to pay farmers fair and reasonable rent for the provision of environmental services and provide just terms of compensation when making decisions that devalue property.

Request for a Government Policy to be investigate and prevent the multinational buy up of rural, regional and urban areas.

Call for an independent enquiry into potential pollution and the massive amount of water used by extractive industries in the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). As well as a call for urgent funding for the GAB Sustainability Initiative subsidy.

An approach to be made to the relevant Ministers objecting to any adverse environmental and social impact resulting from coal seam gas activities and infrastructure, including the impact on property rights and just terms compensation. Also a call for an extension to the State Government's moratorium on granting licenses.

Objection to the introduction of a carbon tax.

A call for the introduction of standard operating procedures which will see all parks fully manned on days declared a high fire danger.

#### EDUCATION

Monitoring of the relocation of Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School to ensure it continues to provide essential services for rural children.

Request that the Government reinstate the Parents and Teachers (PAT) Program for regional and rural families.

## HEALTH/SOCIAL SECURITY

Ongoing concerns about the state of medical services in rural areas.

Access to outreach medical services for self-funded retirees in rural and remote NSW to alleviate the need for travel to larger centres.

Concerns over issues surrounding Lymphoedema including: having the cost of prescribed compression garments covered by the Medicare rebate, establishing treatment centres with a central register of approved clinicians, providing therapists for regional areas and to have the NSW Cancer Registry keep statistics for the planning and development of services.

Call for the compulsory installation of handrails in all hospitality industry bathroom and toilet amenities.

Call for increased publicity to ensure women within the 40 to 49 age bracket are aware they can obtain a free mammogram – upon request.

Request that funding for mental health (including funding for research, early intervention and training and employment) is increased to a minimum of 12% of the total health budget.

Urgent ongoing specialist services are needed in regional health centres to treat sufferers of mental illness.

Request that the review of the Central Western Helicopter Retrieval Service is brought forward.

Objection to the current practice of males and females sharing wards in public hospitals.

Request that mothers and babies are admitted as a single unit when a premature baby is born in a regional hospital and is then required to be transferred to a city hospital for treatment.

Recommendation for a volunteer card which certifies the holder as having completed police check for volunteer work.

## TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Request that funding for Roads to Recovery be indexed relative to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Road Construction and Maintenance Index.

Request that government allocate a proportion of the Building Australia Fund to the 'first mile' of the rural local road network.

All providers of mobile phone services should be compelled to make calls from mobile telephones to the Kids Help Line Counselling Service *free of charge*.

Concern about the condition of outback roads – specifically Road 405 (Bourke to Wanaaring).

## MISCELLANEOUS

Call for the State Government to introduce legislation which will make communities safer in relation to alcohol fuelled violence.