

Motions for 2017 Conference *(with preamble)*

CONSTITUTION

1. State Executive

Preamble: A sunset clause will ensure the CWA's policies will remain current and relevant. Motions can be archived, marked as successful or amended to be re-presented at Conference.

Amend Regulation 25 by inserting at the end of 25 (d) the following words:

"Any policy resolution passed at an Annual General Meeting held during or after the year 2017 will expire and cease to be Association policy on the ninth anniversary of its passage unless, prior to that anniversary, the policy is reauthorised or extended for a further period of not more than nine years, by a further policy resolution passed at an Annual General Meeting".

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

1a) Barwon, Blue Mountains, Castlereagh Country, Darling River, Far South Coast, Far Western, Gwydir, Mid North Coast, Murrumbidgee-Lachlan, Namoi, Phillip, Southern Tablelands and Wollondilly Groups:

"That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2017-2018 be Lyme Disease".

1b) Macquarie, Northumberland, Riverina and Wanthella Groups:

"That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2017-2018 be Motor Neurone Disease".

1c) Illawarra and Nepean Groups:

"That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2017-2018 be Endometriosis".

AGRICULTURAL/ENVIRONMENTAL

2. Hillston Branch, Murrumbidgee-Lachlan Group

Preamble: There is a necessity for additional radar towers to fill the huge gap in radar services between the existing stations at Woomera (central SA), Mildura (VIC) and Moree (northern NSW). Very poor forewarning of western originating weather patterns can be provided to most of NSW by these stations. The importance of the additional stations cannot be over emphasised for emergency management purposes (flood mitigation, bushfire, air transportation etc). The cost of dealing with natural disasters would be more than offset when compared to the cost of such weather systems.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW is to seek comprehensive weather radar coverage for western NSW".

3. Bingara Branch, Gwydir Group

Preamble: By tightening laws on foreign purchasing of farm land, water and agribusiness our nation can maintain better control over what happens on the land, ensure Australian farming standards and environmental laws are practiced and monitor that products do not become scarce, unavailable or too expensive due to exporting overseas.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that the federal and state governments should tighten laws on foreign purchasing of Australian farm land, water and agribusiness".

4. Maules Creek Branch (Namoi Group):

Preamble: The results of hosting unconventional gas on farms are properties devalued, mortgages refused, insurance covers rejected, destroys families, divides communities, drains aquifers and turns land into dead zones, sick children, suicide and mental breakdowns.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to support a ban on unconventional gas exploration, extraction and production".

5. Maules Creek Branch, Namoi Group

Preamble: Crown land is land that is owned and managed by State Government. It comprises approximately half of all land in NSW, which equates to 33.5 million hectares. 30 million hectares of which is in the western division.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to support the continued public ownership and management of Crown Land for the health and benefit of the environment and people of NSW, now and in the future.

Further we support full transparency of the Legislative and management processes and a clear "public interest" test for land lease and sale that goes beyond financial benefits only".

HEALTH

6. Woolgoolga Branch (North Coast Group):

Preamble: The overuse and misuse of antibiotics has caused an antibiotic resistance crisis. Resistance occurs when bacteria changes to protect themselves and they are no longer sensitive to that particular antibiotic. The more antibiotics that are used the more chances are that bacteria will become resistant to them. In 2014, the World Health Organisation warned that the antibiotic resistance crisis is becoming dire and one of the greatest threats to human health.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW will be that we encourage the continuing education of health professionals and the public in the correct usage of antibiotics".

7. Cobargo Branch, (Far South Coast Group):

Preamble: Thyroid hormones are essential for both foetal and neonatal brain development. The foetus is totally dependent on placental passage of maternal thyroxine for normal brain development. A small decrease during pregnancy, from

either iodine deficiency or thyroid disease, is an important risk factor for impaired psychomotor development in infants.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to encourage the inclusion of a blood test for thyroid function in the standard blood test for pregnant women in their first trimester”.

8. Cobargo Branch, (Far South Coast Group)

Preamble: Iodine is an essential trace element and an integral component of thyroid hormones which are required for normal growth and development of tissues and maturation of our bodies. Iodine deficiency has been linked to intellectual impairment of the foetus and developing children. Information in Australia about iodine supplementation during pregnancy is ad hoc and needs to be standardised.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to encourage the promotion of awareness and prevention of Iodine Deficiency Disorders through women’s health programs throughout Australia”.

9. Guyra Branch (Northern Tablelands Group):

Preamble: Research shows that bush dwellers are 26% more likely to suffer from cardiovascular disease than those living in major cities. Cardiovascular conditions, which include heart attack and stroke, kill one Australian every 12 minutes – the leading cause of death in Australia. Greater focus on prevention and management of heart disease is needed in rural Australia. A cardiac bus service can educate as well as monitor patients who would otherwise not get to see a cardiologist in their area.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the establishment and funding of a cardiac bus service to visit regional and remote areas of NSW”.

TRANSPORT & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

10. Hornsby & District Branch (Northumberland Group):

Preamble: The 40 km school zones are an imperative part of our local traffic laws to keep children and families safe. However, throughout NSW and the ACT some areas have had significant safety measures installed, or access to schools has changed. For example there are overhead footbridges, or the school may be in the vicinity yet access to the school is via another road. Drivers are asked to slow down on a major road, yet there are no students actually on the thoroughfare. A review should be undertaken to evaluate the necessity of school zones and where students are safe, with alternative access, to allow traffic to flow at regular posted speeds.

“That the CWA of NSW requests a review of 40 km school zones to monitor/assess the necessity of such zones where there is no pedestrian traffic or there are alternative pedestrian access ways in place”.

11. Merriwa Branch (Hunter River Group):

Preamble: Rural and regional areas experience difficulties of interconnectivity and NBN satellite data limits. Higher monthly charges for less data access and a download speed so slow that actions timeout. Emergency services are not contactable if the mobile phone is in a blackspot or internet inaccessible area, and this could be life threatening. Students have limited or non-existent internet services at home to do

their homework or research and business operators are forced to go their nearest town or centre for the required connectivity.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW supports, as a basic tenet of modern life, equitable access to internet and telephone services in terms of speed, downloads and cost for all rural and regional citizens, regardless of their geographical location”.

12. Merriwa Branch, Hunter River Group

Preamble: There have been a number of recorded instances where emergency services have been directed to the wrong address due to two Councils having different road numbering systems. This causes delays to medical services and can result in serious consequences. Consistent and reliable street names and numbering is essential for all, especially emergency services who do not need this confusion trying to find locations under stressful, potentially life-saving conditions.

“That CWA support statewide co-ordination of street numbering on all roads and streets across NSW to ensure accurate identification of locations for emergency services when responding to incidents”.

MISCELLANEOUS & SOCIAL SECURITY

13. Galore Branch (Riverina Group):

Preamble: With falling volumes of mail, thus falling profits, Australia Post has changed the processing and sorting of mail resulting in slower delivery and inadequate customer service.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for more efficient service from Australia Post.

14. Oura Branch (Riverina Group):

Preamble: Grandparent carers historically have been viewed as foster carers under the State Government's Out of Home Care framework. They are subjected to the same suitability assessments, medical examinations and criminal history checks as foster carers and required to seek permission from Family and Community Services for instances such as interstate trips for holidays or to visit extended family members. Additionally Grandparent carers are required to have placement agreements which set out expectations of care, including cultural demands, for each of their grandchildren, and to be available for regular home visits from caseworkers, and to be reported on.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the following:

- All Grandparents raising Grandchildren to be acknowledged and recognised as a separate group in their own right and not as foster carers or a sub group of foster carers.
- Acknowledge and recognise Grandparents raising Grandchildren as family.
- Acknowledge and recognise Grandchildren in The Out of Home Care System as family members and not foster children.
- Acknowledge and recognise Grandparents raising Grandchildren as family in the assessment process and the ongoing care and cultural needs of those Grandchildren”.

15. Kendall Branch (Mid North Coast Group):

Preamble: Gambling addiction is an impulse-control disorder. Compulsive gamblers cannot control the impulse to gamble, even when it's hurting themselves or their loved ones. It strains relationships, interferes with work and can lead to financial catastrophe. 40% of all problem gamblers started gambling before they were 17 and it causes the most suicides out of all the recognised addictions.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for a ban on the advertising and promotion of gambling between 6.00 am and 9.00 pm on free to air TV.

16. Hornsby & District Branch (Northumberland Group):

Preamble: On-line gambling is available to anyone with a PC and a modem - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The advertising of alcohol is regulated by the Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code scheme and is designed to ensure that alcohol is marketed in a responsible manner. It's time the advertising of on-line gambling was regulated in a similar way.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that the advertising of online gambling be regulated with similar guidelines and restrictions as alcohol advertising".

17. Scone & District Branch (Hunter River Group):

Preamble: On-line gambling is the fastest growing form of gambling in the country. Increased promotion of on-line gambling is to blame, as well as easy access to on-line betting through smartphones and tablets. Gambling venues are highly regulated and must comply with harm minimisation regulations such as prominent display of time, availability of self-exclusion schemes and Responsible Conduct Gambling certification for staff. The regulatory gap between gambling venues and on-line gambling needs to close as it is a significant public health problem.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that online gambling services be subject to the same regulatory requirements as gambling venues (hotels, clubs and casinos)".

18. Hornsby & District Branch (Northumberland Group):

Preamble: The cost of the current Politicians Pension Plan to the Australian taxpayers is \$40 million per year, and rising. Parliamentarians currently receive an annual allowance of \$185,000 per annum. They receive many additional benefits, at an earlier age, without the means testing and restrictions that are enforced on general Australians. There are many inequalities that should be reviewed and addressed. In a time where State and Federal Governments are asking aged pensioners to live on the 'breadline' and are aiming at taxing superannuation, it's time that politicians bring themselves into line with the general public and stop the age of entitlement.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to urgently request a review into past and current serving and future Politician's Pension Plan in order to enforce the same rules and regulations to their access and entitlements as that of the Australian general public".

19. Hornsby & District Branch (Northumberland Group):

Preamble: Animal ownership is a huge responsibility and is a commitment for many years to ensure the animal's health and wellbeing. Compulsive buying at pet shops can lead to many pets becoming abandoned as the realisation of responsible ownership becomes clear. Added to this, council run pounds are killing healthy animals every day, animals that just need a home. If sourcing a pet was made more difficult, it would hopefully encourage more responsible pet ownership.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to urgently request legislation to prevent the sale of live animals in pet shops".

20. Sydney City Branch (Phillip Group)

Preamble: As an organisation that promotes equality, we believe all Australians are equal and should be treated as equal before the law, regardless of their sexual orientation. No Australian should be systematically excluded from any legal institution. Marriage has changed significantly over the past 200 years and same sex marriage is the next progression and will further enhance the ever evolving institution of marriage. International experience shows that reform is moving forward on this issue and as a progressive nation Australia should be with these countries ensuring equality for all its citizens. It's time and the right thing to do.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the equality of all Australians under the Marriage Act 1961 Cth. This includes changing the definition of 'marriage' under section 5 of the Act from "between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life" to "the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life".

21. Rowena Branch (Barwon Group)

Preamble: Government grants to fund road building, maintenance or repair is just one example of a system that has allowed transport infrastructure in rural areas to fall below an acceptable standard. Currently Roads and Maritime Services grant funding is based on a 50/50 split between state and local governments, regardless of location or a Council's ability to raise their own source revenue. There appears to be no recognition of the issues of distance and the associated additional costs, seasonal increases in traffic volumes, availability of an appropriately skilled workforce and good quality road base materials. Additional support should be given to councils and communities with the greatest needs.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to vigorously campaign for an equitable share of government funding for Regional, Rural & Remote NSW."