

## 2020 State Conference

### Constitution

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#### 1. Bowral Branch, Wollondilly Group

"That Rules XXII and XXIV of the Association's constitution be amended by the words 'two Vice Presidents' where appearing in those Rules being deleted and being replaced by the words 'three Vice Presidents.'"

#### 2. Canimbla Branch, South West Group

"That Rule III of the Association's constitution be amended by adding, immediately before the penultimate sentence of Rule III, the words: 'If a person is a member of the State Executive Committee by virtue of having been elected under Regulation 48, and that person also holds the position of Group President or Group Secretary or Group Treasurer, the relevant Group Council may nominate an additional Annual General Meeting Delegate to represent the Group at the Annual General Meeting in addition to the person who is entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting in her capacity as a Group President or Group Secretary or Group Treasurer.'"

#### 3. Canimbla Branch, South West Group

"That Regulation 85 of the Association's constitution be amended by adding the words: 'after first having given to both their Group Council and also to the Group Council of the Group they wish to join, three (3) months' notice in writing of that intended application' after the word 'join'."

### Association Activities

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#### 1a) Blue Mountains, Far South Coast, Far Western, Namoi, Nepean Groups:

"That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2020-2021 be Endometriosis".

#### 1b) Northumberland Group:

"That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2020-2021 be Q Fever".

#### 1c) Darling River Group:

"That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2020-2021 be Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (a form of children's brain cancer)".

#### 2. Manilla Branch, Namoi Group

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to change Regulation 40 to read: The cost of Life Membership shall be based on a sum calculated at five times the annual subscription of a full member as fixed in accordance with Regulation 31, together with the cost of the Life Membership badge. The total cost to be paid by the Branch in the case of Branch Life Membership, except where the nomination has been adopted by the Branch's Group, in which case the cost will be borne by Group."

### Agricultural/Environmental

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#### 3. State Executive

*Preamble: Liquid fuel "underpins our economic growth and is essential to all aspects of our modern lifestyle". Australia is highly import dependent: crude oil: Malaysia, UAE, Indonesia, Gabon and New Zealand; and for refined products: South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia & China. Instability in any of these areas impacts Australia's guaranteed fuel supply. Three of Australia's seven refineries are now closed. Australia does not have the capacity to store large quantities of fuel. Demand for liquid fuels in Australia is expected to grow. Even with*

*new transport energy coming online. We urge the Australian Government to consider a range of actions to guarantee fuel security:*

- *Increase industry & government stockholdings;*
- *Encourage long-term viable alternatives to petroleum-based products, particularly incentives in the agricultural & transport industries;*
- *Seek to develop and maintain on-shore refineries capable of processing on-shore products; and imported crude oil.*

***“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to urge all levels of Government to guarantee that Australia has sufficient long-term fuel reserves to support Australia's continued economic growth and resilience”.***

#### **4. Dunedoo Branch, Castlereagh Country Group**

*Preamble: Currently Country of Origin labelling applies to all seafood sold in supermarkets and by other wholesalers. This, however, is not the case for restaurants and cafes – they have an exemption from this law. Studies undertaken by the seafood industry have proven that more than half of Australians believe that the seafood that they purchase in restaurants and cafes is Australian. This is not the case and in fact most sold at these outlets is imported. Staff, when questioned, often have no idea of the origin of the seafood that they are selling or presenting.*

***“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that it be mandatory for all seafood sold in restaurants and cafes in NSW and ACT to be identified by type and species as an Australian or an Imported Product and to raise public awareness of seafood origins”.***

#### **5. Dunedoo Branch, Castlereagh Country Group**

*Preamble: While all fresh pork is Australian, around 45% of all pork consumed in Australia is imported, mostly from countries in Europe or North America. Imported pork makes up around 75% of the processed pork sector. African swine fever is a huge Biosecurity risk to Australia so we really need to encourage people to eat Australian pork products. The less imported products consumed the smaller the chance of disease entering our country.*

***“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that it be mandatory for all pork products sold in restaurants and cafes in NSW and ACT to be identified as an Australian or an Imported Product and to raise public awareness of pork product origins”.***

#### **6. Jindera Branch, Murray Group**

*Preamble: There are vast solar plants proposed for the Greater Hume Shire, a total of 2,739 ha. We are concerned about the use of important agricultural land of NSW - the farms and the residents impacted by proposed large solar plants. This is not about being opposed to renewables, it is the location of these plants on good agricultural land, being targeted solely because of the location of the grid sub-station and infrastructure.*

*The biggest effects of climate change will be to seriously affect food production; we must protect the most productive and consistent food and fibre sources. There is already a hay shortage, the drought has caused difficulties to food businesses. Prime agricultural land needs to be strongly protected for food and fibre, especially due to drought and its impacts to marginal areas, treat it with great care and it should remain for the benefit of agricultural use now and for future generations.*

***“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to oppose large-scale solar plants on prime agricultural land to protect food and fibre productivity.”***

## **7. Maclean Branch, North Coast Group**

*Preamble: Trees are our air, water and shelter. Koalas, which are classified as vulnerable are dying from the loss of their habitat because of land clearing that is increasing each year. That is the anomaly! Experts claim they will be extinct by 2030. We need to protect them and other trees and forest dwelling species before they become lost forever. The only way to do this is by creating a ban on removal of native trees. By creating an Act in all levels of government to protect the trees which would hopefully be a step in the right direction.*

**"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to support and encourage all levels of Government to protect all trees that are known koala habitat".**

## **8. Morpeth Branch and Tilligerry Branch, Hunter River Group**

*Preamble: PFAS are a class of man-made chemicals that take decades to break down in the body and environment. Internal documents from the manufacturers of PFAS in the United States show that from the 1950's onwards they were concerned about the risks of these "forever chemicals". In Australia there was little public awareness of the dangers of these chemicals until residents of Williamstown learnt the chemical was leaking off a nearby airbase due to the long-term use of fire-fighting foams. There is a school and approximately 750 properties inside the now declared 25 km Red Zone surrounding the Williamstown Air force base.*

*Through no-fault of their own, residents are now advised to:*

- *Not use groundwater; bore water or surface water for drinking or cooking;*
- *Avoid swallowing groundwater or surface water when bathing, showering, swimming and paddling;*
- *Avoid eating home grown food produced in the area.*

**"That in relation to the chemical group Per and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to support:**

- a) The implementation of all nine unanimous committee recommendations of the 2018 parliamentary "Inquiry into the management of PFAS contamination in and around defence bases";**
- b) That the State Government of NSW implement an inquiry into all sites in NSW where there is a significant likelihood of PFAS contamination; and**
- c) The development of Standards by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) of acceptable levels of PFAS in foods available for consumption in Australia".**

## **9. Merriwa Branch, Hunter River Group**

*Preamble: Bamboo fibres are all cellulose fibre extracted or fabricated from natural bamboo, but they vary widely. Textiles labelled as being made from bamboo are usually not made by mechanical crushing and retting. They are generally synthetic rayon made from cellulose extracted from bamboo. Bamboo is used whole and in strips; these strips may be considered stiff fibres. Viscose manufactured from bamboo is promoted as having environmental advantages over viscose made with cellulose extracted from wood pulp. The viscose processing results in the same chemical waste products as wood-pulp viscose, notably carbon disulphide, but bamboo cellulose is suitable for a closed-loop viscose process that captures all solvents used. Workers may be seriously harmed by the carbon disulphide used to make bamboo viscose. Effects include psychosis, heart attacks, liver damage, and blindness. The US has ruled that unless a yarn is made directly with bamboo fibre, it must be called "rayon" or "rayon made from bamboo".*

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate for bamboo products and fibres made using the viscose process to be deemed non-natural and non-environmentally friendly alternatives to plastics or synthetic fibres, and be labelled appropriately”.**

## **10. State Executive**

*Preamble: Weeds can spread through grass seeds sticking to socks and garments (from a previous walk/ area), falling or being plucked off, or emptied out of packs/tents etc. Transfer of mud and with it soil borne pathogens like Phytophthora is serious, and has necessitated boot sterilising facilities at the trailheads of walks in Tasmania and New Zealand. Not all ecosystems are vulnerable to this; but there are plenty of species that are. Hence why customs take footwear so seriously (along with camping gear and rural/farm visits). It is also quite evident that whoever uses these trails will spread weeds to some degree. Therefore more awareness is needed in the public domain: particularly at trailheads, roads leading into national parks (or out of cities) and en route at key locations about the importance of cleaning footwear/equipment/bikes. This would assist in reducing weed spread and generally increase awareness.*

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to request the Federal, State and Territory Governments to actively educate and encourage the public to be aware of the risks posed to Nature Reserves, National Parks and Farmlands by the transfer of weeds and seeds via shoes, socks and other garments as well as vehicles”.**

## **11. Gilgandra Evening Branch, Macquarie Group**

*Preamble: African Swine Fever is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and feral pigs. It has established itself in Asia and parts of Europe and continues to spread. African Swine Fever has never occurred in Australia. Its “O Yes” distribution means it's a significant biosecurity threat to our Country. With African Swine Fever now almost at our door step, farmers require more funding and resources to protect the Australian Pork industry. It will have a devastating effect on our pork production and health, as well as a devastating effect on our trade and the economy. A review found biosecurity funding has been static or in decline and said resources were needed to protect Australia. We need to see advertising of legislation regarding the import of products that may prevent the spread of Swine Fever in Australia, improve the implementation of the law, plus scan all passengers' hand luggage prior to boarding a plane for Australia.*

**“That the CWA of NSW advocate to the relevant government entities to urgently strengthen the laws and policies regarding the entrance of African Swine Fever from all border points to ensure that the Australian Agriculture Industry remains uncompromised”.**

## **12. White Cliffs Branch, Darling River Group**

*Preamble: As landholders are entitled to compensation, “\$2” companies pose a financial risk to farm businesses. They are ill prepared, often don't have geologists, do not understand the responsibilities under the Mining Act, and tend to be hobbyists. They pose great risks for farm biosecurity and work health, and safety and yet are licensed with the same rights as large established mining companies. They often bully and threaten landholders and gain the rights to arbitration and Land and Environment Court proceedings if agreement with the farmers cannot be reached. They lack understanding of fragile landscapes.*

**“That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to lobby the NSW Department of Planning - Division of Resources and Geoscience to cease assessing \$2 companies as able to satisfy the ‘financial capacity to undertake mineral exploration’ in NSW under the Mining Act 1992”.**

### 13. State Executive

*Preamble: In 2015 the NSW Government introduced new biosecurity legislation which introduced the 'nil-tenure' concept. This means that all land owners, public or private, have equal responsibility to manage biosecurity risks such as pest and weeds. In many areas publicly managed land, especially National Parks are not being adequately managed for pests and weeds. As well as this, private landowners are being instructed by the NSW Government to erect signage at their property to raise awareness of biosecurity obligations of all persons, in order to meet certain requirements for various regulatory regimes- for example, farm trespass. Public land managers should adhere to the same standard of pest and weed control as that expected of private land owners, and biosecurity obligations should be well signed on public land.*

**"That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to advocate for the enforcement of the nil-tenure approach to biosecurity across all land in NSW, including National Parks and other publicly managed land, and that biosecurity obligations are well signed on these lands.**

### Health & Social Security

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#### 14. Dunedoo Branch, Castlereagh Country Group

*Preamble: Gas heaters produce heat through burning gas fuel. When gas fuel is burnt, air pollutants and water vapour are also produced. A flued gas heater vents these air pollutants and water vapour outside the home through a chimney or flue, while an unflued gas heater releases them directly into the home. This means that an unflued gas heater has the potential to cause indoor air pollution in your home that may affect your health.*

**"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to request the relevant government agencies to increase their efforts in raising public awareness of the dangers of unflued gas heaters including a regular campaign in autumn and winter warning of the health implications associated with their use".**

#### 15. Southern Highlands Evening Branch, Wollondilly Group

*Preamble: Mammograms are free every two years for women over 40 who do not have any signs of breast disease. Women who have been referred for a mammogram by their doctor may have to pay a fee. While there is a Medicare rebate for mammograms, many private imaging clinics charge more than the Medicare Schedule Fee. This means that women who use these services must pay the balance. Currently, these costs (over \$300 even with some rebate possible from Medicare) in many situations is prohibitive to women. They may not continue with their follow-up mammograms and ultrasound scans, whereby their cancers could return, as it then remains unchecked, adding additional stress to women who are already dealing with their cancer on a day-to-day basis.*

**"That the CWA of NSW support an investigation into the costs of follow up mammogram X Rays and ultrasound scans required by cancer patients".**

#### 16. Jervis Bay Day Branch, Wollondilly Group

*Preamble: Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD) is a rare, lifelong condition which causes progressive damage to the upper and lower airways. Often associated with other symptoms, including infertility and loss of hearing. PCD crosses all socio-economic, gender and ethnic*

boundaries. Diagnosis is often delayed due to lack of medical awareness, which hampers Australian parents of children with PCD, accessing accurate, relevant information.

To improve access to Australian-specific patient information, we seek CWA to advocate for funding for editorial work and subsequent publication costs for information sheets and videos to provide patients with PCD- relevant information for various stages of life, such as newly diagnosed, starting school, adolescence, commencing employment/tertiary studies and raising a family.

**"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate that funding be made available to create a website for Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD) in Australia."**

### **17. Bowral Branch, Wollondilly Group**

*Preamble: The State of Victoria Parliament passed a Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Act 2017. A Council for the Aging (COTA) survey shows 84% support for assisted dying for people over 50, and other reputable polls indicate similar levels of support from all age groups, religious or political persuasion. Adults in Canada, with a culture similar to Australia, have VAD choice, as a human right, endorsed by the Canadian Medical Association. The WA Government held an inquiry recommending VAD. The evidence that in spite of best possible palliative care some people still die with excruciating futile suffering.*

**"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to support the implementation of Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation in NSW and the A.C.T."**

### **18. Mascot Evening Branch, Phillip Group**

*Preamble: Hearing loss has a negative impact on a child's social, emotional, economic and intellectual development. Early detection and intervention are essential to reducing the burden of childhood hearing loss and preventing disruption to the critical early learning years. Indigenous children are particularly vulnerable to hearing loss because of their sociocultural factors. The Australian Government and NSW Health currently fund Sound Scouts, an iPad app which can detect hearing loss, for NSW schools. However, diagnosis and treatment require students to attend to an audiologist. There "are either reduced, limited or no services at all" in rural Australia (Mawby, 2017), and there is particularly limited access to paediatric services. Over 72% of Audiology Australia's members are metropolitan based, with an estimated 1% of audiologist practicing in rural or remote areas. The discrepancy between rural and metropolitan audiology access significantly disadvantages the hearing health and everyday lives of rural children.*

**"That the CWA of NSW advocate for an increase in funding for public audiologists in rural, regional and remote NSW".**

### **19. Uranquinty Evening Branch, Riverina Group**

*Preamble: Perinatal Anxiety and Depression (PNDA) can strike anyone - first time parents, experienced parents, older parents, younger parents, and parents from all socio-economic backgrounds and cultures - it doesn't discriminate. One in five new mothers will experience PNDA and one in ten new fathers will experience PNDA. These figures are based on areas of high to moderate socio-economic standard. In areas of lower socio-economic standard, the figures are as high as one in four. Trauma can include physical or psychological, also including the grief and loss of an infant in utero or post-delivery. PNDA can occur after IVF, miscarriage, birth and labour trauma. Post natal psychosis is another severe, life threatening condition that affects two in every thousand women after childbirth. It puts both mother and baby at risk and urgent medical attention is required with admission to a psychiatric unit. This condition can occur out of the blue with no previous history of any mental health condition.*

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to lobby the NSW Government to allocate more funding for perinatal anxiety, depression and trauma support services across NSW with emphasis in rural regional and remote NSW”.**

## **20. Port Macquarie Branch, Mid-North Coast Group**

*Preamble: The National Plan to Reduce Violence 2010-2022, includes the first three-year Action Plan, Safe and Free From Violence, An Initiative of the Council of Australian Governments in its Foreword says: “One in three Australian women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Almost one in five have experienced sexual violence. It is time for that to change.” Despite this national plan, domestic violence has not decreased over this time period.*

*Homelessness also disrupts children's schooling, friendships and links to community and cultural activities (Spinney, 2013; Tually et al 2008). Spinney (2013) argued that ... children made homeless by domestic and family violence experience a “double-whammy” of disadvantage as domestic and family violence disrupts and violates the sense of safety and belonging within their homes while the violence is occurring, but making the decision to leave the family home usually results in losing it permanently.*

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to take a strong stance against domestic violence, and implore members of the NSW and Federal Parliament to recognise this issue as a national emergency requiring action.”**

## **21. State Executive**

Preamble: There is considerable existing research into both the family law system and in terms of what sort of support is available for survivors of domestic violence. The federal government is currently reviewing the family law system through a Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System. This Committee is due to report back to the Senate in October 2020. In addition to this review, there have been three (3) inquiries into the Family Law System in the last 3 years. In April 2019 The Australian Law Reform Commission tabled its report - Family Law for the Future - An Inquiry into the Family Law System. This report is 574 pages long, and includes 60 recommendations. It was described by Attorney General George Brandis in 2017 as the most comprehensive review ever into the family law system.

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to call for, and encourage all relevant governments to utilise existing research reports and relevant recommendations relating to protecting survivors of domestic violence:**

- a) Implement the recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission review of the family law system, *Family Law for the Future 2019***
- b) Adopt and implement best practice service principles, design and implementation of men's behaviour change programs as defined by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)**
- c) Adopt and implement existing recognised best practice standards for services responding to domestic violence survivors”.**

## **22. Goulburn Evening Branch, Southern Tablelands Group**

*Preamble: Sudden cardiac arrest is the largest cause of death in Australia. 30,000 people die every year, 600 every week. This is a shocking statistic when we have an incredibly affordable life-saving solution, readily available. We can't accept this or wait for government to do something. We need to look after our own health. Fire causes approximately 100 Australian deaths every year. Sudden cardiac arrest causes 30,000 deaths every year. Defibrillators have just as much place as smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. Defibrillators need to be made readily available.*

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate for State and Federal Governments to introduce legislation to ensure that all public gathering places have AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) available”.**

### **23. Kyogle Evening Branch, Far North Coast Group**

*Preamble: Newstart allowance has not increased in real terms in 25 years. The maximum Newstart payment for a single unemployed person is currently \$277.85 a week, which according to the Australian Council of Social Services, means people are unable to afford basic essentials, with over half the people living on Newstart living below the poverty line. Regional areas are disproportionately impacted by higher jobless rates and low unemployment payments may act as a major barrier to seeking employment. An increase to Newstart and like payments will result in more money being spent in the local community, increasing social and economic participation. A number of industry and community groups and leaders support an increase to Newstart and associated allowances.*

**“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for an appropriate increase to the rate of single unemployment and like allowances, and with the allowances to be indexed appropriately on an annual basis”.**

### **24. Lismore Evening Branch, Far North Coast Group**

*Preamble: Preterm birth is a common and increasing phenomenon in Australia and across the world. This unexpected situation has given rise to 72% of preterm babies admitted to Neonatal Intensive Care Units around Australia. Families, in particular, mothers are faced with a combination of emotional reactions and financial pressures, everything from the feeling of guilt, sadness and ongoing health expenses due to disability or lasting health concerns. A preterm parental leave payment would allow the mother or caregiver to take their parental leave as planned and reduce the financial pressure. Aligning the Australian Fair Work Act and the Paid Parental Leave Scheme would allow the primary caregiver to make a decision that is right for their individual circumstances and open up the opportunity for the primary caregiver to return to work whilst their baby is in hospital. This change would also allow the primary caregiver to have some control over their emotional and financial wellbeing.*

**“That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to advocate:**

- a) For the alignment of the Australian Fair Work Act (Section 71), with the Australian Paid Parental Leave Act. Thereby allowing Paid Parental Leave to commence prior to the predicted date of birth of a child in a preterm situation, and to allow for paid parental leave to commence on a nominated date as opposed to the date of birth of the child; and**
- b) That the Federal Government introduce a ‘Preterm Parental Leave Payment’ for the duration a preterm baby is in hospital care (up to 13 weeks)”.**

### **25. Moruya Branch, Far South Coast Group**

*Preamble: The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was introduced in Australia in July 2016. Its aim was to provide support, care and equipment necessary for people with an approved disability to live full and meaningful lives and to help them achieve goals that they have set for themselves. When the NDIS was introduced potential participants had to be between 7 and 64 years of age and for those who met this criterion, if approved, would be covered for the remainder of their lives. For those 65 and over, even though they may have had an approved disability for many years, they are not eligible to participate. Similarly any person who develops an approved disability after the age of 65, they too are excluded from the scheme.*

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that no Australian citizen or permanent resident who has an approved disability be denied access to services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme due to their age”.**

## **26. Walgett Branch, Barwon Group**

*Preamble: The Active Kids Program is an incentive program provided by the NSW Government to provide financial assistance to school- enrolled children to be used towards costs involved with sport or other active recreational activities. These vouchers can be put towards membership fees, registrations or participation costs. These vouchers are issued twice yearly to enable the recipient to participate in both summer and winter activities. Water safety/awareness is being promoted for all children and parents are encouraged to expose their children from an early age. Children under 5 are most at risk of drowning in swimming pools and account for a large proportion of drowning deaths. An average of 30 children under 5 have drowned in Australia each year for the past 10 years. This financial incentive should be made accessible for “Learn to Swim” lessons for those under 5 years of age or not enrolled at school.*

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for all children to be eligible for the NSW Active Kids vouchers as this assistance is only currently available to school enrolled children”.**

## **27. Armidale Branch, Northern Tablelands Group**

*Preamble: 3,000-5,000 snakebites per year are estimated to happen in Australia with 100-200 being severe envenoming (cases requiring anti-venom) with an average of two deaths per year, however in 2018 six deaths occurred. Most incidents happen in warmer months with more snake activity, often in/around the victim’s home. Experts anticipate prevailing drought conditions and extended warm weather will increase these incidents. Awareness of snakebite risk, appropriate first aid and urgency of seeking further medical treatment should be paramount in all communities. NSW Health recommends at minimum all hospitals in NSW should have one vial each of anti-venom for brown snake and tiger snake, also one vial polyvalent anti-venom should be kept in larger regional and referral hospitals, retrieval services across NSW, and in larger hospitals west of the Great Dividing Range for mulga snake. However snakebite treatment in some cases has been controversial. Medical research into the treatment is ongoing and essential to address the complex results.*

**“That it becomes the policy of CWA of NSW to approach the relevant government departments to:**

- i) Promote and improve the awareness in urban, rural and remote communities by educating adults, children and especially newcomers to the country, of the appropriate first aid treatment for snakebite in their region.**
- ii) Encourage the continued funding of medical research into safer and more effective treatment of snakebite especially pertaining to the formulation and administering of anti-venom treatment”.**

## **28. Tamworth Evening Branch, Wanthella Group**

*Preamble: Continuity of care during pregnancy, birth and post-partum has been shown to improve outcomes for mothers and children and is recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). As a rare opportunity to build a health care relationship with women relatively early in life, it can make a lifelong difference. WHO states that, “antenatal care provides the opportunity to communicate with and support women, families and communities at a critical time in the course of a women’s life ... Women’s positive experiences during antenatal care and childbirth can create the foundations for healthy motherhood”. Continuity of care is supported by the NSW Department of Health policy on maternity care, however*

these policies are often not reflective of women's experiences in regional and rural NSW where many women experience little to no continuity of provider in their maternity care.

**"That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to advocate for the wide scale availability of antenatal and post-partum care models which prioritise continuity of care".**

### **29. Kootingal Branch, Wanthella Group**

*Preamble: Medicinal cannabis is cannabis prescribed to relieve the symptoms of a medical condition, such as epilepsy or chronic pain. In Australia, the vast majority of individuals (likely to be numbering hundreds of thousands) that are using cannabis for medical purposes are forced to do so outside the formal context of the doctor/patient relationship: a situation both potentially dangerous and highly unacceptable. For some people suffering from a chronic or terminal illness, conventional medicines do not work or do not work as effectively as medicinal cannabis. Also, for some patients conventional medicines may work but cause debilitating side effects that cannabis can help relieve. Evidence based advice is not readily available, and there are a number of political and bureaucratic pitfalls preventing the timely and affordable access for patients and carers. More can be done to ensure the medicine can reach its full potential.*

**"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate that the Government recognise Medicinal Cannabis and develop a co-ordinated action plan to facilitate research, education of Doctors, and the provision of an affordable reliable medium (free from impurities) accessible to those that are chronically and terminally ill".**

### **30. Kootingal Branch, Wanthella Group**

*Preamble: Lyme Disease (LD) was discovered in America in 1976, but it wasn't until 1982 that the cause was identified as the tick borne bacterium Borrelia Burgdorferi. LD is now considered as an umbrella term which includes multiple strains of Borrelia and associated vector-borne co-infections and can impact many bodily systems and organs, and mimics other illnesses i.e. Parkinsons, rheumatism, etc. The first report of an Australian acquired case of LD was in NSW in 1982. Since this time very little research has been undertaken to identify vector-borne diseases in Australia. Australia is now seriously lagging in its medical knowledge of these debilitating diseases, and decades behind in the scientific discovery of the organisms that exist inside our ticks.*

**"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate that the Government recognise that Lyme Disease exists in NSW and develop a co-ordinated action plan to facilitate research, education, prevention, awareness and the provision of compassionate treatment and support".**

## **Education**

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### **31. Broken Hill Branch, Darling River Group**

*Preamble: Speech pathologists study, diagnose and treat communication disorders, including difficulties with speaking, listening, understanding language, reading, writing, social skills, stuttering and voice. Speech, language and communication skills such as the knowledge of the sounds of language, awareness of letter sounds, vocabulary and the ability to understand sentences and story structure underpin learning. The curriculum is heavily reliant on strong communication skills and these skills strongly predict their later reading skills. Children living in rural and remote Australia face inferior health and developmental outcomes relative to their peers living in urban areas. These children are significantly more likely to experience lack of access to appropriate services, know to mediate the impact of speech and language difficulties upon their development. Currently all children attending school in NSW are not*

*provided with adequate funding through the education system to access speech pathology services to support them to reach their developmental and learning potential.*

**“That the CWA of NSW policy state that each child who requires a speech pathologist in the public education system (preschool, primary school and high school) has the funding to access speech pathology services. These Speech Pathology services can either be provided by the Department of Education or via contracted services such as non-for-profit organisations or private practices”.**

## **Transport & Telecommunications**

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### **32. Mascot Evening Branch, Phillip Group**

*Preamble: The rural road crash fatality rate is three times that of the metropolitan. Rural provisional drivers are twice as likely than their urban peers to be involved in a single vehicle crash. During 2018, over 1,500 17 -15 year olds were moderately or severely injured in country areas. In the same year, there were 55 road fatalities in country areas, compared to only 23 metropolitan deaths. The country road fatality rate increased, remaining higher than the decreasing metropolitan rate, despite smaller population size. The Safer Driver Course teaches safe driving behaviours which can reduce youth injury and fatalities whilst driving. The NSW Government fully subsidises 1,000 Safer Driver courses for disadvantaged learner drivers per year, all other learners incur an out-of-pocket cost of \$140. For many rural and remote families, this cost is a significant barrier, and limits access to the essential course.*

**“That CWA of NSW advocate for an increase in the number of free places (or alternatively, reduced fees) for the Safer Drivers course for regional, rural and remote youth”.**

### **33. Canimbla Branch, South West Group**

*Preamble: It now takes double or more time for mail to reach its destination, compared to November 2018. For example, mail from Cowra to Dubbo, Orange or Trangie, took one to two days at a cost of 70 cents per letter. After November 2018 standard stamps rose to \$1 each and now takes four to seven days to reach its destination, including local mail. A priority stamp can be purchased for an extra 50 cents which is meant to reach its destination within two to four days however the said mail must be handed over the counter at the post office. This information is generally not known and many post priority letters in the mail box. Each post office will give a different answer to the same questions. A town's local mail should not need to be sent to Sydney for sorting.*

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the Federal Government to review the cost of stamps and why it takes so long for mail to reach its destination”.**

### **34. Canberra Branch, Monaro Group**

*Preamble: Angel Flight was initiated in April 2003 by Bill Bristow AM, a successful businessman, experienced pilot and Queensland's Australian of the Year in 2005. All pilots, and the drivers who take the passengers to and from airports, are volunteers. They cover most of their expenses privately while some rely on donations to cover fuel costs and insurance. At 25 June 2019, over 46,000 flights have helped more than 10,000 rural people access city medical care. The monetary savings to communities and government is in excess of 60 million dollars. Tragically for the families concerned two air crashes occurred in 16 years. When considered in context, the road toll of deaths and serious injuries on country roads far exceeds those involving Angel Flight. Australian commercial (paid charter) sector recorded 11 crashes in 2017 alone. CASA has placed restrictions on lawfully licensed pilots,*

volunteering to transport rural people to medical appointments. Those restrictions do not apply to pilots who may be carrying passengers for shopping or sightseeing trips.

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate for the maintenance of voluntary medical transport–flight services to and from rural, regional and remote areas without the extraordinary restrictions proposed by the civil aviation safety authority on lawfully licensed pilots”.**

### **35. Willow Tree Branch, Namoi Group**

*Preamble: It can be very hard to see Stop/Go signs, posing a safety risk to workers, particularly at road works and at night, due to rain, dust or smoke. A small but powerful flashing amber light on top of the signs would make them more visible. On 23 October 2019 a worker was seriously injured at a site in the early hours of the morning on a busy Motorway. A second example was when a road worker holding the sign to stop, was not seen by the driver of a car and they continued, hitting the road worker who landed on the windscreen. Luckily he survived to tell the tale to his family. Another example has been reported whereby the driver of a vehicle didn't see the person holding the sign and continued into the freshly poured hot tar for about 90 metres, causing serious damage to the car, and a large cleaning bill.*

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to request the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to urgently action putting a flashing light on the top of ‘Stop/Go Signs’ (lollypop signs) that are being hand-held”.**

## **Miscellaneous**

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### **36. Grafton Branch, North Coast Group**

*Preamble: Volunteers are the backbone of this country. We save the government millions of dollars each year. Volunteers work in Aged Care, Meals on Wheels, Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, Girl Guides, Scouts, sporting organisations to name a few. Each person who volunteers for these organisations is required to have a police check. Police checks are not done by police, they are done by a number of private companies who are licenced to do these checks. A lot of volunteers work for many organisations. Why is it that they have to have a police check for each of their volunteer positions? Surely each volunteer could be issued with a card to say they have had a police check and this could cover them for all volunteer positions. This would save not-for-profit organisations a lot of money each year.*

**“That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to support the streamlining of the ‘police check’ process for volunteering so that a volunteer is only required to obtain one police check when volunteering with more than one organisation, rather than the current process of potentially having to obtain a police check for each organisation”.**

## **Motions of Urgency**

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### **1. Southern Highlands Evening Branch, Wollondilly Group**

*Preamble: We cannot afford to be complacent where safety is concerned. Equally, the cost of new vehicles is likely to be prohibitive in terms of ensuring the safety of the entire fleet. Class 1 vehicles (all terrain) have spray in their cabs. The Western Australian Government have recently funded upgrading to many of their existing fleet, as well as the purchase of some new vehicles. The Victorian Government has also fitted rollbars to many of their existing vehicles, as a new truck is not always necessary. A review could identify where upgrading or replacing trucks could be feasible, to ensure we have the safest vehicles possible to protect the lives of our firefighters.*

**“That the Policy of CWA of NSW be to call for an urgent investigation into the safety features of NSW and ACT firefighting vehicles”.**

## **2. State Executive**

*Preamble:* It has taken the recent fire tragedies to bring this issue to light. Many of us have helped with the fires and a common theme was the poor state of the fire tracks, how they have not been maintained and were in some cases impassable. Maintenance of all fire trails in NSW & ACT must be prioritised. In the Rural Fires Act 1997 they have a chain of responsibility in place, but in many of our National Parks it is not working. We need the Government to also look into hazard reduction. It has been said that the force and destruction of the recent fires was made more intense in many areas by the fuel on the ground.

**“That the policy of CWA of NSW be that managers of all public lands collaboratively review their hazard reduction management to ensure that fire risk is minimised to the utmost”.**