

5.4 Committee nominee for Regional Development Australia in New South Wales

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SUMMARY

Reporting on the Committee nominee for Regional Development Australia in New South Wales.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1** *That Council nominate one of the current ROC members for the RDA Committee.*
- 2** *That Council exempt this motion from the provisions of the Code of Meeting Practice to allow the motion to be actioned from 9.00am on 9 April 2009.*

BACKGROUND

On 20 March 2008 the Hon Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, announced that Area Consultative Committees (ACCs) would transition to become Regional Development Australia (RDA). RDA will build on the success of its predecessor, but will take on a broader role to develop strategic input into national programs to improve the coordination of regional development initiatives and ensure that there is effective engagement with local communities.

RDA in NSW will be formed by amalgamating the former ACC's and the NSW Regional Development Boards (RDBs). A Memorandum of Understanding, setting out the arrangements for RDA in NSW, was signed by the Hon Gary Gray MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia, and the Hon Phillip Costa MP, NSW Minister for Regional Development, on 23 February 2009.

There will be a transition period to 30 June 2009. Interim Chairs and Deputy Chairs have been appointed to guide the transition process for RDA to become fully operational by 1 July 2009.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been sought to fill the long-term RDA committee positions. Each RDA Committee will have two local government representatives to be nominated from the Regional Organisations of Councils (ROC). Council received advice in relation to this matter on 31 March 2009, however, applications closed on 27 March 2009. Council has now been advised that the Department is prepared to receive nominations from Gosford and Wyong Councils for the two local government representatives provided this is lodged by Thursday 9 April 2009.

They advise that each of the Council representatives must be current ROC members. The current members of the Central Coast Regional Organisation of Councils are:

The Mayor
Councillor John McNamara
Councillor Lynn Webster

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Council is requested to nominate one of these as Council's representative on the new RDA Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.