
**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 8 OCTOBER 2025
COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Cr Davies has submitted a report for the Local Government NSW Water Management Conference held on 9-11 September 2025 **(See Attachment No. 1).**

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORT



COUNCILLOR REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT: Local Government NSW Water Management Conference

COUNCILLOR: Cr Craig Davies

DATE ATTENDED: 9-11 September 2025

1. Main Purpose of Conference/Visit/Meeting

To maintain currency with the latest developments in all aspects of water management specifically related to Local Government Water Utilities.

2. Key Messages/Highlights of Relevance to Council

Included the increasingly complex and layered approach being taken by Governments of all hues to the delivery of water across Regional NSW. The reform process was discussed along with the difficulty for all councils to be successful in their grant funding approaches which require a higher level of technical input and more extensive financial support. The Safe and Secure Water initiative is now fully committed and the \$1 billion is yet to have further funds committed.

The Productivity and Equality Commissioner's report (August 2024) was responded to by the Department and despite the forty-three recommendations brought down by Commissioner Peter Achterstraat (AM) little commitment was given. The recommendations to replace the current capital grant funding approach with a Community Service Obligation (CSO) funding mechanism to support delivery of basic levels of service for Local Water Utilities and review the delivery and structural models for service provision in Western NSW. It was pleasing to note the inclusion of quotes from the Alliance of Western Councils submission in the Commissioner's report that I had the opportunity to be a part of.

Dr Conrad Wasko gave an overview of the planning needed for future infrastructure needs given the seeming variance in climate currently emerging. He highlighted how less frequent, but more intense rainfall events would lead to lower average flows in our river system despite the higher rainfall. He alluded to the fact that with a changing climate landscape, the notion of a "one size fits all" solution is not logical and new and creative approaches will need to be delivered. It all pointed to the imperative of more storage in the form of dams and weirs without him saying so.

Alexis Van der Weyden delivered an address on the most dynamic financial approaches for the delivery of water infrastructure. He gave examples of the parameters that he includes and how they vary across all LWU installations.



3. Benefits to Narromine Shire Council

The conference gave both our Water Utilities Manager and myself new insights into the best approaches in our ongoing efforts to secure funding for the proposed Water Treatment Plant in Narromine, the factors needing the strongest considerations and where to seek out advice on potential funding .

4. Suggestions for Future Action (if appropriate)

Maintain the highest level of involvement in the water industry to ensure Council is given the best opportunities to keep delivering the best quality water at the most affordable rates into the future.

Cr Craig Davies

Date: 21 September 2025