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**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 21 NOVEMBER 2022**  
**BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE – URGENT MATTERS**

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*This item is presented to Council as Business Without Notice – Urgent Matters as Council will need to formally endorse writing to the Prime Minister and the NSW Premier to take immediate action in relation to the Statewide Road Emergency. This will need to be resolved prior to the next Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 14 December 2022.*

**MAYORAL MINUTE – DECLARATION OF STATEWIDE EMERGENCY**

We are all well aware the Narromine Shire has been hit by a seemingly relentless wave of flood events in the past 12 months.

And we are not alone. A total of 126 of New South Wales' 128 local government areas have had natural disaster declarations within the last 12 months, according to the President of Local Government NSW, Darriea Turley.

On the third of November 2022, Local Government NSW declared a Statewide Roads Emergency.

The declaration – and urgent call for the NSW and Federal governments to increase their existing road funding commitments in the wake of the floods – comes on the back of an estimated \$2.5 billion in road damages and a collapse of the local and regional road network.

I call on Narromine Shire Council to show our support for this move and wholeheartedly endorse the Local Government NSW declaration of Statewide Road Emergency.

The declaration has already been publicly supported by our peak regional body, the Country Mayors Association of New South Wales.

As part of the Statewide Roads Emergency, LGA NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW are calling for:

- An acceleration and significant increase in funding for the \$1.1 billion Fixing Local Roads and Fixing Country Bridges program from the New South Wales Government
- A boost to Road Block Grant funding to compensate for the damage to the regional road network from the Federal Government
- New funding to provide councils with plant machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs from the Federal Government.

We have faced, and may continue to face, an unprecedented and unrelenting series of natural disasters that has seen residents and business owners cleaning up again and again, people isolated, workers unable to get to work, and students unable to get to training or school.

Add to this our very real and immediate concern for our primary producers.

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**MAYORAL MINUTE – DECLARATION OF STATEWIDE EMERGENCY (Cont'd)**

This latest rain event has hit at a critical time. Winter crops are ready to be harvested and the window for planting summer crops, including cotton, only lasts a matter of week. Cotton is the single largest contributor to our agricultural outputs.

Livestock are ready to go to sale.

The local and regional road network is critically-enabling infrastructure. It is absolutely vital to our primary producers, and the key to keeping affordable food on the table across New South Wales and beyond.

Our road network, and the road network of shires across the state, have disastrous damage. We are facing a task that is beyond the reasonable scope of any local government authority. We face an unprecedented disaster that requires an unprecedented response.

We need help. Our community needs help. Other regional and rural communities across the state and beyond need help. We desperately need our leaders to lead.

We need to support our peak bodies in their declaration of Statewide Road Emergency.

This is an emergency, and it is time to seek help, and by supporting this Mayoral Minute you are endorsing that I write to the Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese and the Premier of New South Wales Dominic Perrottet pleading for immediate action.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council determine the matter is of great urgency and that this matter be considered at the meeting.
2. That Narromine Shire Council joins with Local Government NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW in declaring a Statewide Road Emergency.

Cr Craig Davies  
**Mayor**