

4. Local Government and Shires Association Annual Conference: Council representation

The Shires Associations Annual Conference will be held in Sydney from 1-3 June 2009

General Manager

BACKGROUND

The Shires Association Annual Conference will be held at the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, Sydney from 1-3 June 2009. The Mayor is the delegate to the Association and the Council is usually represented.

10 The conference will be addressed by: the Prime Minister of Australia, Hon Kevin Rudd MP or Mr Anthony Albanese; the Hon Barbara Perry, MP - Minister for Local Government; the Hon Phillip Costa MP - Minister for Water, Rural Affairs and Regional Development; the Hon Kristina Keneally MP - Minister for Planning; and Mr Barry O'Farrell, MP - Leader of the Opposition. Other speakers include: Cr Bruce Miller - Shires Association President; Cr Betty Green - Chair Floodplain Mitigation Authority of NSW; Mr Geoff Lake - President Australian Local Government Association; and Mr Justin Herald - Managing Director Major Motivation.

The Conference also considers motions submitted by Councils and there will be Workshops as well as several case studies.

20 **ISSUES**

Financial

The cost of attending the Conference includes the registration fee of \$664.40 per delegate (including business papers, proceedings of the conference, and meals) plus travel (airfares or vehicle), accommodation expenses and other meal costs.

The conference has been reported to Council previously. Funds are provided within Council's budget for a reasonable level of representation.

CONCLUSION

30 The Shires Association Conference is a working Conference and it represents opportunity for Councillors to keep abreast of industry issues and network with other Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors (to be determined at the meeting) and the General Manager be authorised to represent the Council at the Shires Association's Annual Conference in Sydney on 1-3 June 2009, and that the necessary expenses be defrayed by the Council in keeping with its policy.