

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW**

# **2005 WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

**31 August – 2 September 2005  
The Crossing Theatre  
Narrabri**

**Presented by**

**Hosted by**

**Principal Corporate Partners**

Local Government  
Association of NSW



Shires Association  
of NSW



Department of  
Environment and Conservation (NSW)

# WELCOME

## to the 2005 Local Government Water Management Conference

On behalf of the people of the Narrabri Shire, welcome to Narrabri. We are proud to be hosting this year's Local Government Water Management Conference.

Water has become of huge importance to the general public, and the conference provides an opportunity for us, the managers of this vital resource, to explore a variety of very pertinent issues that impact on the lives of our communities.

These include the implementation process of the NSW Water Management Act 2000, implications of new water pricing structures, emerging issues related to water recycling and water leakage plus the roll out of the National Water Initiative and the Australian Water Fund.

At a local level, Narrabri Shire Council has been active. We are proud of Federation Farm, a cotton farm established and owned by the Narrabri Shire Council and share-farmed by the Narrabri Educational Trust. The farm is irrigated with treated sewage effluent produced at Narrabri Shire Council's sewage treatment plant, and produces crops of cotton, wheat and soya beans, allowing the Trust to plough more than \$100,000 back into their school communities over the last five years.

Please take the opportunity to explore our Shire, covering 13,000km<sup>2</sup> in the heart of the rich Namoi Valley in North West NSW. Our agricultural prowess is well known: we are renowned for the production of some of the world's highest quality wheat, cotton, fat lambs and beef. And we are also home to many tourist attractions including Mt Kaputar National Park, Pilliga State Forest, the Australian Cotton Centre, Australia Telescope and Sawn Rocks. I know that you will enjoy your stay in our Shire and look forward to meeting you all.

Please enjoy the conference.

Cr George Sevil  
Mayor

## OFFICIAL PROGRAM

### WEDNESDAY 31 AUGUST

#### 3.00pm **PRECONFERENCE SNAPSHOT SESSIONS** - *Cinema One*

Be brought up to date on some current water management issues and programs, including:

- Water Loss Management (David Wiskar, Wide Bay Water, Queensland);
- BASIX and its application to rural/regional NSW (Andrew Porter, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources);
- Water pricing and its impact on rural communities (Elissa Freeman and Jim Wellsmore, Public Interest Advocacy Centre);
- Corporatisation of State Water (Abel Immaraj, State Water).

#### 5.00pm **PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION STARTS** - *Lobby 3*

#### 7.00pm **MAYORAL RECEPTION** – Welcome to delegates and guests *Riverside Room* *Sponsor - Multitrode*



# THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

8.00am **REGISTRATION OPENS** - Lobby 3

9.00am **INTRODUCTION**

Cr Robert Bell, Chairperson, LGSA Water Management Committee

9.05am **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR OF NARRABRI SHIRE**

Cr George Sevil

9.10am **ABORIGINAL WELCOME**

9.15am **OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENTS**

Cr Genia McCaffery, Local Government Association of NSW  
Cr Col Sullivan OAM, Shires Association of NSW

9.35am **ADDRESS BY THE HON TONY KELLY MC, NSW MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

*The Minister has been invited to present on the State Government's key water management policy and program initiatives that involve Local Government.*

10.30am **PARTNER'S TOUR**

**Sawn Rocks** is a 40 metre basalt cliff face featuring perpendicular-octagonal shaped rocks, resembling a giant series of organ pipes.

*The **Craigdon Homestead** was built in the early 1900s by a well known grazing family. During the 1990s the homestead was restored into the beautiful guest house it is now. Craigdon is nestled amongst the rocky peaks of the Nandewar Ranges and surrounded by breathtaking views of Grattai, Castletop Mountain and the Namoi Valley below.*



***Australian Cotton Centre** was designed and built to entertain visitors of all ages, and tells the story of Australia's multi million dollar industry through nine high tech, interactive displays.*

**MORNING TEA** - Riverside Room

Sponsor- Country Energy

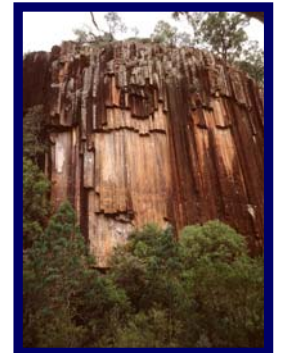
10.50am **THE ROLL OUT OF THE NATIONAL WATER INITIATIVE**

*Key note speakers:*

The Hon John Anderson MP, Federal Member for Gwydir

Ken Matthews, Chief Executive Officer, National Water Commission

*The National Water Initiative is to be one of the key drivers of the national water reforms. The National Water Commission provides advice to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the Australian Government on water issues and will assist in the administration of the National Water Fund. This session aims to identify opportunities for Local Government participation in the national reforms and how it can effectively be involved in contributing to innovative, sustainable water management practices.*



12.30pm **LUNCH** - Riverside Room

1.30pm **FIELD TRIP - Federation Farm and Namoi Valley Aquafarming**

***Federation Farm** is a 303ha farm irrigated with treated effluent and share-farmed by the schools of Narrabri through the Narrabri Community Education Trust.*

***Namoi Valley Aquafarming** farm yabbies, Murray cod, golden perch, silver perch and eel-tailed catfish and is one of the biggest native fish farms in NSW.*

1.30pm **WATER MANAGERS' FORUM**  
*Welcome Daryl McGregor, Chairperson, NSW Water Directorate*  
*The forum, co-ordinated by the NSW Water Directorate, provides an opportunity for water managers to discuss the application of current State Government initiatives, programs and policy to the operations of rural/regional water utilities.*

*Current issues for discussion include the implementation of Integrated Water Cycle Management, Water Loss Management, Section 64, Save Water Alliance, the roll out of the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage program and the emergence of the Queensland Water Directorate.*

7.00pm **CONFERENCE DINNER**  
*The Crossing Theatre Auditorium*  
*Sponsor - NSW Department of Environment and Conservation*

## FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

9.00am **THE FUTURE OF COUNCIL OWNED WATER UTILITIES - SETTING THE SCENE**  
Ross Young, Executive Director, Water Services Association of Australia

9.20am **NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER DIRECTORATE - Status report**  
Gary Mitchell, Executive Officer, NSW Water Directorate

9.30am **WORKSHOPS: THE FUTURE OF COUNCIL OWNED WATER UTILITIES**



- **The future of town water pricing**  
(facilitator: Martin van Bueren, Allen Consulting Group)
- **Securing a quality water supply**  
(facilitator: Dr Daniel Deere, CRC Water Quality & Treatment, and Annalisa Contos, NSW AWA Branch)
- **Protecting the environment and securing an adequate supply of drinking water**  
(facilitator: Adrian Wells, Murray Darling Association)

The workshops aim to focus discussion on emerging issues and the direction of current policy initiatives that will influence the operations and have implications on the long-term sustainability of the NSW Local Government water industry.

- What are some of the key challenges effecting the sustainability of council owned water utilities over the next five years?
- What are some of the key elements that should be incorporated into the operations and business of council owned water utilities to achieve triple bottom line outcomes?
- What industry focussed strategies should be pursued by the Associations and the Water Directorate to assist council owned water utilities?

10.30am **MORNING TEA - Riverside Room**  
*Sponsor: Coversafe*

11.45am **CLOSING ADDRESS**  
Cr Robert Bell, Chairperson,  
LGSA Water Management Committee

12.00pm **CLOSE & LUNCH - Riverside Room**

### REGISTRATION PRICES

**\$330.00 (GST inc) early bird registration (close 3 August)**  
**\$365.00 (GST inc) registration (close 19 August)**  
**\$170.00 (GST inc) Partner's tour & dinner (close 3 August)**  
**\$ 89.00 (GST inc) Partner's tour only (close 3 August)**  
**\$ 83.00 (GST inc) Partner's dinner only (close 3 August)**

**Note:** The program is still under development, therefore, Narrabri Shire Council and the LGSA reserve the right to amend the program and change or cancel speakers.