

MM-3 MAYORAL MINUTE: METROPOLITAN MAYORS' ASSOCIATION

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

On 10 April 2013 Mayors or Delegates from 14 Sydney metropolitan councils met at a forum hosted by the City of Canterbury to discuss the formation of a new peak body to represent the common interests of councils in the Sydney Metropolitan Area.

The Forum expressed concern over the effectiveness of Local Government Association NSW in its advocacy role and consultation with and on behalf of Sydney Metropolitan councils in a number of important areas, including Planning Reform, the Independent Review of Local Government, currently being conducted, the foreshadowed early intervention legislation and the Review of the Local Government Act.

The consensus of the forum was that Sydney Metropolitan Mayors should form an association that would focus on the Sydney metropolitan area and collaborate and consult with the Federal and NSW Governments to represent the common and emerging issues affecting councils in the Sydney metropolitan area on the future of this region.

The new body would be known as the Metropolitan Mayors' Association (MMA).

The Forum agreed:

1. The Councils of the Sydney metropolitan area share many common interests, including planning systems and regulations, infrastructure issues, economic development and the regulation of the local government sector.
2. The Councils of the Sydney metropolitan area want an efficient, consultative, cost effective and member focused organisation to coordinate action and advocacy on matters of shared interest.

The 14 Councils being broadly representative of NSROC, SHOROC and SSROC at the meeting agreed to submit a Mayoral Minute to their next available Council meeting seeking a resolution for the purpose of forming the MMA.

Canterbury City Council (SSROC) has agreed to write to all Councils in Metropolitan Sydney encouraging them to consider becoming a member of the Metropolitan Mayors' Association and to coordinate responses. Subject to receipt of responses, an inaugural meeting of the MMA will occur as soon as practicable.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council support the formation and membership of a Sydney Metropolitan Mayors' Association and advise Canterbury City Council of this decision.
2. THAT all Sydney metropolitan councils be encouraged to support the formation of the Metropolitan Mayors' Association.

3. THAT subject to receipt of responses from the metropolitan councils, another meeting of interested Mayors be arranged to progress to the proposal.