

December 19, 2023

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO. 1**

JAY NANKIVELL  
GENERAL MANAGER

# FURTHER BUSINESS

1. MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 26/23 - DATED DECEMBER 19, 2023 - RESOURCES FOR REGIONS (D23/68657) ..... 3

## ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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**ITEM 1**MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 26/23SUBJECT:                    RESOURCES FOR REGIONS                    D23/68657**Summary**

The NSW Government's decision to scrap the Resources For Regions funding program represents a disastrous outcome for Broken Hill and all mining communities within NSW.

The NSW Government has effectively replaced the scheme with the \$350 million Regional Development Trust and the \$250 million Working Regions Fund, however Broken Hill will be subject to increased competition for this funding model and, following last week's Community Round Table attended by NSW Premier The Hon Chris Minns MP, Minister for Western New South Wales The Hon Tara Moriarty MP, and Member for Barwon Mr Roy Butler, it was made abundantly clear that there would be no prioritised funding or funds isolated specifically for mining communities.

Resources For Regions was specifically created to support communities across regional NSW impacted by mining, and Broken Hill has received approximately \$15 million from the program over the last 11 years.

This money has gone toward a variety of important projects such as the Civic Centre refurbishment, new library building, the O'Neill Sporting Complex upgrade, and upgrades to the airside movement areas of the airport.

Resources for Regions has proven to be a successful mechanism to deliver some financial return to our City for the daily and unavoidable impacts of mining. Issues including air quality, traffic congestion, visual impairment, health concerns with raised lead levels, and impact to reputation are matters that affect us much more than other regional centres as a result of being where the mining activity actually occurs.

The Resources for Regions program has demonstrated its effectiveness in fostering economic diversification, infrastructure development, and job creation in rural and regional mining communities throughout New South Wales. It has helped address the unique challenges faced by resource-dependent areas, ensuring that they have a realistic chance to access vital and deserved funding to help transition towards a more diversified and resilient economy. Furthermore, considering the contribution mining makes to the prosperity of all of NSW, it is only fair that the mining regionals are reasonably compensated for the royalties generated.

Here are several key reasons why the Resources for Regions program should be maintained and even expanded within the current review of the Regional Development Act 2004.

1. **Economic Diversification:** Resource-dependent regions are particularly vulnerable to economic downturns and fluctuations in global commodity markets. The program has empowered these regions to invest in alternative industries and diversify their economies, reducing their reliance on a single sector as well as providing much

needed economic injections in a downturn period.

2. **Infrastructure Development:** Resources for Regions funding has been instrumental in building critical infrastructure, such as roads, water utilities and community infrastructure, which are essential for attracting new businesses, supporting existing industries, and enhancing the overall quality of life for regional residents.
3. **Job Creation:** By supporting a wide range of projects, this program has directly contributed to the creation of jobs and the growth of local businesses, thereby reducing unemployment rates and stimulating economic activity.
4. **Community Well-being:** The program has had a positive impact on the well-being of regional communities, providing improved access to essential services, cultural amenities, community and sporting infrastructure as well as active transport. It has helped address the unique challenges faced by remote and resource-dependent areas.
5. **Regional Sustainability:** Maintaining the Resources for Regions program aligns with the long-term vision of ensuring the sustainability and prosperity of regional NSW. It promotes self-reliance and resilience in the face of economic and environmental challenges that are unique to mining communities.

As a mining City, it's important that State Government funding flows back into Broken Hill as an acknowledgement of the integral role we play in the continued prosperity of NSW, as well as the historical role the City has played in building the core infrastructure that NSW is built upon and still enjoys today; and to assist us on the pathway required for economic, industrial, and social diversification to ensure future sustainability and viability of the City when mining plays a much smaller role in the economic output of the City.

### **Recommendation**

1. That Mayoral Minute No. 26/23 dated December 19, 2023, be received.
2. That Council writes to the NSW Premier The Hon Chris Minns MP, the Minister for Regional NSW and Western NSW The Hon Tara Moriarty MP, and Member for Barwon Mr Roy Butler stating its dissatisfaction with the current trajectory of the newly created Regional Development Trust and Working Regions Fund; and that mining communities receive funding priority under the Regional Development Trust and Working Regions Fund in the same proportions allocated previously through the Resources for Regions fund.

### **Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report.

**T. KENNEDY**  
**MAYOR**



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