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OPENING STATEMENT

NSW RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEARING, 23RD AUGUST 2024

Coolamon Shire Council wishes to thank you for the opportunity to speak in front of this enquiry and believe it is important and relevant to emergency management across our State moving forward.

Coolamon Shire Council is a Local Government Area located in the Riverina South West Slopes with an area of approximately 2,500 square kilometers (250,000 Hectares) with a population of 4,350 and 6 communities (3 Towns, 3 Villages) and approximately 1,400 kilometers of road.

During the last 5 years we have been very lucky not to have been involved in the levels of Natural Disaster as others have been affected across the State. We do not wish our issues to be seen as greater than any others because we acknowledge the pain, heartache and suffering experienced by those other communities.

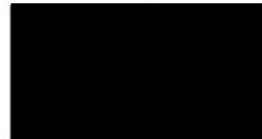
The issues we wish to raise are around 3 themes;

- Reconstruction Authority's role in the emergency management space
- The confusion over the number and who is responsible for emergency plans within the State
- Disaster Funding and the timeliness, trust, accountability and evidence that goes with this.

Our written submission speaks to these issues and we are more than happy to expand on these issues with any verbal response or questions. Coolamon Shire Council sees an opportunity for State Government to completely review the relationship between all emergency services to ensure that there is appropriate and accountable pre-planning, combat readiness and recovery.



David McCann, OAM, OAM(Mil)
MAYOR



Tony Donoghue, PSIM
General Manager