

Record of District Rationalisation Reference Group 2 1st June '23, 1400-1600



PRESENT: Sandra Lambkin (President, New England District Council and former Committee member) (SL)
Via Teams Berdene Oxley-Boyd (President, Riverina District Council) (BOB)
Brian Willey (Lower North Coast District Council) (BW)
Derek Lesly (Chair, District Presidents Council) (DL)
David Ferry (VP & Secretary Central Coast District Council) (DF)
Alan Barnes (VP, Far Southern Metropolitan District Council) (AB)
Andrew Moore (Independent – Previous Steering Committee Chair) (AM)

APOLOGIES:

IN ATTENDANCE: Jeff O'Brien (State Secretary/Company Secretary RSL NSW) (JOB)
Isaac Ohlin (Head of Veterans Policy and Program Delivery RSL NSW) (IO)
Andrew Stensel (Services and Advocacy Project Manager RSL NSW) (AS)
Allen Barnes (ex-Northern Beaches District Council) (AB)
Bob Lunnon (President, Northern Beaches District Council, and former Steering Committee member) (BL)
Ian Bubb (Treasurer, Intra Mural District Council) (IB)

OPENING: Jeff O'Brien declared the meeting open at 2:00 pm

1. Declaration of Conflict of interest: No declarations of interest were declared.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising: 2.1 **Record of District Rationalisation Reference Group 1 circulated 31/05/23**
(JOB) gave overview of previous Reference Group and no matters arising

2.2 Welcome, Introductions and Overview

Introduction from all attendees in the room and online. Some of those in attendance were members on the previous Steering Committee (SL) (BL), which was formed in 2021 and went through the options, which we are going to be reviewing over the next two Reference Group meetings. Under review is the documentation used in the SteerCo, some of the assumptions, and the final recommendations that the SteerCo made to the Board. The Reference Group will make recommendations that will go to the Working Group who will reassess the process.

3. Agenda: 3.1 **Focus Points**

- Review and assess approach of Steering Committee in relation to consideration of options and recommended timeline.
- Recommendations for Working Group to consider.

3.1.1 Efficiency Audit

JOB – Talks on Recommendation of efficiency audit, and that part of the working groups process would be to recommend that an efficiency audit be completed, and that this should be used to help work out what the problem is that requires the need for District Rationalisation.

(BW) raises TOR, and need to have these written, (JOB) clarifies that this is for the Working Group to write. (SL) raises there is a need to identify the problems, why are we looking at District Rationalisation, what are the problems and is it necessary, the only way to solve these problems, District Rationalisation?

(AM) Original Steering Committee independent chairperson explained that the Steer CO was to prepare a document for the Board that outlined the options considered and the recommendations. (DL) reiterates that they feel the problem with Districts was never clearly identified and that the Board simply stated they wanted to reduce the number of District Councils and poses the question of why the number 10 was picked, and that if this number is chosen it will make Districts too big for the District Presidents to manage because the technology isn't there or doesn't work. (BL) shares with the group that the problems are communication from sub-Branches to Districts, and then Districts to Sydney (ANZAC House), and the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of sub-Branches, and even some District Council Committees. Sees Rationalisation as 'rearranging the structure and the processes of District Councils to fix whatever the problem is', the problem requires defining. This doesn't necessarily require reducing District numbers, it may require increasing them. (AM) states that one of the challenges that needs to be addressed is consistency across the Districts and the sub-Branches.

(AM) Informs group that the number '10' for Districts came from the board and that the Steer co undertook to look at it from different angles, that that may be nine or it maybe 11, though in his opinion it is less than 23.

3.1.2 Recommendations

1. **Recommendation** clarification that first recommendation of working group is to develop ToR which will support them looking at sustainability, efficacy, and to have full communications plan with full consultation with members.
2. **Recommendation** use strategic plan priority initiative 5.16 (in collaboration with the District Presidents' Council, review the role, function, and support requirements of Districts) to determine the issues within the District Councils.
3. **Recommendation** – that the chair of the Working Group is not someone from ANZAC House.
4. **Recommendation** is that the working group needs to base whatever principles we use on the concept of sustainability and efficacy, and that whatever happens needs to be tested with the membership from the beginning.
5. **Recommendation** that an efficiency audit of each District be completed to identify where the problems are.

4.

CLOSURE:

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 3.54pm