

Item 13.1**Notices of Motion****Drought Relief**

By Councillor Chung

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) NSW is experiencing one of the most severe droughts on record, with the Central West, Far West and North West regions the worst affected to date;
 - (ii) following a resolution at the August 2018 Council meeting, the City of Sydney donated \$200,000 to the Country Women's Association Drought Aid Grants;
 - (iii) there have been extreme low inflows (the amount of water entering the river and its storages) – and the past six months have seen the lowest recorded inflows in history. Without imminent inflows, the lack of water will continue to impact water quality and the riverine environment, while curtailing agricultural production;
 - (iv) the drought crisis is having devastating effects on regional and rural communities in NSW and the impacts are being felt in all parts of the regional economy, including retail trade and small businesses; and
 - (v) the NSW Government recently launched a 'Buy Regional' campaign that promotes purchasing Christmas presents from regional retailers. It is an online hub that showcases regional shops and sellers together in one place, to make it easy for shoppers to find the perfect Christmas gift and support regional NSW;
- (B) the City of Sydney be requested to donate \$200,000 to the Country Women's Association of NSW Drought Aid appeal, sourced from the 2019/20 General Contingency fund; and
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to develop and implement a comprehensive communication plan to inform and advise residents and visitors of how they can assist regional NSW. Such information can include:
- (i) using the City of Sydney's on-line communication channels to encourage City communities to support regional retailers by promoting the 'Buy Regional' Campaign in the lead up to Christmas; and
 - (ii) promoting upcoming events hosted in regional towns in NSW through the City of Sydney What's On website.

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