

PRESS RELEASE



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairman: Cr Ken Keith OAM
PO Box 337, Parkes NSW 2870
02 6861 2333
ABN 92 803 490 533

The Chair of the Country Mayors Association, Cr Ken Keith OAM, the Mayor of the Parkes Shire commends the Federal and State Governments on their efforts to control COVID-19 in NSW and Australia. The new Delta variant has put their wonderful efforts under strain, so that understandably we are now reacting to outbreaks, rather than being proactive.

The CMA would like to suggest two initiatives that would assist the government to get ahead of the game in regional and remote NSW, rather than just being reactive.

The first is to establish mobile vaccination clinics, perhaps manned by the Australian Defense Force to go around regional NSW and visit small and even larger communities on allocated days. Many of these communities have not had access to vaccines, particularly Pfizer. This opportunity would be warmly welcomed by rural communities and increase the vaccination rate to a target of 80% set by government.

The second is to increase the capacity of sewage testing capability of the nation. Testing at the moment is limited to communities considered at risk. If many towns could be regularly tested we could get early warning of potential hot spots, lock them down and avert a major spreading outcome. Testing of sewage of towns already in lockdown where the positive Covid tests are present seems superfluous as daily figures capture the situation already.

We greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment of the Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Premier Gladys Berejiklian and we make these suggestions in a constructive way which may assist them to get ahead of the game. Ahead of Covid!

The End

For further information please contact Cr Ken Keith OAM 0428 669 482