
**MINUTES OF NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING HELD
FRIDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2023 AT BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL, 70 STATION STREET,
MULLUMBIMBY**

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.03 am.

In attendance:

Mayors:

- Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council (Chair)
- Cr Robert Mustow, Richmond Valley Council
- Cr Chris Cherry, Tweed Shire Council
- Cr Kylie Webster, Kyogle Council! ([online](#))
- Cr Steve Krieg, Lismore City Council
- Cr Michael Lyon, Byron Shire Council
- Cr Peter Johnstone, Clarence Valley Council

General Managers:

- Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council
- Troy Green, Tweed Shire Council
- Jon Gibbons, Lismore City Council
- Paul Hickey, Ballina Shire Council
- Vaughan Macdonald, Richmond Valley Council
- Graham Kennett, Kyogle Council ([online](#))
- Jamie Fleeting on behalf of Laura Black, Clarence Valley Council

Other attendees:

- Phillip Rudd, Executive Officer NRJO
- Jodie Healy on behalf of Anita Gambhir, Office of Local Government ([online](#))
- Michael Thurston, General Manager Destination North Coast ([online](#))
- Jeff McConnell, Scenic Rim Regional Council ([online](#))
- Louise McMeeking, Regional NSW
- Nathan McGrath, Regional Development Australia
- Alison Montgomery, Operating Officer NRJO
- Robyn Waldron, Minute Taker

Address by official visitors:

- Cr Darriea Turley – President, Local Government NSW ([online](#))
- David Reynolds – Chief Executive, Local Government NSW ([online](#))
- Scott Benitez Hetherington – Team Leader Conservation, Tweed Shire Council
- Angie Brace – Regional Koala Officer – Friends of the Koala

1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

RESOLVED (Cherry/Lyon) that Cr Kylie Webster join the meeting via Teams

platform.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council showed its respect and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of this Land, of Elders past and present, on which this meeting took place.

3 APOLOGIES

- Laura Black – General Manager, Clarence Valley Council
- Anita Gambhir – Office of Local Government
- Kieron Hendicott – NRRRC/NSRWA

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

5 ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITOR(S)

5.1 Cr Darria Turley, President - Local Government NSW (via Teams)

5.2 Northern Rivers Regional Koala Conservation Strategy

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED (Cherry/Webster) that the Minutes of the meeting held 11 August 2023 and business arising be approved as presented.

Noted: a thank you letter to be sent to Minister Murray Watts in relation to extension of funding for the Fire Ants eradication.

Confirmation of Minutes held on 11 August 2023 (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Kylie Webster	7
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

6.1 Circular Resolution dated October 2023

RESOLVED (Cherry/Lyon) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board note the decisions of the Circular Resolution dated October 2023.

Circular resolution dated October 2023 (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon and Cr Kylie Webster	7
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

7 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

8 NOTICE OF MOTION

8.1 Chair's Minute - CMA - Report on Crime, Law and Order

RESOLVED (Cadwallader) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation endorse the following recommendations listed in the Country Mayors Association of NSW report into Crime, Law and Order and call on **Janelle Saffin MP, Tamara Smith MP, Geoff Provest MP and Richie Williamson MP** to support the establishment of a Parliamentary Inquiry with the suggested terms of reference in the document.

1. That, the **Northern Rivers Joint Organisation** on behalf of its member councils call on all members of the NSW Parliament to commit to bipartisan support to establish a Parliamentary Inquiry into and report on the rate of crime in all categories reported on by the Bureau of Crime Statistical and Research (BOCSAR) in Regional, Rural and Remote New South Wales, specifically focussing on the inequity between Metro and Regional Local Government areas.
2. That, the **Northern Rivers Joint Organisation** on behalf of its member councils call on all members of the NSW Parliament to commit to bipartisan support to increase spending on the NSW police force to increase front line policing numbers in Regional, Rural and Remote regions most at need.
3. That, the **Northern Rivers Joint Organisation** on behalf of its member councils call on the NSW Government to commit to the minimum staffing agreements (known in the NSW Police Force as First Response Agreements) for non-24-hour police stations, all of which are located in Regional, Rural and Remote Local Government areas.
4. That, the **Northern Rivers Joint Organisation** on behalf of its member councils call on the NSW Government to review the current formula used to assess staffing levels including the universally agreed outdated current model for those Local Government areas that do have a First Response Agreement in place.

CMA - Report on Crime, Law and Order (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon and Cr Kylie Webster	7
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

8.2 Affordable Housing Legislation

RESOLVED (Cherry/Mustow) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation write to the NSW Minister for Planning, Paul Scully MLC and Minister for Housing, Rose Jackson MLC requesting an immediate change to the recently announced Affordable Housing legislation that allows a 30% increase in Floor Space Ratio and 30% increase in height for ALL developments providing a minimum of 15% affordable housing for a minimum of 15 years.

The requested change would be that the requirement that a minimum of 15% affordable housing is to be provided in perpetuity.

Affordable Housing Legislation (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon and Cr Kylie Webster	7
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

8.3 Stakeholder group to lead Regional Vision, Masterplan, Disaster Adaptation Plan, etc.

RESOLVED (Kreig/Lyon) The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board requests:

1. The required project funding through the NSW Reconstruction Authority.
2. CSIRO be engaged to lead the development of the Regional Vision, Masterplan, Feasibility Study, Disaster Adaptation Plan, and associated documents and plans; and
3. Establishment of a steering committee to oversee the project made up of stakeholder representatives from relevant local, and state authorities.

Stakeholder group to lead Regional Vision, Masterplan, Disaster Adaptation Plan, etc. (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Kylie Webster	7
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

9 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Executive Officer report

RESOLVED (Mustow/Cherry) that the NRJO Board receive and note the Items for Discussion as follows: -

Executive Officer report including: -

- Project Manager report – Joint Organisation Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (JODRRF)
- Project Manager report – NetZero

Executive Officer report (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Kylie Webster	7
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

Note: Cr Webster left the meeting 10.30am

9.2 General purpose Financial Statements 2022/23

RESOLVED (Johnstone/Cherry) That the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board:-

- receive and note the audited Financial Statements for period ending 30 June 2023
- receive and note the financial reports for period ending 31 October 2023

General purpose Financial Statements 2022/23 (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Kylie Webster	1
Carried		

9.3 Making control of roaming pet cats manageable for NSW Councils

RESOLVED (Cherry/Krieg) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation of Councils writes to the Minister and Shadow Ministers for Local Government, Environment and Animal Welfare, and our local Members of Parliament requesting the NSW Government to make the following reforms to better manage the highly negative impact of roaming domestic cats on wildlife and improve the health and welfare of companion animals:

1. Amends the Companion Animals Act 1998 and associated Companion Animals Regulation 2018 to enable local governments to enforce the containment of pet cats on the owner's property in NSW. The introduction of these containment laws to include phase-in periods and community support and monitoring frameworks.

2. Develops, and allocates funding towards, a state-wide program to support local governments to enforce compliance with new powers under the Companion Animals Act 1998. This funding to include increasing the number of rangers available to undertake such compliance.
3. Streamlines pet identification and registration processes into one process managed by Service NSW and accessible through self service functions within the Service NSW app.
4. Transitions to mandatory desexing laws that align with existing state approaches in Western Australia, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and Victoria.
5. Establishes a \$10 million, three-year state-wide grant program to support councils to implement domestic cat containment policies and associated responsible cat ownership programs. The program to include identification and registration measures, large scale desexing and microchipping programs and effective education programs to support people to keep their cats contained on their property.
6. Implements a state-wide 'Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife' campaign that includes the development of a central, state-wide online platform, in consultation with councils, relevant agencies and animal welfare bodies to make responsible pet ownership information easily accessible.

Making control of roaming pet cats manageable for NSW Councils (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Kylie Webster	1
Carried		

9.4 Northern Rivers Joint Organisation ordinary meeting schedule 2024

RESOLVED (Lyon/Mustow) that Northern Rivers Joint Organisation determine its meeting schedule for 2024 with meetings to be held on the second Fridays commencing 10.00am at the agreed Council location on:

- 9 February – Kyogle Shire Council
- 17 May – Richmond Valley Council
- 16 August – Clarence Valley Council
- 08 November – Tweed Shire Council

NRJO ordinary meeting schedule 2024 (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Kylie Webster	1
Carried		

9.5 Industrial and employment lands audit closure report

RESOLVED (Krieg/Lyon)

1. That Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board to note the report.
2. Executive Officer will work with the Department of Planning and Environment to identify opportunities to address constraints identified in the *Employment Land Study*.

Industrial and employment lands audit closure report (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Kylie Webster	1
Carried		

9.6 Rail Trail closure report

RESOLVED (Mustow/Lyon) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board receive and note the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Business Case Submission Report.

Rail Trail closure report (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Kylie Webster	1
Carried		

10 INFORMATION REPORTS

10.1 Information Reports - Cover Sheet

RESOLVED (Mustow/Krieg) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation receive and note the following information reports: -

1. Associate member – Office of Local Government
2. Associate member – Destination North Coast
3. Associate member – Scenic Rim Regional Council
4. Associate member – Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers (verbal)
5. Associate member – Regional Australia NSW
6. Correspondence – Incoming and Outgoing

Information Reports (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Christine Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Kylie Webster	1
Carried		

11 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil.

12 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.27 pm.