



NORTHERN
RIVERS
JOINT ORGANISATION

NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION
Annual Performance Statement
2018-2019

Sustainable. Resilient. Prosperous.



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Welcome and Introduction

The Annual Performance Report provides an account of the Joint Organisation's performance for its six Member Councils and the Northern Rivers community.

The report details progress, achievements and outcomes against commitments identified within the Strategic Regional Priorities 2019 – 2022 and financial management over the 2018-2019 year.

In June 2018, the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC) was formally dissolved and the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation was formed. The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held its inaugural Board meeting in August 2018 and at this meeting a Chair was elected. An Interim Executive Officer had been appointed with primary responsibilities being to follow the pathway for setting up a joint organisation in accordance with the Joint Organisation Implementation Guide. The recruitment process for an Executive Officer (21 hours/week) concluded in December 2018, with the appointee commencing in January 2019.

The Annual Performance Report is an opportunity to acknowledge the regional initiatives and early progress towards achieving the vision articulated in the Strategic Regional Priorities document. It is also important to promote the outcomes that ultimately lead to a strengthening of the region, building on the demonstrated successes, unique character and diversity of member councils: Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed.

This report also meets requirements under the *NSW Local Government Act (1993)* and will be presented to the Minister for Local Government, The Hon Shelley Hancock MP.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation wishes to publicly acknowledge the commitment and collaborative spirit of Mayors, General Managers and staff from the member councils. The financial investment and time commitment is significant, and reflects the shared values, commitment and generosity evident in the Northern Rivers community.

A number of member councils have demonstrated highly-valued leadership on key regional projects:

- Tweed Shire Council for taking carriage of the Biodiversity Legislation Reforms Project via its Senior Program Leader Biodiversity in collaboration with Local Government Support Officer (Biodiversity Reforms), North Coast, reflecting the Biodiverse Natural Environments reflecting the Biodiverse Natural Environments Strategic Priority.
- Richmond Valley Council for its work on the investigation of Waste to Energy opportunities and subsequent Waste Investment Report Project reflecting the Sustainable Energy, Water and Waste Strategic Priority.
- Ballina Shire Council for lodging a successful funding application on behalf of Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and recruiting an Environmental Officer under the NSW Environment Protection Authority's Council Regional Capacity Building Program enhancing the collaboration with key stakeholder, the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation acknowledges the Bundjalung People, the traditional owners and custodians of the lands in our Region, and pays respect to the Elders past, present and emerging.

Hard copies of this report will be available upon request, and electronic copies accessible at <http://www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au>

Performance and Value

A key responsibility of the Joint Organisations in meeting their core functions under the Local Government Act 1993 is to identify Strategic Regional Priorities and collaborate on strategies to achieve those identified priorities for the benefit of communities.

At a meeting of the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation at Tweed Shire Council on 8 February 2019, the Strategic Regional Priorities 2019 – 2022 document was formally launched. A workshop was then held where the five Strategic Regional Priorities were workshopped to identify the highest priority areas to pursue advocacy and project outcomes for the region.



Launch of Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's Strategic Regional Priorities 2019-2022, February 2019

L-R: The Hon Don Page, Chair RDA Northern Rivers, Cr Katie Milne, Mayor Tweed Shire Council, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Chair, NRJO, Mayor, Kyogle Council, Cr Isaac Smith, Mayor Lismore City Council, Cr Michael Lyon A/g Mayor Byron Shire Council, Louise McMeeking, Director Northern, Regional NSW, Ms Isabel Perdriau, Executive Officer, NRJO

1. Thriving, healthy and biodiverse natural environments

For the biodiversity and health of our waterways, habitats and wildlife to be protected and enhanced to deliver environmental, economic and recreational benefits for current and future generations of residents and visitors.

Project outcome

- Support the proposed Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative
- Advocate for change to forestry policy and planning regulations to encourage native forestation

2. Improved community wellbeing now and into the future

For our region to be able to offer its residents a range of affordable, appropriate housing choices and access to health care, mental health care, aged care and other services that enhance wellbeing

Project outcome

- Increased social housing, including crisis and emergency accommodation, to be on par with the state average of 4% housing stock, within people's community of interest

3. A physically and digitally connected region

For our communities, businesses and visitors to be connected through a diverse range of safe, inclusive, low impact private and public transport options and high quality, reliable internet and mobile telecommunication services

Project outcome

- Accelerated road repair program through doubling the funding of the Commonwealth Roads to Recovery Program and the NSW Government's Regional Roads Repair Program over the next four years.

4. Innovative, sustainable energy, water and waste management

For our region to establish itself as a leader in renewable energy production; effective, sustainable water management; and innovative approaches to waste management to improve environmental and service delivery outcomes

Project outcome

- Develop a Northern Rivers Renewable Energy Investment Prospectus
- Lobby NSW Government for review and removal of waste levy.

5. A diversified, prosperous and sustainable regional economy

For our region to have a strong, diversified economy that provides increased employment and business opportunities and financial wellbeing for communities while protecting and maintaining our region's unique character

Project outcome

- Investigate removal of BCR criteria for funding applications
- Establish UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

2018 - 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FUNCTION 1: PLANNING AND PRIORITISATION

The 2018 – 2019 highlights reflect progress and outcomes of efforts dedicated to promoting and achieving the identified Strategic Regional Priorities, and delivering on the core functions prescribed for Joint Organisations of Councils across NSW.

In follow up to its February workshop, the Board endorsed ten Advocacy Briefs. These briefs formed a solid platform for advocacy representations to Local, State and Federal members of Parliament and introductory meetings to pave the way for the pursuit of future funding opportunities to support and enable the implementation of key identified projects.

1. Thriving, healthy and biodiverse natural environments

***PROJECTS** - Advocate for changes to Forestry policy and planning regulations to encourage private native forestation AND the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative.*

NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing - Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative An initial meeting was secured in May 2019 with the newly appointed Minister Pavey, following the formation of the NSW Cabinet. Follow up information was sought from Associate Member Rous Water to ensure Minister Pavey was provided with up to date information on river health classifications.

NSW Minister for Energy and Environment - Meeting held with the Minister's Deputy Chief of Staff in May to articulate the advocacy briefs relevant to this portfolio, including the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative. The outcomes of this meeting included the commencement of a relationship with the Minister's office, paving the way for a further meeting secured with the Minister in October.

Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly, Canberra - Advocacy material was provided to the Chair for presentation to Federal Ministers in June 2019:

- The Hon David Littleproud, Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management
- The Hon Mark Coulton, Federal Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government
- The Hon Susan Ley, Federal Minister for the Environment

Biodiversity Legislation Reforms Project - Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Funding of \$41,500

The Board confirmed financial support for this project in November 2018. Officers from Tweed Shire Council, Ballina Shire Council and Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Interim Executive Officer formed a committee to select the winning tender from the Request for Quotation process with the project aims being to:

a) complete a regional assessment of the needs of each council to adapt development assessment processes to meet the new legislation, identify any existing opportunities for resource sharing and report this assessment with recommendations for specific requirements; and

b) complete an assessment of the unavoidable biodiversity offset requirements likely to be generated from land already identified for development across the NRJO and report this assessment with

recommendations for specific further requirements, including whether a second stage analysis of potentially available stewardship sites is required.

This project has progressed well with a draft report for part a) due in September 2019.

Safe and Secure Water Program - An Expression of Interest was lodged for co-funding through the Safe and Secure Water Program: Northern Rivers Regional Bulk Water Supply Investigations. This project was assessed by the SSWP Technical Review Panel (TRP) in December 2018 and, following formal endorsement of the project by the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation, was deemed eligible to proceed to the next stage of the assessment process, i.e. submission of a detailed application for scoping study co-funding.

In early 2019, collaborative discussions were held with representatives from Rous Water and the Regional Water Strategies team (now part of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment). In consultation with the Board and in light of preparation work required locally and the timeframe for the release of regional water strategies by State Government, agreement has been given to hold over a submission to this program until 2020.

Biodiversity Conservation Trust - Liaison established with Biodiversity Conservation Trust North Coast Regional Manager with introduction provided by Minister Kean's office. Discussions covered funding options and background information on:

- Conservation Partners Program
- Conservation Management Program
- Biodiversity Offsets Program

2. Improved community wellbeing now and into the future

***PROJECT** – Increased social housing, including crisis and emergency accommodation, to be on par with the State average of 4% of housing stock, within people's community of interest.*

NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing – Initial meeting following the formation of NSW Cabinet with Minister Pavey to introduce the advocacy brief and put forward a case for addressing the chronic housing shortages in the Northern Rivers.

Federal Minister for Families and Social Services - Advocacy brief provided to Chair for presentation to Senator the Hon Anne Ruston MP at the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in Canberra.

Key Strategic Partners:

North Coast Community Housing – A not-for-profit company providing long-term social housing for people with special needs and residents with low and moderate incomes. Its footprint mirrors that of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and also extends south to Clarence Valley.

A strong collaboration has been formed to support the achievement of this strategic priority and discussions on regional solutions are ongoing.

Social Futures – A well-established social justice organisation based in Northern NSW that encompasses homelessness and housing supports, youth and family services, programs that promote genuine participation for people with disability, community sector support, professional development, and systemic advocacy.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation has established strong relationships with the leadership team and communications staff in relation to media strategies and support to the Northern Rivers Housing Forum campaign for the six urgent identified actions for the Northern Rivers and the Housing and Homelessness Fact Sheet: Key Northern Rivers statistics.

Housing Affordability Supply and Homelessness Forum - The Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin MP, scheduled a roundtable discussion on housing affordability and homelessness and a report on outcomes will provide valuable input to advocacy representations around this priority area.

3. A physically and digitally connected region

PROJECT - Accelerated road repair program through doubling the funding of the Commonwealth Roads to Recovery Program and the NSW Government's Regional Roads Repair Program over the next four years.

Roads – The following strategies were promoted to address regional roads infrastructure needs:

- Use the Roads to Recovery model for the distribution of funding under the \$500m for local roads and the \$500m for timber bridges.
- Regional Roads handed back to the state can be maintained by Councils under the existing arrangements for the State Highways.
- Reassign the staff involved in the route assessments and design feasibility for the Pacific Highway to the strategic priorities identified by Transport for NSW.

Freight and Supply Chain Strategy

\$50,000 contribution by the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation - In January 2019, a draft report was considered at a consultation meeting with key stakeholders at Casino, where strategy lead author from Southern Cross University led a workshop to gain input from councils and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Input to the draft was received from local industry and council staff as well as key stakeholders such as Rail and airport organisations. In keeping with the importance of alignment with broader State Government strategy, Transport for NSW officers were actively engaged.



Project collaborators at the 3 May 2019 launch of the Freight and Supply Chain Strategy, officiated by Mr Chris Gulaptis, MP Member of the Legislative Assembly Member for Clarence Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads and Infrastructure.

This landmark strategy “*From Roots to Routes: An innovative Vision of freight for the Northern Rivers*” is a joint project with Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO), RDA Northern Rivers, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and Southern Cross University.

The key proposed network changes include increasing regional connectivity through improved B-Double access to the Port of Brisbane, Southern Queensland and Brisbane through the Summerland Way, Clarence Way. It advocates for modification to the Mt Lindesay Highway; and Tenterfield and the New England Highway through the Bruxner Highway west of Casino as well as improved access through Lismore.

The utilisation of the coastal railway and the under-construction Inland Rail corridor to create a rail shuttle to the Port of Brisbane and to Toowoomba/Wellcamp Airport is also a priority under the findings of the Strategy. This includes intermodal hubs at Kyogle, Casino and Grafton to provide direct access to rail from within the Region.

A key part of the Strategy is a new framework for regional collaboration that engages broadly with industry and agency stakeholders, to deliver on the initiatives in this plan and allow for capacity building and resilience within the region for the future. Monthly implementation meetings are ongoing between the project partners.

Advocacy brief and Strategy Executive Summary was provided to the Chair for representations to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP.

A positive relationship has been formed with Transport for NSW. This has enabled a two-way communication flow on alignment between progress with our regional plans and the state level transport strategies.

4. Innovative, sustainable energy, water and waste management

PROJECTS - removal or improved distribution of the waste levy AND develop a Northern Rivers Renewable Energy Prospectus.

Climate Resilience and Net Zero Emissions

Arising from strengthening of networks and relationships developed through the Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) meetings, liaison and teleconferencing with Senior Project Officer - Regional Preparedness, Climate Resilience Programs, Climate Change and Sustainability Division at DPIE, has been ongoing since the Executive Officer’s initial RLE meeting in February 2019.

Tweed Shire Council was successful in Round 1 of the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change program and this will benefit all member councils:

Tweed Shire Council	Fostering behaviour change to reduce the risk of arbovirus threats will test four pilot programs on focus groups to determine the most effective education strategy for reducing vector/mosquito borne diseases in the Northern Rivers. A detailed communication plan based on the preferred strategy will be delivered to the regional community.	Ballina Shire Council, NRJO members, Northern Rivers Public Health Unit	\$104,700
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To provide further opportunities for funding to be explored, the following initiatives were instigated:

- Presentation to GMs 1 July on North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation (NERA) and how to use NERA as a supporting document for Local Strategic Planning Statements.
- Consider funding opportunities for Round 2 of the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change grants program.
- Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Round 2 Webinar held in July 2019 for council staff including presentation by Dr Stephen Bygrave, Director Climate Resilience and Net Zero Emissions Branch, Environment, Energy & Science Group, DPIE.

Federal Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction - Advocacy brief provided to the Chair for Angus Taylor MP, at Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly, Canberra.

NSW Minister for Energy and Environment - Meeting with Deputy Chief of Staff to Minister Kean in May to discuss Waste Levy and Renewable Energy Prospectus. Senior member of the NSW Environment Protection Agency staff was also in attendance.

Key Strategic Partner: Sustain Energy - Northern Rivers Renewable Energy Working Group

The request for membership of the group was accepted and attendance at meetings has proved beneficial for development of collaboration and funding opportunities relevant to project areas. The group is very committed to support NRJO in developing a Northern Rivers Renewable Energy Prospectus. Key priorities for 2019 are:

- Bioenergy
- Electric Vehicle strategy
- Low income households' solar access/energy poverty – Solar Gardens, Buyers group/PPA
- Mid-scale Solar projects

Strategy Manager – Environment LGNSW – A meeting was held in May to introduce the waste levy advocacy brief and review alignment with LGNSW's advocacy position. A collated table of member councils' waste charges was also presented.

5. A diversified, prosperous and sustainable regional economy

PROJECTS – *Investigate removal of BCR criteria for funding applications AND establish UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.*

Advocacy representations were conducted in early 2019 to State Ministers and the Deputy Premier on the removal of Benefit Cost Ratios (BCRs) from Fixing Local Roads and Timber Bridges programs. The Board noted at its February meeting that BCRs had been removed from the Safe and Secure Water Program and therefore believed this to be a solid platform for advocating for further changes to this criteria that has disadvantaged rural and regional areas.

UNESCO Biosphere Status for the Northern Rivers - Preliminary partnership discussions held with Southern Cross University and the offer of data to assist in compiling an application offered through the Biodiversity Conservation Trust North Coast Regional Manager. Tweed Shire Council supplied valuable information on its investigations and reporting on UNESCO Biosphere Status application and governance process.

KEY FUNCTION 2: INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

One of the key functions of Joint Organisations is identifying and taking up opportunities for inter-governmental relations. The information provided under Key Function 1 section of this Annual Performance Statement also highlights the strong relationships that have been built. The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation has been proactive in this area and built on existing well-established networks and participated in a broad range of key Government stakeholder groups:

- Roundtable planning and engagement meetings and workshops with the Regional Water Strategies team (now part of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment).
- As part of the contract for provision of support services by Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers, close collaboration occurs with involvement in shared projects.
- The NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) was released in August 2018 and in the lead up to the implementation plan being finalised, staff from NRJO member councils, Local Land Services and the Department of Planning Industry and Environment participated in a workshop to support this process, ensuring that local government authorities and agencies continue to work closely and collaboratively for successful project outcomes.

Council staff provided valuable input at various stages of MEMS development and there are opportunities for future projects to align with Councils' Coastal Management Programs (CMPs). NRJO welcomed the NSW Government's \$45.7m funding allocated to Stage One of this large body of work.

There is strong alignment between the MEMS initiatives and a number of NRJO key projects and advocacy areas focusing on river system health and water quality across the region.



Executive Officer, Isabel Perdriau with Simon Walsh, Acting Program Leader - Marine Strategy Implementation at NSW Department of Primary Industries

- Valuable relationships have developed with all agency leads who attend the Regional Leadership Executive meetings and the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation takes an active role in the sub-committees convened by Regional NSW. Agencies include Public Works, Local Health District, Family and Community Services.
- Liaison with the Regional NSW occurs monthly with meetings on shared projects including projects that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation invested in including Future Northern Rivers Campaign and developing a regional brand for NSW Northern Rivers. Both projects have come to fruition and the Brand launch proposed for February 2020.
- Active engagement with Director Regions, Northern for Local and Regional Planning at the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in relation to significant changes impacting Local Government, for example the Local Strategic Planning Statements.
- Successful partnership with TAFE NSW and Regional Industry Education Partnerships at Training Services NSW to activate a Women in Construction program within most of the member councils.
- Active engagement with Transport for NSW as covered under the Freight and Supply Chain Strategy.

KEY FUNCTION 3: ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

Members established the framework, policy and procedures for advocacy and leadership from the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation. As a group of Councils, the opportunity to advocate as a group that represents a larger population and geography is a powerful mechanism for promoting community needs.

All Five Strategic Regional Priority areas have been addressed with the relevant ministers and the Chair has reported extensively to the Board on successful outcomes of these advocacy efforts.

The following issues and areas were also highlighted as part of these discussions:

- Support for Local Government and the Joint Organisation Model and future funding
- Agriculture and Economic Development
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Infrastructure
- Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) and the removal of the minimum per capita grant criteria
- Skills Shortages in the Northern Rivers
- Fire and Emergency Services Levy

Representations on behalf of members on positions of advocacy and leadership to the NSW Government and Australian Government representatives were made and have been acknowledged by the Board as very worthwhile.

It is considered good practice to ensure that Local Members of Parliament are apprised of the advocacy positions, so regular updates are provided. Meetings also occur with members of the opposition, with the view of establishing these networks and relationships for the long term future.

The Chair and Executive Officer are active members of the Joint Organisations' Executive Officer and Chairpersons Networks for Joint Organisations of Councils in NSW.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A full copy of the Audited Financial Statements for the 2018/2019 year is provided on the website at <http://www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au>

Income

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Note 2 Income from continuing operations

	Actual 11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019 \$	
(a) Member Council contributions		
Ballina Shire Council	17,567	
Byron Shire Council	15,067	
Kyogle Council	9,924	
Lismore City Council	18,307	
Richmond Valley Council	13,084	
Tweed Shire Council	28,944	
Total member council contributions	102,893	
(b) User charges and fees		
MyRoadInfo	33,725	
Total user charges and fees	33,725	
(c) Interest and Investment revenue		
Interest in financial assets measured at amortised cost	7,061	
Other	-	
Total interest and investment revenue	7,061	
(d) Grants		
	Operating Actual May 2018 to 30 June 2019	Capital 11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019
Office of Local Government (OLG) joint organisation establishment funding	300,000	-
Regional Business Power Infrastructure Program	500,000	-
Total grants	800,000	-
Comprising:		
- Commonwealth funding	-	-
- State funding	800,000	-
- Other funding	-	-
	800,000	-

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Note 2 Income from continuing operations

	Actual 11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019
(e) Other income	
Procurement Rebate	36,602
Total other income	36,602
(f) Gain on transfer of assets from former entity NOROC	
On 1 July 2018, the assets and liabilities of NOROC were transferred to NRJO at their previous carrying amount as shown below:	Assets and liabilities acquired \$
ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	441,413
Accrued Interest	499
GST Receivable	2,281
Prepayments	-
Total current assets	444,193
Non-current assets	
Investments	-
Property, plant and equipment	-
Other	-
Total non-current assets	-
Total assets	444,193
LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities	
Payables	-
Accrued Expenses	3,300
Borrowings	-
Provisions	-
Total current liabilities	3,300
Non-current liabilities	
Provisions	-
Total non-current liabilities	-
Total liabilities	3,300
Net assets transferred / gain on transfer	440,893

Expenses

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Note 3 Expenses from continuing operations

	Actual 11 May 2016 to 30 June 2019 \$
(a) Employee benefits and on costs	
Salaries and wages	34,209
Travelling	3,341
Employee leave entitlements	2,596
Superannuation	2,842
Workers' compensation insurance	1,494
Other	6,006
Total employee costs expensed	50,488
Accounting policy for employee benefits and on-costs Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.	
(b) Borrowing Costs	
Interest on Loans	-
Total borrowing costs expensed	-
Accounting policy for borrowing costs Borrowing costs incurred for the construction of any qualifying asset are capitalised during the period of time that is required to complete and prepare the asset for its intended use or sale. Other borrowing costs are expensed.	
(c) Administrative expenses	
Contractor and consultancy costs	94,150
Advertising	620
Audit	6,500
Board Costs	3,220
Catering	1,389
Office Expenses	2,415
Other	480
Total administrative expenses	108,774
(d) Project expenses	
Contractor and Project Contributions	110,950
Advertising	10,618
Catering	975
Printing	2,411
Other	3,203
Total project expenses	128,157

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Note 3 Expenses from continuing operations (continued)

	Actual 11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019 \$
Auditors' remuneration	
Auditors of the Joint Organisation - NSW Auditor-General:	
(I) Audit and other assurance services	
Audit and review of financial statements	6,500
Total fees paid or payable to the Auditor-General	6,500
(II) Other assurance services - provided to the JO	-
Total fees paid or payable to other audit firms	-
Total remuneration of auditors	6,500

Accounting policy for expenses

Other Expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as the JO receives the goods or services.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate the cost of the asset, net of residual values, over the asset's estimated useful lives.

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Profile

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation was formed in June 2018 and is a partnership between six Local Government Areas in the Northern Rivers Region of NSW.

As the peak body for local government in the Northern Rivers, the organisation is the recognised voice for our region's Councils. In addition, there is significant collaboration through resource sharing and procurement of materials, services and professional development. Not only do these endeavours bring Councils together in a spirit of cooperation but they save money for Councils and communities.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation covers an area of more than 10,000 square kilometres extending from Tweed Heads in the North to just beyond Evans Head in the south, and to Woodenbong and Tabulam in the west.

Member councils are the six Local Government Areas of Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Kyogle and Tweed Northern Rivers region of Northern NSW.

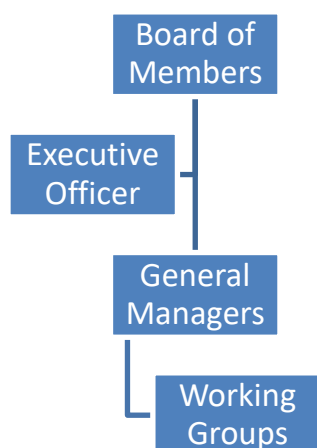
MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

The Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation includes the Mayors of member Councils.

- Councillor Danielle Mulholland, Chair and Mayor Kyogle Council
- Councillor Katie Milne, Mayor Tweed Shire Council
- Councillor Simon Richardson, Mayor Byron Shire Council
- Councillor David Wright, Mayor Ballina Shire Council
- Councillor Isaac Smith, Mayor Lismore City Council
- Councillor Robert Mustow, Mayor Richmond Valley Council

The NSW Government is a non-voting Member and is represented by the Director – Regional NSW for the Northern region.

The organisational structure is as follows:



The Mayors receive advice and information about strategic and operational opportunities from the General Managers of member Councils. Working Groups are established with key experienced personnel from within each member Council. The Board, the General Managers Group and various

working groups meet regularly throughout the Northern Rivers region. The organisation employs an Executive Officer to guide the organisations activities. The administration of the organisation is reliant on the support of the staff of RDA Northern Rivers.

Associate Members

Associate members of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation are

- the NSW Government, as represented by a nominee of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, currently Director, North Coast, Regional NSW
- Rous County Council,
- Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers,
- Destination North Coast,
- Scenic Rim Regional Council,
- Tenterfield Shire Council,
- Clarence Valley Council,
- Combined North Coast Rural Industry Consultative Committee and North Coast Agriculture Natural Disaster Advisory Group

Working Groups

Group	Meeting Frequency
NSW Water Directorate Executive Committee	Quarterly
North Coast Regional Leadership Executive	Quarterly
Water NSW Customer Advisory Group for the Coastal Valleys	Twice yearly
Procurement Committee	Quarterly
Northern Rivers Human Resources Interest Group	Monthly
Risk Committee	Quarterly
Northern Safety Management Group	Quarterly
Far North Coast Revenue Professionals	Twice yearly
Records & IT Group	Ad Hoc
Northern Rivers IT Group	Quarterly
Northern Rivers IT Systems Admin Group	Yearly
Civica Northern NSW Users Group	Quarterly
Northern Rivers Water Managers Group	Twice yearly
Northern Rivers Development and Construction Manuals Group	Quarterly
Natural Resource Management Group	Twice yearly
North East Weight of Loads Group	Annually
Roads Group	Ad Hoc
Northern Rivers Local Emergency Management Committee	Quarterly
Northern Rivers Bush Fire Risk Management Committee	Quarterly
Regional GIS Users Group	Ad Hoc
Supervisors Group	Ad Hoc
Drinking Water Management System Implementation Group	Twice a year

Northern Rivers SCADA Group	Ad Hoc
RMS Peer Exchange Group	Quarterly
Planners Group	Every two months
North East Waste Group	Quarterly
Northern Rivers Public and Environmental Health Forum	Quarterly
Northern Rivers Food Group	Quarterly
Mental Health Forum	Every two months
Domestic Violence Forum	Every two months
Arts Northern Rivers	Quarterly
North East Region Discussion Group for Building Surveyors	Quarterly
OSMS Officer Forum	Yearly
Regional Koala Communication Plan working group	Quarterly

Member Conduct

Members are Councillors and are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community.

To guide the conduct of elected members, Council Code of Conduct and standards of conduct, behaviour, accountability and responsibilities apply to ensure public confidence is maintained.

The community expects the business of Local Government is to be conducted with efficiency, transparency and impartiality.

To mitigate any personal or private interests that may compromise the conduct and decisions of a Member, declaration of conflicts of interest is a standing agenda item for all Board meetings.

Member Allowances

The Chair is paid a stipend of \$10,00 per annum. Members are not paid an annual fee. Members expenses incurred by representing their Council discharging their functions and responsibilities may be paid.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Contracts Awarded

NSW Regional Business Power Infrastructure Upgrade \$500,000 from Dept of Premier and Cabinet

Government Information Public Access (GIPA)

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation received zero formal access and zero informal applications for the reporting year under *Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009 (GIPA)*.

Public Interest Disclosures

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation is required to have a Public Interest Disclosures Policy under section 6D of the Public Interest Disclosures Act, 1994 (the PID Act).

There have been no known Public Interest Disclosures on any activities.

Overseas Travel

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation representatives made no overseas trips during the 2018/2019 financial year.

Remuneration Executive Officer

The total remuneration package of the Executive Officer for the 2018/2019 financial year was \$37,050 for the period 21 January -30 June 2019.

Correspondence to:
The Executive Officer
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