



# **Agenda for the Northern Rivers**

## **Joint Organisation**

### **Ordinary Board Meeting**

**Date:** 16 August 2019

**Location:** Byron Shire Council Conference Room

**Time:** 11.00am

# AGENDA

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## 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge that this meeting is held upon the land of the Bundjalung people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

## 2 APOLOGIES

## 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

## 4 ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITOR(S)

### PRESENTATION – The Hon Janelle Saffin

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11.10am – 11.30am

The Hon Janelle Saffin, Member for Lismore will provide the meeting with a brief update on her vision for the Northern Rivers.

### PRESENTATION – PLANET ARK

David Rowlinson with Andrew and Lexie Hurford

11-30am – 11.50am

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#### **Description:**

Timber is the only major building material that helps tackle climate change. It is naturally renewable, stores carbon and consumes minimal energy in its production, and is responsibly sourced.

The presentation will highlight the importance of connecting buildings with the natural world and how with 'biophilic design' and using wood we can effectively bring nature indoors and provide a healthier, happier environment for all.

The discussion will conclude with a short overview of Wood Encouragement policies (WEPs) and show why councils and governments in Australia are increasingly choosing wood as the primary construction material in all new-build and refurbishment projects.

#### **Key Objectives:**

To provide an understanding of:

1. Why wood is good for the environment
2. Why wood is good for our health, wellbeing and productivity
3. Why Councils are adopting Wood Encouragement Policies
4. Showcase recent Australian exemplar projects using wood

## PRESENTATION – NORTH COAST COMMUNITY HOUSING

John McKenna, CEO

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11.50am – 12.10pm

North Coast Community Housing are the Northern Rivers Region's only Tier 1 registered Community Housing Provider and have been in operation since 1984 providing community housing outcomes for the Northern Rivers residents in partnership with the NSW Government. We are a registered charitable organisation with offices in South Tweed, Lismore and Grafton. We currently manage over 975 properties across the Northern Rivers and since 2012 have completed our own social and affordable housing developments in the region.

Our CEO John McKenna has been with the organisation for 10 years and is also the Chair of the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) NSW. The presentation will provide an overview of the social and affordable housing situation in the region, the need for more social and affordable housing supply in the region and how the NRJO members can potentially partner with the Community Housing Industry in the region to advocate to State and Federal governments to strategise the increase in social and affordable housing within the region.

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

## 5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION HELD 3 MAY 2019

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The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Friday 3 May 2019 are attached for information and adoption by the Board.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held Friday 3 May 2019 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of that meeting.

### **[Attachment 1:](#)**

Draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held 3 May 2019

## 6 NOTICES OF MOTION

## 7 REPORTS



## 7.1 CHAIR'S REPORT

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### **Update from Country Mayors' Meeting**

A JO Chairs workshop was held on the morning of 30th May 2019, with an introduction of the new Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock and a short welcome by Deputy Premier John Barilaro. Minister Barilaro reiterated his role as Minister for regional NSW and his commitment to visiting the regions, including rural and remote communities. After checking the election commitments made by each of the party leaders at a forum in March 2019, attended by JO Chairs and Country Mayors, I raised the issue of BCRs with Minister Hancock at our scheduled meeting the following day, outlining our reasons for wanting them removed. She stated that she supported the idea and would follow up with Minister Barilaro after receipt of my report to the JO outlining each party's election commitments.

The JO workshop then moved into a presentation by several public servants, who outlined the "opportunities" for JOs, listing the available grants and programs under which JOs could apply for funding to ensure their ongoing sustainability through state project delivery. This was met with an overwhelmingly negative response by attendant Chairs and subsequently raised as an issue at the Country Mayors meeting. This was considered problematic on a number of fronts, for example:

1. Member Councils would be competing with JOs for funding which seems counter intuitive
2. JOs could become politicised and set up to succeed or fail, depending on the government of the day and the politics of the state members within the JO footprint
3. Member Councils and in turn, their residents and ratepayers, would foot the bill for what is essentially a state government initiative

During the JO Chairs meeting, I moved a motion that we write to the Minister and all MPs, requesting

- a) baseline funding for all JOs
- b) that the funding be \$300k annually for a term of three years
- c) that at the end of three years, a review be undertaken to assess this level of funding
- d) that a response be provided within 28 days (please see attached letter)

This motion was unanimously supported by all JO Chairs. A letter was drafted by the sitting Chair's Executive Officer whilst we continued with other matters, finalised by the end of the meeting, signed by all thirteen JO Chairs and presented to Minister Hancock the following morning for consideration. (Please see attached letter)

### **[Attachment 2:](#)**

### **JO Chairs letter to Minister for Local Government**

The JO Chairs meeting was held on the afternoon of 30th May 2019, with a number of issues being raised for discussion including the recent hike in the emergency services levy. This was largely seen as an impost on local councils who had already released their draft budgets with a lack of the promised engagement by the state government. We resolved to write to the Minister and all MPs to vigorously protest the hike, request the government defer the payment for at least twelve

months so that the promised engagement with Councils could be undertaken and that this tax, although for a good purpose, be highlighted as a line item on Council rates notices so that our residents and ratepayers can see where the increase has occurred and by whom it was introduced. It is safe to say that the attendees were furious at the introduction of this levy whilst the Minister for Local Government acknowledged that it was “unfair”.

This issue was also discussed by Country Mayors who objected to the introduction of the levy altogether, let alone an unceremonious hike, as state emergency services are a state responsibility, not a local government issue. Various speakers on the issue raised the concern of further cost shifting by the state government and a determination to not pay the hike as a collective. However no resolution to this effect was made but instead, a resolution similar to that made by the JO Chairs was agreed upon. (See attached minutes and Peter Primrose’s speech to the legislative assembly)

#### [Attachment 3:](#)

#### **Peter Primrose speech to NSW Legislative Assembly re Emergency Services Levy**

#### [Attachment 4:](#)

#### **Minutes of Country Mayors’ Association meeting 31 May 2019**

The waste levy was discussed and a working group around it was established. I nominated and was accepted as part of a working group regarding this issue.

For more information, please see the attached minutes regarding the Country Mayors meeting. I nominated for the waste levy working group after the fact, as I was meeting with Minister Hancock at the time. The JO Chairs meeting minutes are attached.

#### [Attachment 5:](#)

#### **Minutes of JO Chairs’ meeting 30 May 2019**

#### **JO CHAIRS, COUNTRY MAYORS AND MINISTERIAL MEETINGS - 30 July - 2nd August 2019**

I met with **Janelle Saffin**, our local member, to brief her on the issues affecting our area from the emergency services levy and waste levy to Benefit Cost Ratios (BCRs), and a whole host of other issues. Janelle is already on top of these issues and she had some interesting insights into what is happening at present.

We then met with **Greg Warren**, the Shadow Minister for Local Government where we talked about:

- baseline funding for the Joint Organisations. Following successful lobbying, the Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock made an announcement that an additional \$150k one off payment for each JO will be provided.
- Removal of BCRs - the Deputy Premier was very supportive of the removal of BCRs from funding programs as it inhibits rural Councils’ ability to competitively apply for such funding.
- Fire and Emergency Services Levy - half the members of the Country Mayors Association

have refused to pay the levy and will be providing their Council resolutions to President Katrina Humphries to include in a letter to the Premier. The Shadow Minister for Local Government, Mr Warren, has put forward a notice of motion to defer the proposed increase for twelve months and to consult with Councils in the meantime to develop a model that works for local communities and their elected Councils.

- Financial Assistance Grants and the removal of the minimum per capita grant criteria (a Federal issue but hoping to get support from the State) as the removal of such criteria gives the state more flexibility in distributing this grant, and seeing funding distributed more on a “needs” basis rather than a population basis. This was also supported by the Country Mayors Association at Friday’s meeting.

We then had the opportunity to meet with the new Leader of the Opposition, Ms **Jodi McKay**. While there wasn’t a formal meeting arranged, it was considered good practice to establish these networks and relationships for the long term future.

### **MINISTER PAUL TOOLE - Regional Transport and Roads**

Before the election, there was a promise to fund \$500M for local roads and \$500M for bridges. The Minister let us know that the draft guidelines for the roads will come out in September and the program will be rolled out over 5 years. The best news is that there won’t be any BCRs attached to the program. The existing program of Fixing Country Roads will continue to have BCRs attached in the short term but in the longer term, may be removed. The government seems to be keen to expedite expenditure so Councils have to be ready to go with their projects as the program won’t address design aspects of a project or any of the preparatory work. The \$500M for bridges that was promised will probably start to roll out early next year which is exciting news and this program won’t have any BCRs attached either, which is great news for us.

However, with the government’s focus being on building regional and statewide connectivity, there is still a lot of work that can be done with the other JOs so we can present a cohesive, well-reasoned argument to the state around the 15,000 of roads that the state promised to take back prior to the election. Our JO has done much of this work through our recently released Freight and Supply Chain Strategy and now we need to do some mapping with our colleagues, so we have the best chance of success when it comes to applying for money. There will be an opportunity to have some input into the draft guidelines around this particular initiative and we need to be on the front foot with it because at the end of the day, everyone wants certain roads taken back by the state and we need to make sure we are well positioned to take full advantage of this initiative.

Other issues discussed included:

- The JO’s Freight and Supply Chain Strategy
- Funding for local road and bridge upgrade projects and the associated grant funding process and assessment criteria
- Strategic improvements identified in the Northern Rivers Freight and Logistic study, and connectivity to international freight airports
- The 15,000 km of regional roads the State intends to take back with the Clarence Way, Kyogle Rd, Bentley Rd and Mt Lindsay Rd being flagged as roads Kyogle Council would be interested in handing back. A panel will be established which will be meeting in the next twelve to eighteen months, which will be chaired by Wendy Machin, ex-NRMA Chair. The terms of reference are being drafted and the State will be looking at the detail and impact on Councils during this process.
- The intention to develop regional international freight airports was also discussed with the

Gold Coast being high on the agenda. This KPMG study was funded by the Snowy Hydro fund.

Minister Toole also advised that the JOs should focus on one large project to start with. Out of the priority projects already identified are as follows:

***PRIORITY - Biodiverse natural environments***

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

***PRIORITY - Improved community wellbeing now and into the future***

PROJECT - Including crisis and emergency accommodation, to be on par with the State average of 4% of housing stock, within people's community of interest.

***PRIORITY - A physically and digitally connected region***

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

***PRIORITY - Sustainable Energy, water and waste***

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

***PRIORITY - A diverse, prosperous and sustainable economy***

PROJECT - Removal of BCRs from funding criteria AND United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserve.

**MINISTER BRAD HAZZARD**

I met with Minister Brad Hazzard's Senior Policy Adviser about some issues at the Bonalbo MPS and hand delivered a letter from the Bonalbo Save Our Services Committee around these issues. Northern NSW Local Health District Chief Executive, Wayne Jones joined the meeting via teleconference and committed to attend or have a representative attend the next SOS meeting. I also spoke about the University of Western Sydney proposal around the attraction and retention of rural doctors, and their scholarship program which the Minister's office was quite excited about.

**DEPUTY PREMIER JOHN BARILARO**

I also met with the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro around the Essential Energy job cuts. There is an eight week stay of proceedings through the Fair Work Commission and he is meeting with the Electrical Trades Union next week to discuss alternative efficiencies to job cuts. The Deputy Premier was very vocal about maintaining jobs and services in the regions.

The Regional roads transfer process will see a panel established as previously mentioned and the panel will visit every LGA. We asked if the JOs could put forward reps so that representation across the state can be achieved which was confirmed.

The removal of BCRs from the Stronger Country Communities fund and the newly introduced \$500m Fixing Local Roads (FLR) and \$500m for Fixing Timber Bridges (FTR) will make it easier for Councils to apply for such funding and build an appropriate business case. Shovel ready projects will be prioritised and no money will be provided for engineering plans etc. FLR and FTR will be rolled out over five years. Guidelines will be released in September.

The Deputy Premier was quite interested in establishing some rural grant criteria under existing funding programs, and this criteria was provided to him for his consideration.

The Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund allocation and approval process will be allocated around five themes - five areas of immediate focus will be improved water security, rail and road transport connections, freight linkages, digital connectivity and Special Activation Precincts to attract more industry investment in the regions. Business cases are being developed to identify projects in these five focus areas:

- Providing water security in priority catchments: investing in catchment-scale water security infrastructure for regional NSW including dams, pipelines and weirs.
- Improving rail and road passenger transport connections: exploring opportunities to invest in infrastructure that makes travel between regional centres and to metropolitan areas faster and easier, including fast rail.
- Improving freight linkages: improving regional freight networks to global gateways and investigating the development of potential air freight hubs in regional NSW that will allow producers to deliver meat, dairy, fruit, nuts and seafood around Australia and the world as quickly as possible.
- Improving digital connectivity across regional NSW: exploring infrastructure to provide faster and more reliable digital connectivity across regional NSW, improving liveability, productivity and innovation in regional NSW. Business cases will explore regional data hubs, high-capacity 'backbone' data links to Sydney, and improved connectivity and data access for businesses.
- Activating regional locations for increased business investment: providing attractive locations and conditions for targeted industries to invest in regional NSW. Work is already underway to build an inland port in Parkes as a Special Activation Precinct that will leverage investment in inland rail. The second Special Activation Precinct has been announced for Wagga Wagga.

Work is already underway on some of these projects and the first studies will be completed in 2019.

## **MINISTER ROB STOKES**

Finally, we caught up with Minister Rob Stokes's office, (Planning and Public Spaces) around our request to amend the LEP to reflect what our communities want which is what Tenterfield Council has - a single rural zone of RU1 and the abolition of the RU2 zones. We also wanted to identify a pathway forward as there is an increased demand for smaller lot rural production and lifestyle lots which are smaller than the current 100 acre minimum. Land use conflicts was another issue raised. The advice received was to incorporate these proposals into our LSPS. The Agriculture Minister attended the Country Mayors meeting to advise his intention to introduce a Right to Farm Policy.

## **JO CHAIRS MEETING - MISCELLANEOUS**

Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women Bronnie Taylor, will be establishing a youth taskforce across nine regions and developing a youth strategy. Youth are classified as 12-24 years old. Applications are currently open.

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Service, Gareth Ward, confirmed that de-identified data on young people at risk was available and accessible through recent reports.

Myself, Isabel Perdriau from the NRJO, Gordon Bradbury from Illawarra/Shoalhaven JO, Jamie Chaffee from Namoi JO and Rowena Abbey from Canberra JO and their respective EOs will spearhead a taskforce to develop terms of reference for a working group for a collaboration model for the JO Chairs.

### **[Attachment 6:](#)**

**Minutes of JO Chairs' Meeting 1 August 2019**

### **[Attachment 7:](#)**

**Response from Deputy Premier Barilaro**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the report be noted

## 7.2 EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

### 1 Strategic Directions

#### **Recognition of Responsibilities associated with JO Chair Role**

Given the increasing time commitment, travel and workload associated with the successful implementation of the Joint Organisation structure, information has been gathered via the NRJO's Engagement Manager to identify what other JOs are doing to address this issue.

There are a number of JOs that are providing remuneration to acknowledge the additional responsibilities. In the case of our Chair, there are flow on implications for the Kyogle Council, with limited resources to absorb additional workload. An allocation from JO Budget will also enable the Chair to fairly compensate the Kyogle Deputy Mayor (\$1,500) for the considerable council matters being addressed in the Mayor's absence on JO related duties.

<b>Joint Organisation</b>	<b>Position on Sitting Fees</b>
Riverina	No sitting fees determined
New England	No sitting fees determined
Illawarra Shoalhaven	No sitting fees determined
Orana	No sitting fees determined
Namoi	No sitting fees determined
Hunter	No sitting fees determined
Far North West	No sitting fees determined
Riverina & Murray	Will pay the Chairperson \$10,000 pa. No sitting fees are paid for other Board members i.e. other Mayors.
Canberra	Will pay the Chairperson \$10,000 pa. The remaining Mayoral Board members will get a sitting fee of \$250 per meeting – with 4 meetings per year
Mid North Coast	Will pay \$250 per voting member per meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board pay the Chairperson \$10,000 in recognition of JO Chair responsibilities.

#### **'Rise of the Regions' Workshop**

Mayors will have seen the email from Linda Scott on LGNSW's commitment to JOs. A forum is being convened in Sydney on 1-2 October 2019 that aims to bring together JOs, ROCs and regional/rural councils. The objective of this forum is to identify common goals among attendees/LGNSW to build a stronger platform for future collaboration.

The program will include case studies of individual JOs, including current objectives and governance opportunities, as well as an update on LGNSW activities, services and key projects. Day two will be a dedicated event for all LGNSW members with a focus on the current and future challenges of drought.

The Chair and EO have nominated for the working group ensure needs are met within the program and will attend the event.

### **Progress with Strategic Regional Priorities**

- Overview provided to State Government Ministerial meetings 30-31 May
- Overview provided to Federal Government Ministers via briefings for Chair for ALGA
- Overview provided at a range of State Government Ministerial meetings 31 July to 1 August
- Presentation on Strategic Regional Priorities to NRM Group at Rous Water, 12 June
- Presentation on Strategic Regional Priorities to RDA Northern Rivers Board in Ballina, 23 July

### **PRIORITY 1 - 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** – Initial meeting on 30 May following the formation of NSW Cabinet with Melinda Pavey to discuss NRWI.

**NSW Minister for Energy and Environment** - Meeting with Deputy Chief of Staff to Matthew Kean on 31 May to discuss advocacy brief and NRWI.

**Federal Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management** - Advocacy material provided to Chair for David Littleproud MP at ALGA

**Federal Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government** - Advocacy material provided to Chair for Mark Coulton MP at ALGA

**Federal Minister for the Environment** - Advocacy material provided to Chair for Susan Ley MP at ALGA

### **PRIORITY 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 Melinda Pavey to discuss NRJO Advocacy brief. Information being compiled for follow through at next meeting.

**Federal Minister for Families and Social Services** - Advocacy brief provided to Chair for presentation to Senator the Hon Anne Ruston MP whilst at ALGA.

### **North Coast Community Housing**

- Liaison ongoing for provision of housing data and regional collaboration opportunities
- EO meeting on 25 June with Chair NCCH, following Chair and CEO meeting with NRJO Chair
- CEO presenting to the 16 August Board meeting on regional solutions



## **Social Futures**

Liaison with leadership team and communications staff in relation to NRJO 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, hosted a roundtable discussion on housing affordability and homelessness on 9 August at the Lismore Workers Club and the EO attended.

This is in response to the dire need for affordable housing, housing supply and homeless support in the Lismore Electorate and the wider region, combined with the large number of people who contact Janelle seeking support and the many agencies and individuals who offer proposals and suggestions on how to tackle this serious issue.

A number of organisations have clearly articulated what is needed and these resources will assist with informed advocacy. A plan of action will be prepared outlining what is needed to address the issues and partnerships within the community to try and secure much-needed resources.

## **PRIORITY 3 - A physically and digitally connected region**

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

## **Roads**

The recent ministerial representations to Minister Toole and the Deputy Premier provided opportune timing to promote the following discussion points:

- 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**

- Monthly implementation meetings with Craig Jenkins, Tim Williamson and the EO
- Advocacy brief and Freight and Supply Chain Strategy Executive Summary provided to Chair for Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP
- Advocacy brief and Freight and Supply Chain Strategy Executive Summary provided to Chair for the Hon Scott Buchholz MP, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport
- Positive relationship has been formed with Jason Clifford, Manager Freight Industry Partnerships, Freight Industry, Customer Strategy and Technology, Transport for NSW. This has enabled us to ensure that there is a two-way communication flow on alignment between progress with our regional plans and the state level strategies.
- As part of the GMs' meeting on 1 July, a roundtable meeting was convened with project stakeholders (DPC, RDANR) and the SCU consultants, to progress the implementation of

this strategy. Jason Clifford and Andris Galvins, Associate Director, Freight Strategy, Customer Strategy & Technology travelled up from Wollongong to present and be part of the workshop.

- Arising from a local implementation meeting on 29 July, current negotiations occurring with SCU on 40 hours of staff time available to commit to identified priorities. The aim of this work is to deliver a report to inform RMS' route selection for the North Coast and to support the upgrade of Bruxner Highway for B-Double access.

**PRIORITY 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 Malcolm Robertson, Senior Project Officer - Regional Preparedness, Climate Resilience Programs Climate Change & Sustainability Division at DPIE, has been ongoing since the EO's first RLE meeting in February. Malcolm advised Tweed was successful in Round 1 of the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change program:

Tweed Shire Council	<b>Fostering behaviour change to reduce the risk of arbovirus threats</b> 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 EO arranged the following:

- 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.
- Workshop for Council staff to identify regional scale projects or individual council projects – the workshop was scheduled for 5 August at Lismore City Council, however, due to low numbers, one-to-one consultations were held rather than workshop format.
- Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Round 2 Webinar held on 24 July 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 Chair for Angus Taylor MP, whilst at ALGA.

**NSW Minister for Energy and Environment** - Meeting with Deputy Chief of Staff to Matthew Kean on 31 May to discuss Waste Levy and Renewable Energy Prospectus. Senior member of EPA staff also in attendance. Arising from this meeting and discussion of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, follow up teleconferences have been held with the Regional Manager, North Coast, Mark Sheahan with the following agenda:

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

#### **Sustain Energy - Northern Rivers Renewable Energy Working Group**

NRJO request for membership of the group accepted and EO attended the recent meeting on 2 July at Lismore City Council.

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

Further teleconference with one of the group members keen to support NRJO initiatives is scheduled for 13 August.

#### **Strategy Manager – Environment LGNSW**

During the end of May Sydney meetings, the EO met with LGNSW on waste levy and council waste charges.

#### **PRIORITY 5 - A diverse, prosperous and sustainable economy**

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

- Successful advocacy representations in May to State Ministers and in August to State Ministers and the Deputy Premier on the removal of Benefit Cost Ratios from Fixing Local Roads and Timber Bridges programs.
- **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development** - advocacy brief provided to Chair for Michael McCormack at ALGA on Removal of BCRs from funding criteria.
- Follow up from Environment Minister's office meetings end May and positive response to NRJO's project on UNESCO Biosphere Status application.
- EO has done background research on UNESCO Biosphere Status application and governance process.
- Tweed Council has supplied some valuable information on its investigations and reporting on UNESCO Biosphere Status application and governance process.

#### **Advocacy and Media**

#### **JO Chairs and EO Meetings 31 July – 1 August**

A media release was prepared following the most recent Sydney meetings and the outcomes of these advocacy discussions that the Chair has reported on in detail within the Chair's report. The media release distributed on 8 August had a focus on JO funding and BCR removal.

The EO presented a workshop on the elements of effective advocacy to the JO EO network meeting.

**ALGA Conference** - Advocacy Brief Folders prepared and provided to Cr Mulholland for presentation to Federal Ministers whilst in Canberra for ALGA in June.

### **Future Northern Rivers Campaign and Bernard Salt Event**

Councils were well represented at a Meet the Editor event for sponsors and stakeholders at the Lismore City Hall on 21 May, where Bernard Salt's preliminary data on the region was presented. This provided an opportunity for input into the key aspects of the important strategic aspects of our region to be fed back through for analysis. The Mayors' double page spreads were completed for regional papers, and an overview piece drawing together individual council themes was prepared for the Chair in the same publications appearing in the last week in June.

The lunch event on 11 June was well attended with 160 industry, business and community members in attendance, including 16 from the regional councils.

A planning meeting was held on 28 June at SCU Lismore Campus to progress the follow up Think Tank session and ensure a comprehensive attendee list – organising committee comprising RDA NR, NR Business Chamber and NRJO. On Tuesday 6 August, attendees at the Think Tank were supported by table facilitators and allocated to key themes of Social, Economic and Environmental. Participants were expertly guided through the process by Steve Tighe, a leading advisor to business on the future, strategy and innovation. Steve has worked internationally with some leading companies, exploring future scenarios for their industry and designing innovative strategies in response.

The outcomes from the "Outrageously Ambitious Goals" identification are being compiled into a report. These have now been sent to table facilitators for further input. The group will re-convene soon to map out a framework. The end result will be a "Blueprint" for the region, a strategic document that will be used by multiple organisations, agencies and levels of Government.

Bernard Salt will be looking into the future of greater Ballina at the official launch of the Aureus beachfront community at Skennars Head on 11 August. The developers, Intrapac Property, are bringing Bernard back to the region as part of the launch of one of the last remaining beachfront land releases on the eastern seaboard.

### **ABC North Coast Lismore**

ABC radio contacted the EO requesting a collation of the total amounts each individual council pays for the waste levy and the amounts returned through the competitive grant process. The Chair provided some commentary and ABC also received information from Minister Kean's office.

### **Sustainability Lift Out – Byron Shire Echo**

NRJO took out advertising in the council section of the lift out. Now in its 11th year, The Echo's annual Sustainability supplement was published on 26 June. The paper has a readership of 29,000 with 23,200 copies of the supplement printed and distributed. 'Sustainability' is designed to be kept

across the year as a reference for the community on sustainable choice and behaviour. It is available as a digital version for 12 months via a home button on the Echo website.

This supplement provides a comprehensive reference for people wanting to make informed, sustainable choices. It will also be published as a digital publication and promoted throughout the year in Echonetdaily.

## **2 Relationships and Networks**

### **Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)**

#### **DPC Regional, Department of Premier and Cabinet**

##### **Regional Leadership Executive**

At the 23 May meeting of the RLE, the group considered the Machinery of Government changes, and the announcement of the Premier's Priorities:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/the-premier/media-releases-from-the-premier/ambitious-targets-at-the-heart-of-new-premiers-priorities/>

In advance of the 29 August meeting, comment will be sought on NRJO projects, which come under the mapped strategic priority areas (see attachment). All members of the RLE have been asked to review and advise of any initiatives in the focus areas that could benefit from whole of government effort. Considered through the lens of the four priority areas of:

- Improving outcomes for Regional Youth
- Local leadership, employment and skills development
- Strengthening the Region's adaptability and sustainability for the future.
- Place based and local solutions to strengthen communities

#### **Attachment 8:**

##### **RLE Strategic Priority Areas**

#### **Joint Meeting of NRJO and MNCJO and Parliamentary Showcase on Regional Food**

As outlined in the email of 15 July, an agenda for a Joint Meeting of NRJO and MNCJO (see draft attached) is being formulated and the meeting will be held at NSW Parliament around mid-November to align with parliamentary sitting days. The suggestion has been put forward to also include Tim Hurst, Deputy Secretary for Local Government, Planning and Policy.

#### **Attachment 9:**

##### **Draft Joint JO Meeting agenda**

In the interests of maximising our exposure for producers and enabling a reasonable timeframe for planning, we have decided to hold the Parliamentary Showcase in February 2020. The EO has made contact with Northern Rivers Food EO and there is enthusiastic support for involvement in this event.

The Showcase has a project brief that has been broadly drafted as follows:

- Aim for 20 producers to display goods
- Audience is parliamentarians, chefs, providores, distributors for business matching
- Workshop for training of producers

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That the Board discuss the joint meeting agenda and parliamentary showcase opportunity, and endorse these initiatives.*

#### **Department of Environment and Heritage**

Prior to the Machinery of Government changes arising from the State Election, liaison was established with the Office of Environment and Heritage Regional Director and introductions to relevant officers to discuss alignment of NRJO priorities. Teleconference on 8 May with Regional Energy Co-ordinator North East NSW, Sustainability Programs (based in Armidale) lead to provision of an overall mapping document highlighting support, resources and opportunities to consider. (See attachment)

#### **Attachment 10:**

#### **OEH Priority alignment**

**Marine Estate Management Strategy** - Presentation by Office of Environment and Heritage (now under DPIE cluster) to GMs on 3 June, then a workshop for council staff was well attended on Wednesday 17 July at Ballina Shire Council.

The MEMS is a framework for the NSW Government to coordinate the management of the marine estate over the next ten years. Council staff along the coast provided input at various stages of the MEMS development. \$45.7 has been allocated to the MEMS in the first two years (Stage 1 - to June 2020) to implement over 30 projects under nine initiatives. An Implementation Plan is currently being finalised, in consultation with council staff, and highlights the close working relationships on various projects between state and local government. Many projects (and funding) focus on improving water quality and catchment health. Funding for Stage 2 (post June 2020) will see opportunities for further projects to align with Councils' Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) and other works.

#### **Northern Region Delivery Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DCMC) for the North Coast Regional Plan 2036**

Following the Regional Leadership Executive Meeting in Coffs Harbour on 23 May, the EO was invited to formally request membership as NRJO representative on the DCMC for the North Coast Regional Plan 2036. Jeremy Gray, Director Regions, Northern, Local & Regional Planning confirmed on 27 May, welcoming contribution and representation on behalf of the Northern Rivers Councils JO.

#### **Funding Grant - NSW Regional Business Power Infrastructure Upgrade Program (RBPIUP)**

On 22 July, the Chair signed a funding agreement with the Department, whereby NRJO will administer funding for a pilot program previously managed by DPC Regional NSW. The team in

DPIE will continue to assess and approve applications, with NRJO paying the invoices once provided by approved applicants. There will be minimal transactions involved from commencement to completion and DPIE will provide a 5% administration fee, providing \$25,000 income to the JO.

- A. \$500,000 has been budgeted to deliver the pilot NSW Regional Business Power Infrastructure Upgrade Program (RBPIUP) which was established to assist businesses to overcome electrical infrastructure impediments that are preventing growth.*
- B. The NSW Government seeks the services of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation to provide administrative functions for the payment of grants to successful applicants of the pilot RBPIUP.*
- C. The Provider will provide the Joint Organisation with financial assistance from the Fund (the Funding) and the Joint Organisation agrees to accept the Funding in accordance with the terms of this Deed.*

### **Department of Industry – Regional Water Strategies**

On 28 May, Rous Water convened a meeting of stakeholders to discuss the development of the Regional Water Strategy. The EO attended and met Andrew Craig, Senior Water Strategy Officer, Regional Water Strategies at Department of Industry (based in Wollongong) and has continued regular liaison.

DoI Regional Water Strategies meeting was convened on 5 July (agenda attached) at Wollongbar Agriculture Institute on Regional Urban Water Planning (Rous, NRJO, Tweed, Water NSW, DoI Water) with a separate meeting to follow on Toonumbar Options (Rous, Water NSW, DoI Water).

As a follow up to the July meeting and with the Board's previous desire to apply for funding, a submission has been lodged by Rous Water on behalf of NRJO under the Safe and Secure Water Program for the development of Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategies.

### **[Attachment 11:](#)**

#### **Regional Water Strategies agenda**

### **Northern Rivers Regional Deal**

The Chair invited the EO to attend a meeting in Kyogle on 14 June with the Lismore Mayor and GM. An update was provided on regional consultations and activities to date, as well as draft documentation including a concept plan and Ministerial Briefing Note for scheduled department and ministerial meetings.

A subsequent breakfast meeting was held during July which the NRJO Chair attended. The JO's role in progressing this deal has not yet been fully defined.

### **Northern Rivers Branding Project**

The Steering Committee (SC) met on 27 June and discussed the next phases of the project following the successful and positive stakeholder forum held 30 May.

The North Coast Ad Agency delivered a presentation to the SC on 11 July reporting on the completion of Stage 1. The recent focus groups have yielded some very rich data that will add value across other projects and pitch documents to government. Participants have highlighted the values

held within the Northern Rivers with emphasis on the area's uniqueness, bespoke nature and biodiversity. The report identifies Nature/Connecting/Community to be at the heart of our brand essence, with a sample size indicating 80% in support of the development of a regional brand.

### Indicative Program

Stage I – Stakeholder Forum	Indicative Date
Proposal presentation and interview of shortlisted consultants	Completed
Consultancy Services appointed	Completed
Inception meeting with Project Steering Committee (PSC)	Completed
Forum with stakeholders	Completed
Follow up interviews completed with selected stakeholders	Completed
Stage I – Report completed	Completed
Stage II – Brand development and management solution	
Consultancy services appointed	SC Meeting 19 August
Presentation of choice of brand for review by PSC	By 16 August 2019
Presentation of the Northern Rivers Brand Management Strategy	By 30 August 2019
Submission of Final Brand Package	By 13 September 2019

### Steering Committee

- Simon Stahl, NCMC
- Tanya Crowther, NORCO
- Allison Henry, Northern Rivers Food
- Jane Laverty, NSW Business Chamber
- Isabel Perdriau, NRJO
- Michael Thurston, Destination North Coast
- Tim Williamson, RDA Northern Rivers
- Lenna Klintworth, DPIE

### Young Innovators Northern Rivers Initiative

A collaborative project financially supported by NRJO and developed as an outcome of the Thinking Differently Summit held in November 2018 and the collaboratively established Northern Rivers Young Entrepreneurs Fund. NR Business Chamber and SCU are leading the project and provided the below status update.

The Summit, Fund and Young Innovators initiative all revolve around driving awareness in the region of the innovative and entrepreneurial talent of young people in the Northern Rivers. By raising this awareness, we are highlighting the advantages for local business and industry in tapping into this young talent to build their 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce and also supporting young people who



would like to pursue their own entrepreneurial idea or showcase their problem-solving capability within a community minded and supportive environment to do so.

The project steering group has initiated the Young Innovators Northern Rivers Challenge as the vehicle for allocation of the Fund's \$1,500 per LGA allocation, plus the Tursa top up of \$1,500 for a young person with a disability, to support the development of local young entrepreneurs and their innovative ideas.

### **Youth Summit**

The Youth Agency Network (convened by Damon McCarthy of State Training) workshopped a proposal on 17 July, which gained very broad support from approximately 40 stakeholders from across the region. The group expressed the desire for NRJO to auspice an application for Stronger Country Communities funding. In a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee on 2 August, Murwillumbah was agreed as a great venue.

The Youth Summit will bring something new, as traditional Careers Expo formats simply are not keeping pace with young people's expectations and piquing their interest in the array of amazing options available to them. The summit will deliver inspiring sessions for 12-24-year-olds, with appropriate events tailored to age cohorts across a Friday and Saturday. Activities will focus on the three key themes of Employment, Wellbeing and Training.

Spreading the event footprint via 'satellite events' is a goal, whilst respecting and augmenting long established events in the other LG areas. It is thought that the format, stakeholders and some resources could be shared with these local events with not much financial cost to the overall main event. It is noted that there is no such event that we are aware of held in the Tweed Shire.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board endorse the NRJO Stronger Country Communities funding application and alignment with related individual council events.

### **Healthy Communities Northern Rivers**

The process is being managed by the Local Health District and the plan is currently out for feedback on the second draft.

## **3 Local Government Issues and Initiatives**

### **Local Government Procurement**

Information is being gathered via the General Managers in response to a request from Lismore City Council and the Procurement group.

The request involves LGP rebates being directed towards procurement initiatives. Investment in the VendorPanel software is currently under consideration by a number of member councils and is in the vicinity of \$90,000, however, actual costs not yet received. Lismore, Kyogle, Byron and Tweed are supportive of a contribution of NRJO funds being directed towards this software cost

Ballina does not see the value in VendorPanel and has suggested that the rebates would be better spent on regional tender coordination.

LGP has also forwarded an MoU for renewal of membership, however, rebate amounts are also still being calculated.

A full report and recommendations will be provided as soon as all information is available.

### **Far North Coast Building and Development Group**

The EO presented to the group on 14 May 2019 regarding possibilities for resource sharing of professional staff via employment by NRJO and subsequently worked with our OLG Engagement Manager to prepare a briefing note to the LG Minister re solutions to skill shortages.

These discussions have explored the possibility of NRJO becoming an employer unit and hiring building professionals/recent retirees on PT basis.

The EO has met with the Hunter JO to look at their models and a presentation was also provided to the recent JO EO workshop in Sydney.

It is noted that LGNSW also has skills shortages as one of its advocacy areas: Fund a new, annual \$10 million program to increase the number of cadets, apprentices, trainees and university graduates employed by councils.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Board approve a consultant to be engaged to work with the EO and regional HR staff on a proposal for establishing a regional unit to address the shortage in building and development professionals.

### 7.3 BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL – Multi Use of the Byron Shire Rail Corridor - Final Report

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#### **Background**

Following a Mayoral Minute in late 2016 ([Report 8.1 15/12/16](#)), Byron Shire Council resolved to support an investigation into the feasibility of reactivating the rail corridor from Bangalow to Yelgun for multi-use transport applications.

Council engaged Arcadis Australia Pacific Pty Ltd (Arcadis) to undertake a feasibility study into the reactivation of the rail corridor, focussing on the three components:

1. **Engineering Assessment:** to understand the existing condition of the corridor between Bangalow and Yelgun; its potential for multi-modal uses; the key risk areas; and costs of addressing infrastructure improvements.
2. **Social Impact Assessment:** to identify and analyse potential positive and adverse impacts to ensure that the needs of people affected by the proposed project are fully taken into account.
3. **Economic Feasibility Study:** to understand net benefits of identified project options over the asset life of the rail infrastructure both above and below ground; taking into consideration the benefits, (dis-benefits) and costs; to Council, all levels of Government, residents and tourists, alike.

Arcadis's investigations concluded that there is a community and economic need to reactivate the corridor to address a number of transport challenges in the Shire. The engineering inspections highlighted that the corridor is in reasonable condition and, although the existing trackform, alignment and structures will not support high speed heavy rail without significant reparation, the engineering condition assessment concluded that it has the capacity to support very light rail vehicles at moderate speeds.

A number of variable options were therefore considered with the following options further developed to inform the economic modelling and social impact assessment:

1. Very light rail (VLR) – trains with axle loads equal to or under 4 tonnes;
2. Hi-Rail – passenger vehicles utilising the rails that are adapted to also run on roads (i.e. can convert between rail and tyre wheels);
3. AV vehicles/ driverless pods – requires removal of existing rail infrastructure to construct a road within the corridor;
4. Guided busway – requires removal of the rails and construction of new pavement. Each of these above solutions would include active transport, through separate paths for pedestrians and cyclists
5. Active transport, cycle, mobility scooters and walking – looking at two solutions;
  - a. one that removes the existing rail structure and
  - b. another that leaves the rails in place.

Multi-criteria analysis undertaken highlighted that Dual Mode Vehicles and cycling facilities (rail with trail), AV Vehicles and cycling (pods with trail) and multi-use cycling, pedestrian and mobility

facility, provide greater flexibility and present cost effective and fit for purpose solutions for the corridor.

The economic assessment showed that for multi-use rail options, every \$1 spent provides near to or over \$1.00 in return, showing that usage of the existing rail infrastructure combined with active transport is not only socially beneficial, environmentally recycling and a healthy option but also, is economically viable.

Single use options that only include active (rail trail) and involved removing and replacing existing infrastructure were estimated to return less than a \$1.00 for every \$1.00 of investment.

The Final Summary Report on the Multi Use Rail Corridor Byron Shire Corridor prepared by Arcadis was presented at the 27 June 2019 Council meeting ([Report 13.16](#)) along with confidential attachments.

The [Final Summary Report](#) and related documents (excluding any appendices that include specific commercial in confidence information including that of Council) are available to view on Council' website at

<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Community/Place-planning/MURC>.

Council at its 27 June 2019 Ordinary Meeting resolved ([Res 19-335](#)) that Council “*request an agenda item on the activation of the regional rail corridor be added to the next Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Agenda*”.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT NRJO discuss the background provided in this report noting the clear local and regional tourism, environmental, economic and social benefits identified.

Mark Arnold

General Manager

Byron Shire Council

## 7.4 STATEMENT OF REVENUE POLICY

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### Introduction

This document constitutes the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Statement of Revenue Policy and is prepared in accordance with section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 (“the Act”).

The Revenue Policy includes the following statements for the year 2019-2020 financial year:

- a) an estimate of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation income and expenditure;
- b) each membership and non-voting membership fee;
- c) types of fees to be charged by the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and the amounts of each such fee;
- d) amounts of external borrowings, the sources from where these are to be borrowed, and the means by which these are to be secured; and
- e) any other such matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.

The statements in the Revenue Policy with respect to membership and non-voting membership fee include, as required, the following particulars:

- a) the base amount of the membership and non-voting membership fee;
- b) the ad valorem amount (the amount in the dollar) membership and non-voting membership fee;
- c) in the case of project participant fees the estimated amount and principle behind the application of this fee; and
- d) any expectations agreed by the membership regarding the fees.

### Factors Influencing Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Revenue and Pricing Policy

The following factors will influence the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation’s revenue and pricing policy.

#### Community service obligations

A community service obligation arises where a council provides a function or service that has general community benefits beyond those received by direct users.

Councils generally provide services that are considered to have community importance but are not viable or practical to be provided on a commercial basis.

Councils review their level of Community Service Obligations as they relate to fees and charges.

Where such a community service obligation may exist across the membership of the Councils, the Councils may consider the community service obligation as a group.

#### Cost recovery

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation applies the principle of full cost recovery to determine the total cost of services.

### **The user-pays principle**

The User-Pays Principle involves pricing the provision of goods, projects, services and facilities that require the user or the consumer to pay the actual cost of the service provided.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation may apply this pricing policy for the provision of project works and activities to businesses or members of the community.

### **Corporate overheads**

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation corporate overheads are for governance, employment, administration functions and compliance required to deliver on the Strategic Regional Plan and the annual Business Plan.

### **Competitive neutrality**

Competitive Neutrality is one of the principles of National Competition Policy applied throughout Australia at all levels of Government, including Local Government. Competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a “level playing field” for competitors in a market, be they public or private sector competitors. All Government business organisations should operate without net competitive advantages over businesses as a result of their public ownership.

Where Northern Rivers Joint Organisation competes in the market place with other private businesses, Northern Rivers Joint Organisation will do so on the basis that it does not utilise its public position to gain an unfair advantage over private businesses that may be in competition with Northern Rivers Joint Organisation or the Councils.

### **Goods and services tax**

The Federal Government’s Goods and Services Tax (GST) must be applied to non-exempt fees and charges. The current rate of the GST is 10% and is included in the price paid by the recipient of the service. The GST indicators (GST exempt or not) in the list of fees and charges are subject to change at any time from changes that occur in the GST Act and/or regulations.

### **Ordinary Membership policy**

Each member council is to contribute a monetary payment or equivalent contribution based on the following methodology:

- a) an equal share of 50% of the required annual membership fees, plus
- b) a share of the remaining 50% of the required annual membership fees apportioned by population using the latest census population figures from the ABS by LGA

Member councils will be consulted about proposed contributions by:

- a) Draft budgets for each financial year are to be presented at the February meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation in order for the proposed annual membership fees to be identified before each member Council commences the budget cycle for the upcoming financial year.

Ordinary Membership fees are to increase by 25% from 2019/20.

### **Fees for service**

#### **Approved fees for service**

Section 608 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation may charge and recover an approved fee for any service it provides, other than a service provided, or proposed to be provided on an annual basis for which it is authorised or required to make an annual charge under Section 496 or 501 of the Act.

Section 609 of the Act provides that when determining the approved fee, the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation must take into account the following factors:

- a. the cost of the Council providing the service;
- b. the price suggested for that service by any relevant industry body or in any schedule of charges published, from time to time, by the Division of Local Government;
- c. the importance of the service to the community; and
- d. any factors specified in the regulations under the Act.

### **Credit card surcharge**

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation imposes a Credit Card Surcharge on all payments made via credit card in accordance with Reform of Credit Card Schemes in Australia (iv) and Final Reforms and Regulation Impact Statement August 2002.

### **Private works**

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation may carry out any kind of work that may lawfully be carried out. Private work will be carried out on the basis of a charge representing full cost recovery of the work carried out plus a margin for profit. The profit margin is dependent on and subject to market forces applying at the time.

## **Adopted Forward Financial Plan**

The budget below was adopted at the 3 May 2019 meeting, subject to the notes included in the report.

Item	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>Operating Revenues</b>							
Membership Fees	102,893	102,900	128,600	160,800	201,000	251,300	257,600
MyRoadInfo Fees	32,800	32,800	33,600	34,400	35,300	36,200	37,100
LG Procurement Rebate	30,087	10,000	10,300	10,600	10,900	11,200	11,500
State Gov't Contribution	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0
Interest	6,387	7,000	8,000	5,000	2,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>172,167</b>	<b>452,700</b>	<b>180,500</b>	<b>210,800</b>	<b>249,200</b>	<b>299,700</b>	<b>307,200</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
Bank Charges	7	100	100	100	100	100	100



Conferences, Events, Travel	0	10,000	10,300	10,600	10,900	11,200	11,500
Professional Development	0	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,400	5,500
Exec Officer - Salary/Oncosts	45,004	90,000	92,300	94,600	97,000	99,400	101,900
Exec Officer - Vehicle	0	8,000	8,200	8,400	8,600	8,800	9,000
Exec Officer - Support (RDA)	0	50,000	57,600	57,600	57,600	57,600	57,600
Exec Officer - Office (Rous)	0	25,000	25,600	26,200	26,900	27,600	28,300
MyRoadInfo	27,250	27,900	28,600	29,300	30,000	30,800	31,600
Professional Fees – Audit	0	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,400	5,500
Media and Communications	0	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,400	5,500
Record Storage	209	500	500	500	500	500	500
Regional Projects	15,364	150,000	150,000	150,000	100,000	50,000	51,300
Sundry Expenses	1,475	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,309</b>	<b>378,500</b>	<b>390,500</b>	<b>394,900</b>	<b>349,500</b>	<b>304,200</b>	<b>310,100</b>
<b>Net Cash Movement</b>	<b>82,858</b>	<b>74,200</b>	<b>(210,350)</b>	<b>(184,100)</b>	<b>(100,300)</b>	<b>(4,500)</b>	<b>(3,100)</b>
Retained Earnings - 1 July	388,580	471,400	545,600	335,250	151,150	50,850	46,350
Retained Earnings - 30 June	471,400	545,600	335,250	151,150	50,850	46,350	43,250

#### Adopted Annual Membership Fees

Item	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>Membership Fees</b>							
Ballina Shire	17,567	17,567	21,900	27,400	34,200	42,600	43,700
Byron Shire	15,067	15,067	19,300	24,100	30,100	37,600	38,500
Kyogle	9,924	9,924	13,100	16,400	20,500	25,500	26,100
Lismore City	18,307	18,307	22,200	27,700	34,600	43,200	44,300
Richmond Valley	13,084	13,084	16,700	20,800	26,000	32,500	33,300
Tweed Shire	28,944	28,944	35,400	44,400	55,700	69,800	71,700
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>102,893</b>	<b>102,893</b>	<b>128,600</b>	<b>160,800</b>	<b>201,000</b>	<b>251,300</b>	<b>257,600</b>
<b>Annual Increase (%)</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

## Notes

Accurate forecasting through to 2023/24 is impacted by the State Govt Contribution to be announced in May, with revenue forecasts previously done based on establishment funds paid only for the first year of NRJO operations. Depending on the ongoing funding decision by State Govt and discussion at this Board meeting, the budget for coming financial years will need to be revised.

As discussed with our Chairperson, it is up to the Board to determine where to allocate funds and then the budget will be set in light of this and the quantum of the State Govt Contribution.

The key assumptions in preparing the 2018/19 budget have been taken into account and for the financial forecast for the 2019/20 year and the following areas are highlighted:

### Income

**Membership Fees** – endorsed by GMs Group 1 April. In terms of previous decisions, fees remained the same going into the 2018/19 year. Due to increased operating costs and to compensate for establishment funds paid in year one only, fees increase by 25% per annum for a period of four years from 2019/20 to 2022/23 and then by CPI, enabling NRJO to operate on a sustainable basis from 2023/24 onwards

**LG Procurement rebate** - will be advised before 30 June upon the conclusion of the Stakeholder Engagement Program. It is LJP's intention to offer a multiple year MoU from 2019/20. Previously a nominal allowance of \$10,000 was included for 2018/19 onwards.

**State Government Contribution** – to be determined at meetings with JOs to be held in May.

**Interest** – if fixed term investment recommendation is agreed to, this will change.

### Expenses

**Exec Officer Salary/Oncosts** – During the recent discussion on the EO performance review process, the contracted 21 hours was flagged for further consideration of additional hours to more adequately meet the operational and strategic aspects of the role. This note foreshadows a future report.

**Exec Officer - Office/Rous** – \$25,600 reduces to \$5,000, this option to be re-visited later in 2019

**Regional Projects** - The Board will provide direction on additional funding allocation to implement the Strategic Regional Priorities and requirements around advocating for policy changes.

- Arising from the GMs meeting on 1 April, a commitment has been agreed for \$20,000 pa for three years for an ARC Linkage Project by QUT and JCU 'The Rise of the Lifestyle Town'

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board adopt the Statement of Revenue Policy for 2019-20

## 7.5 NRJO – APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2018-2019

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In May 2019, notification from the Audit Office of NSW was received, advising that Thomas, Noble and Russell had been appointed to deliver the audit of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

An Audit Engagement Plan has been received which outlines the key areas of focus, audit approach, timetable, fees and standard terms of engagement.

This document has been sent under separate cover and will be discussed under the Confidential Reports section of the meeting papers.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the NRJO accept the Audit Engagement Plan as received.

## 7.6 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR NRJO AT 30 JUNE 2019 – DRAFT ONLY

	2018/19 Budget	2018/19 Actual	2017/18 NOROC
<b><u>Operating Revenues</u></b>			
Membership Fees	102,900	102,893	102,893
Myroadinfo Fees	32,800	33,725	32,800
LG Procurement Rebate	10,000	36,602	30,087
State Gov't Contribution	300,000	300,000	-
Interest	7,000	7,061	6,387
<b>Total</b>	<b>452,700</b>	<b>480,282</b>	<b>172,167</b>
<b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b>			
Bank Charges	100	76	7
Conferences, Events, Travel	10,000	7,967	-
Professional Development	5,000	-	-
Exec Officer - Salary/Oncosts/Recruit	90,000	41,031	45,004
Exec Officer - Computer		2,130	-
Exec Officer - Vehicle Allowance	8,000	4,290	-
Exec Officer - Support (RDA)	50,000	76,800	-
Exec Officer - Office (Rous)	25,000	-	-
MyRoadInfo	27,900	17,350	27,250
Professional Fees – Audit	5,000	6,500	-
Media and Communications <i>Banners &amp; Logos</i>	5,000	620	-
Record Storage	500		209
Regional Projects	150,000	128,158	15,364
Sundry Expenses	2,000	2,497	1,475
<b>Total</b>	<b>378,500</b>	<b>287,419</b>	<b>89,309</b>

**Balance Sheet**

As of June 2019

<b>Assets</b>			
Cash			
Summerland Community First		\$552,955.38	
Summerland Saver		\$639,577.82	
Debit Card - Chair		\$1,060.47	
Debit Card - Exec Officer		\$2,160.54	
Debtors			
Trade Debtors		\$2,090.00	
Sundry Debtors		\$582.65	
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>\$1,198,426.86</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors			
Trade Creditors	\$11,000.00		
Sundry Creditors/Accruals	\$6,500.00		
Income in Advance/Unearned			
Unearned/Unexpended Revenue	\$500,000.00		
GST Liability			
GST Collected	\$50,028.72		
GST paid	-\$7,041.29		
Payroll Liabilities			
PAYG	\$1,588.00		
Provision - Staff entitlements	\$2,595.86		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			<b>\$564,671.29</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>\$633,755.57</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Earnings		\$440,892.93	
Current Year Earnings		\$192,862.50	
Historical Balancing		\$0.14	
<b>Total Equity</b>			<b>\$633,755.57</b>

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

**Profit & Loss Statement**

July 2018 To June 2019

PO Box 146  
LISMORE NSW 2480

ABN: 68 587 813 167

Email: admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Income		
Grants		
Office of Local Government	\$300,000.00	
Projects		
Membership	\$102,893.00	
Myroadinfo	\$33,725.00	
LG Procurement Rebate	\$36,602.40	
Other Income		
Interest Received	\$7,061.41	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$480,281.81</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>\$480,281.81</b>
Expenses		
Operational Expenses		
Computer ISP and Registrations	\$1,251.05	
Myroadinfo costs	\$17,350.00	
Consultants	\$12,950.00	
Phone charges	\$714.48	
Postage	\$13.23	
Stationery	\$152.30	
Support services - Admin contr	\$76,800.00	
Payroll and Staff Expenses		
Direct Staff Expenses		
Wages	\$29,918.69	
Allowances	\$4,290.00	
Superannuation	\$2,842.29	
Provision for Staff Entitlementen	\$2,595.86	
Other Staff Expenses		
Mileage	\$362.74	
Recruitment	\$3,818.18	
Travel expenses (non payroll)	\$6,328.70	
Travel - Meals	\$149.63	
Training/Prof Devt/Workshops	\$59.09	
Workers Comp Insurance	\$1,493.66	
Property Expenses		
Other	\$41.36	
Financial, Legal, Professional		
Bank charges	\$76.24	
Audit Fees	\$6,500.00	
Marketing, Promotional, Events		
Printing	\$2,596.36	
Banners / Logos	\$620.00	
Event Catering	\$648.18	
Other Event Costs	\$13,820.91	
Regional Projects		
Project Contributions	\$98,000.00	
Board and Committee Expenses		
Meeting Catering	\$1,715.91	
Equipment & Computers		
Computer Equipment	\$2,129.54	
Office Furniture/Equip	\$180.91	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$287,419.31</b>

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

## Profit & Loss Statement

July 2018 To June 2019

ABN: 68 587 813 167

Email: [admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au)

Operating Profit	\$192,862.50
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$192,862.50

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

**Job Profit & Loss Statement**

July 2018 To June 2019

Account Name	Selected Period	Year To Date
<b>A100</b>	<b>Operational expenses</b>	
<b>Income</b>		
Office of Local Government	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
Membership	\$102,893.00	\$102,893.00
LG Procurement Rebate	\$36,602.40	\$36,602.40
Interest Received	\$7,061.41	\$7,061.41
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$446,556.81</b>	<b>\$446,556.81</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Computer ISP and Registrations	\$1,251.05	\$1,251.05
Phone charges	\$714.48	\$714.48
Stationery	\$152.30	\$152.30
Support services - Admin contr	\$76,800.00	\$76,800.00
Wages	\$29,918.69	\$29,918.69
Allowances	\$4,290.00	\$4,290.00
Superannuation	\$2,842.29	\$2,842.29
Provision for Staff Entitlemen	\$2,595.86	\$2,595.86
Mileage	\$362.74	\$362.74
Recruitment	\$3,818.18	\$3,818.18
Travel expenses (non payroll)	\$3,196.45	\$3,196.45
Travel - Meals	\$144.63	\$144.63
Training/Prof Devt/Workshops	\$59.09	\$59.09
Workers Comp Insurance	\$1,493.66	\$1,493.66
Other	\$41.36	\$41.36
Bank charges	\$76.24	\$76.24
Audit Fees	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Printing	\$116.00	\$116.00
Banners / Logos	\$620.00	\$620.00
Project Contributions	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Meeting Catering	\$1,388.63	\$1,388.63
Computer Equipment	\$2,129.54	\$2,129.54
Office Furniture/Equip	\$180.91	\$180.91
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$146,692.10</b>	<b>\$146,692.10</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$299,864.71</b>	<b>\$299,864.71</b>
<b>A102</b>	<b>Chair costs</b>	
<b>Expense</b>		
Postage	\$13.23	\$13.23
Travel expenses (non payroll)	\$3,132.25	\$3,132.25
Travel - Meals	\$5.00	\$5.00
Printing	\$69.09	\$69.09
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$3,219.57</b>	<b>\$3,219.57</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>-\$3,219.57</b>	<b>-\$3,219.57</b>

**B101** **Regional Priorities Workshops**

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.



**Job Profit & Loss Statement**

July 2018 To June 2019

Account Name	Selected Period	Year To Date
<b>Expense</b>		
Consultants	\$12,950.00	\$12,950.00
Printing	\$2,411.27	\$2,411.27
Event Catering	\$417.93	\$417.93
Other Event Costs	\$12,660.91	\$12,660.91
Meeting Catering	\$327.28	\$327.28
Total Expense	\$28,767.39	\$28,767.39
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$28,767.39	-\$28,767.39
<b>B102 Freight and Supply Chain Study</b>		
<b>Expense</b>		
Event Catering	\$230.25	\$230.25
Other Event Costs	\$1,160.00	\$1,160.00
Project Contributions	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Total Expense	\$51,390.25	\$51,390.25
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$51,390.25	-\$51,390.25
<b>B103 Biodiversity Legislation Refor</b>		
<b>Expense</b>		
Project Contributions	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Total Expense	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$40,000.00	-\$40,000.00
<b>C101 Myroadinfo</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Myroadinfo	\$33,725.00	\$33,725.00
Total Income	\$33,725.00	\$33,725.00
<b>Expense</b>		
Myroadinfo costs	\$17,350.00	\$17,350.00
Total Expense	\$17,350.00	\$17,350.00
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$16,375.00	\$16,375.00

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the contents of the NRJO financial report for the period ending 30 June 2019 be received and noted.

## 7.7 NRJO AGENCY INFORMATION GUIDE

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As part of the Joint Organisation's reporting obligations under the GIPA Act, an annual Publications Guide must be submitted. The document below has been developed in consultation with the Office of Local Government and requires Board ratification.

### **Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Agency Information Guide**

This Agency Information Guide for the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) identifies who we are, what we do and how members of the public, community organisations, the media and government agencies can interact with us.

It is updated regularly, including an annual review each year to ensure that it provides an accurate picture of our work in implementing right to information reforms in New South Wales. We also report annually to the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) on our obligations under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act 2009).

#### **Who we are**

In 2017 the NSW Government passed legislation to establish a network of Joint Organisations to strengthen collaboration between local councils and government with the goal of driving better planning, economic development and service delivery in NSW.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) was formed in June 2018 and represents the Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed Local Government Areas.

With representation by the Mayors and General Managers of each Council, NRJO's role is to facilitate and lead advocacy, political representation and cooperative action on matters of regional significance.

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.

NRJO staff comprises a part time Executive Officer (21 hours). Administration support is provided under service agreement by Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers.

Information about our Board can be found on the website under on the [NRJO website](#).

#### **Our vision**

A unified region of well connected, integrated communities affording its people a unique balance of place, lifestyle and opportunity which is known to the nation and the world for its outstanding environmental and scenic values, commitment to sustainability, respect for Aboriginal culture, openness to visitors, entrepreneurial drive, creative and collective spirit and culture, and support for our primary producers.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation will act in accordance with the following principles:

- To provide a forum and vehicle for cooperative action on issues of regional significance and concern to local government requiring advocacy and/or political representation.
- To act as an advocate for the region to the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments to advance the interests of the region;
- To seek from Governments, financial assistance, legislative and/or policy changes and additional resources required by the region.

## **What we do**

The principal functions of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation will be to:

- establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities
- provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities
- identify and take up opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation on matters relating to the joint organisation area.

## **How our activities impact on the public**

As the key advocacy group for local government in the Northern Rivers, NRJO is the recognised voice for our region's Councils. In addition NRJO engages in 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.

## **How the public can access information held by us**

NRJO's policy is to be transparent and accessible. The public has a right to the information held by NRJO, as long as it does not infringe privacy laws or other laws or may be detrimental to any person.

Access to information may occur in one of four ways: open access information, proactive release, informal release and formal access applications as a last resort. Please visit our [web page](#) for more information.

Open access information that is available on our website includes

- publications
- policy documents
- publication guide
- register of contracts valued at \$150,000 or more.

In most cases we publish information on the website, if not in total, then in summary or lists. If you would like to access information which is not available on the website, please contact our office on telephone 02 6622 4011.

[Click here for more information on how to access information held by us.](#)

### **Application fees and processing charges**

The application fee for making an access application is \$30. Processing charges can also be imposed at the rate of \$30 per hour. In some circumstances an advance deposit can be required. We will let you know in writing if that applies to your application. Certain discounts may apply, including on financial hardship and public interest grounds – for more details see the Information Commissioner Fact Sheets.

### **Information held**

Information held by NRJO includes publications (listed below), promotional material, committee papers and minutes, financial records, staff records, annual business plans, policies and guidelines (listed below) and other information as required by legislation. Other information maintained by NRJO includes:

- stakeholder and contact databases held in Outlook/Exchange and MS Excel formats
- raw data from consultations and surveys;
- correspondence with stakeholders including government departments (including submissions), stakeholders and, from time to time, members of the public;
- media releases and public communications; and
- progress and project management reports required to meet contractual obligations.

### **Publications and reports proactively released during the reporting period**

The following publications were proactively released on our website from 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019).

- Media releases – available from the [NRJO website](#)
- From Roots to Routes - From Roots to Routes: An innovative vision of freight for the Northern Rivers NSW
- Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Strategic Regional Priorities 2019-2022
- NRJO Regional Priorities Advocacy Briefs

**List of Contracts over \$150,000**

Contract Title	Agency/Organisation	Contract Period	Contract Value
Operational Establishment Funding	NSW Office of Local Government	1 July 2018	\$300,000
NSW Regional Business Power Infrastructure Upgrade Program	NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment	18 July 2019	\$500,000

**Further Information:**

The NRJO 'Right to Information' contact is our Administration Manager who is available Monday to Fridays 9.00 am – 5.00 pm on 66224 011 or by email [admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au)

**For more information:**

- Refer to the [GIPA Act](#)
- Refer to the [Information and Privacy Commissioner website](#) or email [ipcinfo@oic.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcinfo@oic.nsw.gov.au) or phone 1300 363 992
- Refer to the [Administrative Decisions Tribunal website](#)

**Review by NRJO**

**Adopted by NRJO:** August 2019

**Review Date:** 1 July 2020

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Board adopt the NRJO Agency Information Guide and submit to the Office of Information Commissioner.

## 7.8 GEOCENTRIC DATUM OF AUSTRALIA 2020

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### **Background**

The Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) is responsible for modernising Australia's datum. In September 2015, the ICSM formed a dedicated working group to oversee the implementation of Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020.

The GDA Modernisation Implementation Working Group (GMIWG) has government representatives from the Commonwealth, states and territories who have a broad range of knowledge and experience in the surveying and spatial sciences industry.

The Australian Government has committed \$225m to provide 5-10 cm accurate positioning to anyone, anytime, anywhere in Australia in the near future. This is a significant improvement from the 5-10 m accuracy you can currently achieve using GPS enabled devices.

In anticipation for the growing use and reliance on positioning technology, the Permanent Committee on Geodesy is leading the upgrade of a number of elements of Australia's Geospatial Reference System including the static datum from GDA94 to GDA2020.

Key points:

- GDA2020 is a static datum – just like GDA94
- A 'static' datum means that the coordinates of features (e.g. roads, buildings and property boundaries), do not change with time
- The upgrade to GDA2020 is to ensure spatial data can be more closely aligned to positions observed using Global Navigation Satellite System (e.g. GPS)
- GDA2020 is available for use now

In anticipation for the growing use and reliance on positioning technology, the Permanent Committee on Geodesy led the development of the upgrade of Australia's 'static / plate fixed' datum from the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94) to GDA2020 which was released in 2017. A 'static' datum means that the positions of features (e.g. roads, buildings and property boundaries), do not change over time despite the ongoing changes in the Earth's surface (e.g. plate tectonic motion). This is beneficial for many applications where it is easier if the coordinates of features do not change (e.g. a major road development project).

A report has been provided by Spatial Services, part of the ICT and Digital Government Agency within the State Department of Finance, Services and Innovation

### **Attachment 12:**

#### **GDA2020 report**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the report be noted.

## 7.9 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT - ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

### UPDATE ON COASTAL-HUNTER CUSTOMER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

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#### **Purpose**

To provide feedback following attendance at the WaterNSW Coastal-Hunter Customer Advisory Group (CAG) meeting.

#### **Background**

Members will recall early this year WaterNSW called for nominations to participate on the Customer Advisory Group for 2019-2022.

Following discussion at the March 2019 General Managers' Group meeting, it was agreed I would nominate for membership of the Coastal-Hunter CAG. That nomination was received and accepted.

The Coastal-Hunter CAG covers the Hunter, Tweed Brunswick, Clarence River, Macleay, Bellinger, Hastings, Manning, Karuah, Clyde, Marooya, Tuross, Bega, Towamba and Lake Georges areas.

I attended my first meeting of the Group in Sydney on 9 July 2019. The meeting discussed several matters including, but not limited to:

- CAG roles and responsibilities
- Water delivery
  - Water System Operations report
  - Operational Drought update
  - Water Insights Portal
- Assets
  - Asset maintenance and services update
  - Annual capital plan
- Presentations/consultations
  - Regulatory economics – pricing determination engagement
  - Local Water Utilities Monitoring Review update
  - Levels of service update
  - Fixed fee rebate update
  - Water Reform Implementation Plan (WRIP)

Minutes of 9 July 2019 meeting are available via the WaterNSW Hunter Customer Advisory Group website <https://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/feedback/groups/coastal-valleys-cag>. Previous minutes are also available on this site.



The next meeting is scheduled for 6 November 2019 (TBC).

I would be happy to expand on any of the matters raised/discussed at the meeting. Regards



Phillip Rudd General Manager

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the report be noted.

## 7.10 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – DESTINATION NORTH COAST



### DNC Release 2018 'Value of Tourism Document'

All LGA Mayors, Councillors, GM's, Tourism and Economic Development managers were sent copies of the 'Value of Tourism' document created by Destination NSW and DNC. The document highlights the performance of tourism throughout the region, not just from an industry perspective, but also outlines the impacts that the industry has on employment and the overall local economy.

Below are some of the outtakes from the document:

- Every minute of every day tourism delivered \$8,710 of visitor spend to the North Coast. This is almost \$12.5 million per day, an 11% increase on 2017.
- Tourism continues to deliver 9.4% of our jobs supporting 7,072 businesses and employing just under 22k residents
- Tourism delivered \$1.5 billion (7.1%) of the region's GVA
- Visitors stayed in North Coast hotels for 2.4 million nights (+3.7%), delivering \$425 million (+14%) in accommodation revenue, with an average nightly rate of \$179 (+9.9%)
- All of this was achieved with a 4% reduction in the quantity of airline seats into our region's airports

	Domestic Overnight		Domestic Day Trip	International		Total Visitation	
	Visitors (000's)	Nights (000's)		Visitors (000's)	Nights (000's)	Visitors (000's)	Nights (000's)
NSW	34,554 (9%)	107,413 (7%)	61,718 (7%)	4,370 (3%)	96,204 (2%)	100,642 (7%)	203,617 (5%)
North Coast	5,703 (12%)	20,869 (3%)	7,447 (7.3%)	355 (2%)	3,770 (4%)	13,535 (9%)	24,639 (2%)
Northern Rivers	2,816 (8%)	9,201 (-5%)	4,604 (12%)	266 (1%)	2,226 (-5%)	7,686 (10%)	11,427 (-5%)

Note - Year on Year Growth in brackets

### Northern Rivers Visitation in 2018

Overall the Northern Rivers had mixed results for the 2018 calendar year. Whilst total visitation growth was greater than the state or wider region, the length of stay unfortunately reduced. Just under 60% of total visitors were day trip visitors which deliver by far the lowest value from the visitor types outlined above.

Over tourism is often a hot topic in our region. DNC believes the topic of over-tourism must be approached with a thorough understanding of our regions three visitor types. Any council or government policies that will impact the visitor economy should be done with full understanding of how it will impact each of the three visitor types. The average domestic overnight visitor spends \$167 per night and \$610 per trip in region, international visitors have a low average nightly spend

\$61 (due to high proportion of backpackers) but stay longer and spend \$647 in total in region whereas your average day trip visitors spends a total of \$110 in region.

To provide further relevance to the figures above Byron Bays average annual occupancy rate for commercial accommodation (excluding short-term holiday rentals) is 66%. This rate is similar to the Northern Rivers but much lower than the Gold Coast (72%), Sydney (87%) and Melbourne (86%).

NOTE – All statistics above obtained from TRA, IVS and NVS reports YE Dec 18.

## **Destination North Coast Project Update**

### **Business Events**

The DNC Business Events initiative supported by all Northern Rivers LGA's continues to build momentum and secure incremental visitation from this sector for the region. In addition to the sales focused activity our team will be conducting a series of workshops in Byron Bay and Lismore on the 24th and 25th July respectively. The workshops will encourage collaboration between businesses whilst also incorporating skills-based presentations from the Destination NSW Regional Conferencing Manager and Meeting and Events Australia.

### **Nature-Based Tourism Investment Activation Plan**

Earthcheck and the team at DNC have continued to engage the respective stakeholders for the selected projects that we will assist in capacity building and delivering to market. The Clarence Valley, White Water Trail project deliverables are being scoped in consultation with CVC and operators. The Tweed to Byron Hinterland Trail project that will aim to support the delivery of commercial accommodation on land bordering the National Parks continues to progress slowly as National Parks and Wildlife Service refine the positioning and delivery of the project.

### **Short-Term Holiday Letting Study**

DNC in conjunction with Destination NSW have funded a study on short-term holiday letting through Southern Cross University. The study will replicate the research undertaken in the Byron Shire and will provide each participating LGA with a report focused on their LGA and an overview of this sector on the North Coast region as a whole. Although no financial contribution is required from LGA's to be included in the research, they are required to commit to a Communications Plan aimed at ensuring we secure the critical mass of completed surveys. It is aimed that the research will start in the first half of August.

### **North Coast Tourism Symposium and Tourism Awards**

The North Coast Tourism Symposium and North Coast Tourism awards events will both be held in South West Rocks on the 1st August. The Symposium will focus on the need for products and destinations to continue to evolve to match the changing needs of consumers. A fantastic list of speakers has been secured for the event discussing topics such as emerging trends, environmental sustainability, wellness and evolution of brand and product.

The tourism awards are a fantastic chance for the industry to come together and celebrate the success of the past year. Twenty-seven North Coast businesses and events have been selected as finalists this year for the regional awards which lead directly into the state awards which the North Coast dominated last year.

With the inaugural event being held in Coffs Harbour last year and the second event in South West Rocks this year the challenge is out to Northern Rivers LGA's to secure the opportunity to host the event next year. The events provide an ideal opportunity to champion local products and destinations whilst celebrating the success of the local industry.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the report from Destination North Coast be noted

## 7.11 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – RDA NORTHERN RIVERS

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### KEY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

- RDA NR 2019-2020 Annual Business Plan sent to Department for approval.
- Lismore CBD Redevelopment; Steering Committee: Stage One finalised and Consultancy Hip V Hype chosen.
- Regional Branding project, Steering Committee: First phase finalised: Workshop and Focus groups completed. A report from the consultancy will be presented to the Steering Committee.
  
- Northern Rivers Business Awards, Judge: Judging for this years business awards will be ongoing until August.
  
- Focus on Youth Employment: Youth unemployment is high across all LGs and activities to address this complex issue include; developing entrepreneurial skills, developing clear pathways from study to work, minimise youth population drift out of region:
  - Working Group: Youth Agency Network – key initiative is a youth summit, RDA assisting with grants, organisation of focus on education to industry pathways (jobs of the future)
  - Working Group: Clarence Valley Employment Working Group- providing training and employment opportunities through a ship wrecking scheme. A partnership between CVC, TAFE, Harwood Shipbuilding and agencies
  - Youth Entrepreneurship Program- Young business owners hire young employees. A competition to develop business ideas targeted to 16-24 year-olds across the region.
  - Expression of Interest submitted for SISP program to encourage youth to engage with STEM subjects and industries.
  
- Creative Industry- Film and TV Studio:
  - Industry Reference Group now formed and moving forward.
  - Met with Director Tourism and Arts, Qingdao Province. Qingdao is a UNESCO Creative City and they have invited Northern Rivers to participate at their upcoming 2019 Expo. Council and Industry will be represented.
  - Met with Ben Franklin, Parliamentary Secretary for Energy and the Arts who is supportive of developing the film and television industry in the region. Sen Franklin will attend a meeting with industry and Ballina Shire Councillors which will provide an update on industry development aspects and to encourage urgent attention to masterplanning the whole Precinct.
  
- Medicinal Cannabis and Hemp Industry:
  - Led an industry development meeting. Key outcomes included Hemp industry participants agreement to form a new Northern NSW Hemp Industry Assocn and incorporate under a legal structure. Awaiting joint meeting with Agencies such as DoPIE.
  - Met with Canna Pacific Chief Operating Officer. This company has bought the Caniaba Greenhouse and is seeking networks, grant funding and training options.

- North Coast Skills Survey: The Skills Survey is now closed and analysis of responses will be undertaken.
  - Analysis of the information forms the basis for identifying areas of skills shortage for our Regional Certifying Body activity.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the report from RDA Northern Rivers be noted

## 8 URGENT BUSINESS

## 9 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Documents relating to this item will be emailed to Members from Executive Officer under separate cover

## 10 CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter of Invitation provided to Associate Members Combined North Coast Rural Industry Consultative Committee and North Coast Agriculture Natural Disaster Advisory Group (RESOLUTION 03052019/12)
- Letters of invitation to State members to present to NRJO Board
- Letter from Minister Barilaro re Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund (attached)

### **Funding agreements executed**

Funding Body: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Program: Regional Business Power Infrastructure Upgrade Program

Grant: \$500,000 plus GST

Service Administration Payment to NRJO: \$25,000

## 11 ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held 3 May 2019
2. JO Chairs letter to Minister for Local Government
3. Peter Primrose speech to NSW Legislative Assembly re Emergency Services Levy
4. Minutes Country Mayors' Association Meeting 31 May 2019
5. Minutes from JO Chairs' meeting 30 May 2019
6. Minutes from JO Chairs' meeting 1 August 2019
7. Response from Minister Barilaro
8. RLE Strategic Priority Areas
9. Joint JO Meeting draft agenda
10. OEH – NRJO Priority Alignment
11. DoI Regional Water Strategies Agenda
12. Audit Engagement Plan
13. Report from Spatial Services, part of the ICT and Digital Government Agency within the State Department of Finance, Services and Innovation



## **ATTACHMENT 1**

[<back to meeting papers>](#)

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF  
THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION  
HELD IN THE RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
WALKER ST, CASINO  
ON FRIDAY 3 MAY 2019 AT 10.50AM**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Crs Danielle Mulholland (Chair), Robert Mustow, Isaac Smith, Katie Milne;

Louise McMeeking, Dept of Premier and Cabinet; Anita Gambhir, Office of Local Government

Isabel Perdriau (NRJO Executive Officer) General Managers Troy Green, Vaughan MacDonald, Graham Kennett, Mark Arnold, Shelley Oldham, Paul Hickey, Phil Rudd.

Cr Keith Williams (Rous Water), Tim Williamson (RDA Northern Rivers), Cameron Arnold and Michael Thurston (Destination North Coast)

Cr Peter Petty, Tenterfield Shire Council

### **1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

In opening the meeting, the Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cr Simon Richardson and Cr Michael Lyon, Byron Shire Council; Cr David Wright, Ballina Shire Council; Mr Terry Dodds, Tenterfield Shire Council: Cr Virginia West, Scenic Rim Regional Council

Chris Gulaptis MP, Member for Clarence and Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Executive Officer Isabel Perdriau declared conflict of interest for item 7.1.2

### **4. ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITORS**

Ms Tamara Smith, MP, Member for Ballina was a late apology for the meeting but provided the following link to her plan for the community for consideration:

[https://www.tamarasmith.com.au/tamaras\\_plan](https://www.tamarasmith.com.au/tamaras_plan)

## **5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **5.1 Confirmation of Minutes – NRJO Meeting 8 February 2019**

#### **03052019/1 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Milne/Cr Smith**

*THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held Friday 8 February 2019 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of that meeting.*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously.

## **6. NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **03052019/2 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Smith/Cr Mustow**

*THAT the NRJO request that the Honourable John Barilaro, Minister for Regional NSW, Industry and Trade appoint an NRJO board member to the panel for the Snowy Hydro distribution of funds.*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously.

Discussion re representation from NRJO on advisory panel with Cr Smith nominating to be representative. Louise McMeeking advised that there was no Government structure for this as yet.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 Chair's Report**

#### **7.1.1 Report from Country Mayors' Meeting**

#### **03052019/3 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Mulholland/ Cr Mustow**

*THAT the report be received and noted.*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously.

Executive Officer Isabel Perdriau left the room for item 7.1.2

#### **7.1.2 Executive Officer Performance Review Process**

**03052019/4 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Mulholland/ Cr Smith**

*THAT a Performance Review Committee comprising the Chair and two Board members be established, and the committee be convened in late 2019 to undertake a review.*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously.

Cr Mulholland, Cr Smith and Cr Mustow nominated for review panel

**Moved: Cr Mulholland/ Cr Milne**

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.2 Executive Officer's Report

**03052019/5 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Smith/Cr Mustow**

*THAT the Executive Officer's Report be received and noted*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.3 Safe and Secure Water Program – Regional Bulk Water Supply Strategy Update

**03052019/6 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Mustow/ Cr Smith**

*THAT the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation receive and note this report.*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.4 Richmond Valley Council – Waste to Energy

**03052019/7 RESOLVED**

**Moved:**

*THAT the Joint Organisation:*

1. *notes the progress of the Northern Rivers Energy from Waste project and the opportunities it may provide for Councils in the Northern Rivers and surrounding areas;*

2. *continues to actively support Richmond Valley Council's development of this potential alternate waste treatment technology as a solution to the region's waste management challenges.*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

Noted that the issue of sourcing adequate waste for viability would be addressed in the plan.

Cr Peter Petty Mayor Tenterfield Shire Council commended the initiative. He noted that major change is required from State Government and flagged that he would be meeting with EPA to discuss TSC waste to energy project.

Scott Turner, Manager Assets, Lismore City Council addressed the Board and answered questions about the project.

7.5 Northern Rivers Branding Project

**03052019/8 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Smith/Cr Mustow**

*THAT NRJO take part in this collaborative initiative and invest \$5,000 in the project.*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.6 Future Northern Rivers

Presentation from Rod Harris of Newscorp

**03052019/9 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Mustow/ Cr Smith**

*THAT the request for financial support and involvement in the campaign be supported at the level of Superior Investment: \$10,000*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.7 Destination North Coast – Associate Member Report

**03052019/10 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Smith/Cr Mustow**

*THAT the report from Destination North Coast be received and noted*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.8 RDA Northern Rivers Associate Member Report

**03052019/11 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Mustow/ Cr Milne**

*THAT the report from RDA Northern Rivers be received and noted*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.9 Request for Associate Membership

**03052019/12 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Milne/ Cr Mustow**

*THAT the request for Associate Membership be accepted.*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.10 Freight and Supply Chain Strategy

**03052019/13 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Mulholland/ Cr Mustow**

*THAT the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation accept the Freight and Supply Chain Strategy report*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.11 Financial report to 31 March 2019

**03052019/14 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Smith/ Cr Milne**

*THAT*

1. *the contents of the NRJO financial report for the period ending 31 March 2019 be received and noted.*

**Amendment to 2. Moved: Cr Milne/ Cr Mustow**

2. *the Executive Officer be authorised to negotiate with Summerland Credit Union to obtain their best interest rate for NRJO as an existing valued customer.*

*Amendment: to include investigation of Bank Australia*

3. *the Executive Officer be authorised to negotiate with Summerland Credit Union to obtain their best interest rate for NRJO as an existing valued customer and investigate Bank Australia.*

7.12 Financial forecast 2019-2020

**03052019/15 RESOLVED**

**Moved: Cr Milne/ Cr Smith**

*THAT the Forward Financial Plan as outlined be adopted, taking into account the notes as provided*

**CARRIED**

**FOR VOTE** - All Councillors voted unanimously

**8. URGENT BUSINESS**

Cr Smith – Lismore City Council currently in discussion with Federal Government for City deal, intent to promote as a regional deal to include broader region.

**9. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

No confidential reports were received.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was noted

**Meeting closed 12.15pm**

**Next meeting Friday 2 August 2019**

**Byron Shire Council**

Attachment 2: JO Chairs Letter to Minister for Local Government [<back to meeting papers>](#)

30 May 2019

Hon Shelley Hancock MP  
Minister for Local Government  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

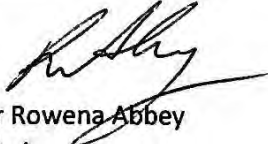
We write on behalf of all thirteen NSW Joint Organisations, following our facilitated meeting today to discuss a framework for collaboration with the NSW Government.

The meeting of Joint Organisation (JO) Chairs which followed the above meeting discussed its outcomes and the way forward. The JO Chairs have unanimously resolved that we write to you to advise that we agree that JOs require a more collaborative partnership approach to the proposed business model of funding. We agree that the provision of on-going baseline funding of \$300,000 per JO, each year for the next three years, would recognise the need for capacity building funding which would allow JOs and the State to work collaboratively to continue development on sustainable financial pathways for the new organisations.


It was noted during the facilitated session that JOs were reporting deficit budgets, during our JO Chairs' meeting it was agreed that this approach was not sustainable. Given the realised benefits of collaboration between JOs, State Government and councils to drive outcomes, we believe that a commitment from State Government to ensuring the financial sustainability of the JOs during their establishment phase is in the best interests of regional NSW.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the concerns raised in this letter with you. We are agreed that as we enter into a second Financial Year of operations for the JOs that the issue of a collaborative funding model must be suitably resolved to provide our member councils with confidence about the future of JOs. Your response to our correspondence, within 28 days would be appreciated.


Yours sincerely



Cr Rowena Abbey  
Chair  
Canberra Region JO



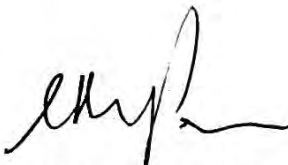
Cr John Metcalf  
Chair  
Central NSW JO



Cr Ryan Palmer  
Acting Chair  
Hunter JO



Cr Liz Campbell  
Chair  
Mid-North Coast JO



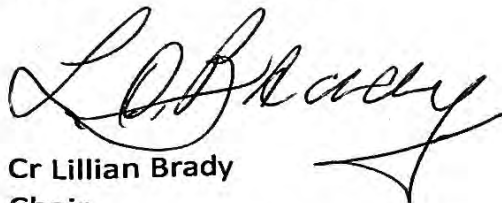
Cr Michael Pearce  
Chair  
New England JO




Cr Craig Davies  
Acting Chair  
Orana JO



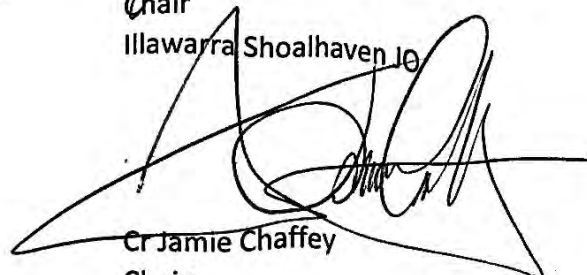
Cr Kevin Mack  
Chair  
Riverina and Murray JO



Cr Lillian Brady  
Chair  
Far North West JO




Cr Gordon Bradbery OAM  
Chair  
Illawarra Shoalhaven JO



Cr Jamie Chaffey  
Chair  
Namoi Unlimited



Cr Danielle Mulholland  
Chair  
Northern Rivers JO



Cr Rick Firman OAM  
Chair  
Riverina JO

Cr Melissa Hederics  
Chair  
Far South West JO



**Attachment 3: Speech by Peter Primrose** [<Back to meeting papers>](#)

**EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY**

**The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE (19:06):** Last November Parliament belatedly passed legislation with bipartisan support to provide better workers compensation coverage for firefighters diagnosed with specific work-related cancers. New South Wales Labor fully supports this expanded workers compensation scheme—that is why we voted for it—as did local councils across the State.

But of course, as with everything this Government touches, we have now found out that there is a sneaky twist in how this important scheme will be funded. How she responds will be the first real test of how serious the new Minister for Local Government is about supporting cash-strapped local councils, especially those in drought-ravaged areas.

Each year the Government collects payments from councils and insurers to fund emergency services agencies, with councils required to pay 11.7 per cent of the budget. These charges are embedded in council rates and the insurance premiums paid by policy holders. However, earlier this month, and without any consultation, local councils were sent invoices with a letter from Revenue NSW saying New South Wales council contributions will increase by \$19 million in 2019-20. The letter also foreshadowed increases in the following year but not the amount.

The Government failed to disclose this impost during debate on the bill and of course also failed to mention it during the State election campaign. The belated timing of this communication to councils about the increased levy makes it almost impossible for them to include this requirement in their budgets.

Councils are required to consult with their communities about their upcoming budgets and their operational plans before being adopted by the council for the coming financial year. Greater Hume Council, for example, has confirmed that its share of the Hume zone Emergency Services Levy contribution will be \$510,068 for 2019-20. This is \$97,689 more than last year's levy or an increase of \$88,780 more than the amount allocated in council's 2019-20 budget. I quote directly from the general manager, who said:

Allocations across all areas of Council's budget are stretched to the maximum and any unexpected impact in one area will have ramifications across all service areas. Should Council be required to meet the additional cost of the Emergency Services Levy, other activities will suffer. Less will be spent on rural roads, parks and gardens, local halls, libraries, public toilets—the list goes on.

The same impact is being felt by all councils. For instance, Cumberland Council has been hit by a hike of an additional \$83,590 or a 19.5 per cent increase. Oberon Council will be forced to pay \$65,495 more in this year's levy. Lachlan Shire Council will have to pay an increase of 24 per cent over the current year's levy or \$84,000. Upper Lachlan Shire Council is being hit with a 24.43 per cent increase or \$108,884. Temora Shire Council will be hit with a \$66,000 increase. Cessnock City Council is being hit by an increase of \$44,252 more than the current year.

The impact of this unplanned cost shifting by the NSW Liberals and Nationals will hurt all communities, especially those in drought-ravaged areas of the State who are already experiencing great hardship.

Everyone supports the better coverage for our firefighters. Local Government NSW and local councils are calling on the New South Wales Government to fund the cost of the first 12 months of this important scheme and to work with local government to ensure that the implementation of the funding mechanism is fairer into the future.

This is the first big test for the new Minister for Local Government. She has already allowed the Office of Local Government to be abolished without any protest. The Minister's choice on this issue is clear. Is she going to back local councils and local communities and stop this sneaky cash grab by her Government or, like her immediate predecessors, will she be a jelly back, like they were on every major issue that confronted local government in this State?

**Attachment 4: Minutes of Country Mayors' Association Meeting 31 May 2019**

[<back to meeting papers>](#)



## **Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES**

Chairperson: Cr Katrina Humphries  
PO Box 420 Moree NSW 2400  
02 6757 3222  
ABN 92 603 490 533

### **MINUTES**

#### **GENERAL MEETING**

**FRIDAY, 31 MAY 2019 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY**

The meeting opened at 9.00 a.m.

#### **1. ATTENDANCE:**

Armidale Regional Council, Cr Simon Murray, Mayor  
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Kristy McBain, Mayor  
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Dominic King, Mayor  
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor  
Bland Shire Council, Mr Ray Smith, General Manager  
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor  
Blayney Shire Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, General Manager  
Bourke Shire Council, Cr Barry Hollman, Mayor  
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Darriea Turley, Mayor  
Broken Hill City Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager  
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor  
Cabonne Shire Council, Ms Heather Nicholls, Acting General Manager  
Carrathool Shire Council, Cr Peter Laird, Mayor  
Carrathool Shire Council, Mr. Rick Warren General Manager  
Coffs Harbour City Council, Mr Stephen McGrath, General Manager  
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr John Seymour, Mayor  
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Abb McAlister  
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Dennis Palmer, Deputy Mayor  
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Mr Phil McMurray, Acting  
General Manager  
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Bill West, Mayor  
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Ben Shields, Mayor  
Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Michael McMahon, CEO  
Dungog Shire Council, Cr Tracy Norman, Mayor  
Dungog Shire Council, Ms Coralle Nichols, General Manager  
Eurobodalla Shire Council, Cr Liz Innes, Mayor  
Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor  
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor  
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager

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Gilgandra Shire Council, Cr Ash Walker, Deputy Mayor  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Bob Kirk, Mayor  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Peter Walker, Deputy Mayor  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Warrick Bennett, General Manager  
Griffith City Council, Cr John Dal Broi, Mayor  
Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager  
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor  
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager  
Gwydir Shire Council, Cr John Coulton, Mayor  
Gwydir Shire Council, Mr Max Eastcott, General Manager  
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor  
Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Liz Campbell, Mayor  
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager  
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Mark Honey, Mayor  
Kyogle Council, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor  
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Paul Maytom, Mayor  
Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager  
Lithgow City Council, Cr Ray Thompson, Mayor  
Lithgow City Council, Mr Graeme Faulkner, General Manager  
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Andrew Hope, Mayor  
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Roger Schirmer, Mayor  
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager  
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor  
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager  
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Katrina Humphries, Mayor  
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Lester Rogers, General Manager  
Murray River Council, Cr Christopher Bilkey, Mayor  
Murray River Council, Mr Des Bilske, General Manager  
Murrumbidgee Council, Mr John Scarce, General Manager  
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Catherine Redding, Mayor  
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Stewart Todd, General Manager  
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Neville Schenka, Mayor  
Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager  
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor  
Oberon Shire Council, Cr Kathy Sajowitz, Mayor  
Oberon Shire Council, Ms Lynette Safranek, Director Corporate Services  
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor  
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Barbara Newton, Deputy Mayor  
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Alan Ward  
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor  
Port Stephens Council, Tim Crosdale, Group Manager Development Services  
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor  
Shoalhaven City Council, Mr Stephen Dunshea, Acting General Manager  
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor  
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor  
Temora Shire Council, Mr Gary Lavelle, General Manager  
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Peter Petty, Mayor  
Tenterfield Shire Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager  
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Stafford, Mayor  
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Michael Pearce, Mayor  
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Greg Conkey, Mayor  
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor

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Walcha Council, Mr Jack O'Hara, General Manager  
Warren Shire Council, Cr Katrina Walker  
Warren Shire Council, Mr Glen Wilcox, General Manager  
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Denis Todd, Mayor  
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager  
Wentworth Shire Council, Cr Melisa Hendrics, Mayor  
Yass Valley Council, Cr Rowena Abbey, Mayor  
Yass Valley Council, Ms Sharon Hutch, General Manager  
Orana Joint Organisation, Ms Berlinda Barlow, Interim Executive Officer  
Cr Linda Scott, President, LGNSW

**APOLOGIES:**

As submitted

**SPECIAL GUESTS:**

Hon Shelley Hancock, MP, Minister for Local Government  
Gordon Hinds, Managing Director, Better Energy Technology  
Hon Brad Hazzard, MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research  
Andrew Roberts, CEO, Field Solutions Group  
Cr Bruce Miller, Chairman, LGSuper

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 8 March 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Singleton Council / Oberon Shire Council).

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

NIL

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Outward

- (a) Cr Linda Scott, President, Local government NSW, regarding Defined Benefits Scheme Contributions
- (b) Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor, Port Stephens Council, advising that Port Stephens Council was admitted as a member of the Association on 8 March 2019
- (c) Mr Richard Colbran, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Rural doctors Network thanking him for his presentation to the 8 March 2019 meeting
- (d) Cr Melissa Hederics, Mayor, Wentworth Shire Council, advising that Wentworth Shire Council was admitted as a member of the Association on 8 March 2019

Inward

- (a) Cr Linda Scott, President, Local Government NSW, forwarding letters to LGSuper regarding the Defined Benefits Scheme (Copy Attached)
- (b) Institute Public Works Engineering Australia (NSW Division) advising that the Local Roads Congress will be held in Sydney on 3 June 2019

NOTED

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**5. Financial Report**

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the last quarter were tabled and accepted (Temora Shire Council / Shoalhaven City Council)

**6. Royalties for Regions Program**

RESOLVED That Country Mayors calls upon the NSW Government to implement a "Royalties for Regions" program based upon a set percentage of royalties being returned to Local Government Areas from where they originate and/or that are directly affected.

That LGA representatives from the identified affected areas be invited to participate in the redesign of the new "Royalties for Regions program"  
(Gunnedah Shire Council / Singleton Council)

**7. Increased Fire Management Activities**

RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association write to the appropriate Federal and State Ministers requesting that NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Forestry Corporation and NSW Local Land Services, as a duty of care undertake an increased level of park and forest fire management activities, including increased hazard reduction burns and increased numbers of dams and water infrastructure points for firefighting purposes into the future (Tenterfield Shire Council / Kyogle Shire Council)

**8. RFS Contribution Increase 2019/10**

RESOLVED (a) That the Country Mayors Association supports the LGNSW campaign strongly and the State Government be requested to defer any RFS contribution increases for at least 12 months to allow for consultation and any future increases be shown on a separate line on the rate notice and not be included in the rate pegging formula

(b) That the Association write to the Premier requesting that the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal be directed to investigate the current Emergency Services arrangements in NSW including the efficiencies and effectiveness to be gained by such an investigation (Kempsey Shire Council / Yass valley Council)

**9. HON SHELLEY HANCOCK, MP, MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Minister started her career in Sydney as a teacher and then settled in Ulladulla where she also taught. She was elected to Shoalhaven City Council in 1987 and served four terms. She ran for State Parliament was elected and became Speaker of Parliament in 2011 and Minister for Local Government in 2019

The increased RFS contributions are mostly going towards the funded Compensation Scheme. The Minister lobbied on behalf of Local Government to have the increase adsorbed by the State Government but sadly that is not the case as it was overturned by Treasury. The Minister is anxious to have improved relations with Joint Organisations and a meeting with the Joint Organisations was held on Thursday 30

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May to discuss issues. Seed funding of \$300,000 will soon come to an end. The Office of Local Government is looking at ways Joint Organisations can be self funded and is looking at issues raised at yesterdays meeting. The Office of Local Government has not been disbanded contrary to rumours.

**10. Gordon Hinds, Managing Director, Better Energy Technology**

The energy market in Australia is undergoing a revolution as we migrate from centralised large-scale coal generation to distributed renewable energy. The role of towns throughout NSW in this revolution is not clear and to date there have not been many benefits that flowed through to them beyond the initial construction.

Basically renewable energy plants are highly automated and don't employ people, certainly not in the local communities other than occasional maintenance. Developers mostly by-pass section 94 contributions as they are classified as 'state significant' developments. The energy they produce goes into the grid and is bought by large scale users or retailers and then sold back to communities through the existing channels. Rural towns are being ripped off and bypassed.

There is another way and that is what Better Energy Technology is trying to do at Lockhart, with the support of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Development, Michael McCormack.

The Lockhart demonstration will supply power to the town of Lockhart, insulate it from blackouts, provide long-term stable energy pricing and have the potential for a dividend if the Council takes an equity position in the project. It is an Australian first and follows a design that has been in Germany for nearly 20 years - an 'export' model where 80% of the power produced is exported into the grid. It has a 10MW solar farm a large battery, the fixed power tariff is to be 28 cents a kilowatt, with long term income to council of possibly \$500,000 PA. The project cost is \$30 Million.

There are barriers to this being rolled out in NSW and the key one is access to the grid via the local substation. Most of the applications to connect to the grid through the substations are already in the hands of developers, mostly foreign owned or backed. None of these applications have community benefit at the heart of their plan, nor localised generation for local consumption. This can change.

The Minister for Energy has the power to direct the grid owners (Essential Energy in most cases) to give priority to projects that have a direct benefit in energy supply to local communities. He can do this in the simple form of a letter. With the political landscape now secure at both the Federal and State Level, now is the time for Country Mayors to step up to ensure their communities are part of this revolution and beneficiaries beyond construction. There is a need to push for long-term energy supply directly to communities such as what is planned at Lockhart.

It is possible, but it will require strong lobbying to ensure the Ministers act in the interests of communities

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RESOLVED That the Country Mayors' Association make representations to the NSW Energy Minister and the Federal Energy Ministers seeking their support for the prioritisation of electricity grid connections at substations that are relevant to rural and regional towns, with priority to be given to applications that have an ongoing community benefit beyond construction of new energy developments that connect to those substations (Lockhart Shire Council / Bland Shire Council)

**11. Hon Brad Hazzard, MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research**

The Minister has tried to get around the regions as much as possible. There is a huge commitment by the State Government for the regions to get a fair go. One third of the State budget \$25billion is allocated to health. 25% of health infrastructure is to go to the regions. As part of the regional commitment the Regional Ambulance Update program has been allocated \$122million and many hospitals are being upgraded. The Government is trying to get medical students to do their training in the regions as this has proven to have higher success in keeping graduates in rural areas. Training facilities are situated in Wagga Wagga, Dubbo and Orange. Tele Health Stroke services are being introduced.

**12. Andrew Roberts, CEO, Field Solutions Group**

Field Solutions Vision is to be Australia's Leading Rural, Remote and Regional Telecommunications Provider through carrier services, retail services provision and Cloud services. Their brands are Just ISP and Ant Communications. Field Solutions provide township base networks built to the populations and multisite on farm networks. They strive to greatly reduce council spend, to provide connectivity to council premises, a business grade symmetric network with additional Cloud services and true broadband deep into communities that is cost effective with unlimited data. They provide coverage throughout NSW in three corridors, Northern, Central and Southern with local bases, hiring local staff, using local businesses, and providing on going support and maintenance. \$100 million has been pledged by the Nationals. The assistance needed is Regional Digital Connectivity, growing local communities, Community/FSG funded and Council/ FSG funded

RESOLVED That the Association write to the Deputy Premier advising that it supports Rural Regional Internet Connectivity through Field Solutions and requests urgent attention to this matter (Narromine Shire Council / Shoalhaven City Council)

**13. Cr Bruce Miller, Chairman, LGSuper**

LGSuper originated from State Super 23 years ago. A Trust Deed and Constitution were prepared. The Defined Benefits Scheme was funded prior to the financial crisis at a surplus, and councils took the opportunity to receive a holiday from contributions but to put the saved funding aside. The financial crisis resulted in the fund going into deficit. The fund is examined each year to assess its position. Regulated funds need to be fully funded each and every day of the year. LGSuper looked at options

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to be 100% funded. Investments are currently 80% growth 20% conservative but the objective is 70% growth 30% conservative. The Board has reviewed the two LGNSW resolutions. The current investment strategy is subject to stringent reviews and a further review as suggested is not necessary. In respect of Past Service Contributions after considering advice of actuary and legal opinions LGSuper will look at the level of contributions. LGNSW cannot instruct LGSuper. Irrespective of where Directors come from their responsibility is to the entity and its members. Shares in LGSuper have zero value but shareholders have a right to appoint Directors. Under new legislation the Regulator has power to do whatever. The Board will increase from 8 Directors to 9 Directors one independent to be the Chair with 3 independents, 3 employee and 3 employer representation.

**14. Meeting with Local Government Super**

NOTED

**15. Local Government Superannuation Report by Goulburn/Mulwaree**

NOTED

**16. Waste Levy Taskforce**

RESOLVED1. The NSW Country Mayors recognise that:

- a) The NSW Government still has no clear plan to manage waste in light of the China Sword and other international changes to recycling.
  - b) That land fill sites are processing higher amounts of waste and therefore shortening the lifecycle of these sites.
  - c) That the increase in waste going to landfill also increases the governments revenue and has impacts on the wider environment.
  - d) That NSW are falling behind other States such as Victoria and SA in terms of management of waste
  - e) That Local Government Areas (LGAs) should receive a higher amount of the waste Levy to deal with increase in cost to manage waste.
  - f) That Councils are the best placed government bodies to develop new strategies and industries to better manage waste for their communities.
2. That NSW Country Mayors urge the Minister for Local Government take action by
- a) Establishing a Waste Levy Task Force consisting of EPA, Mayors and LGNSW to begin immediate action to address the waste concerns of LGAs
  - b) Returning the full amount of the waste Levy to LGA's till there is an acceptable outcome agreed to by all parties.
3. That NSW Country Mayor's Association take their own action by:
- a) establish a working group of Country Mayors to:
    - i) identify the total amount of waste levies collected by the NSW Government from regional Councils
    - ii) identify the amount spent by the NSW government on waste reduction strategies in regional areas
    - iii) identify strategies for regional councils to withhold payment of the waste levy might be implemented if the NSW Government does not agree to form the task force recommended in (2) above

*Page 8*



iv) bring a report back to the next meeting of the Country Mayors outlining options available to Country Mayors to get action on the Waste Levy, including consideration of the withholding of payment of the levy.

v) the working group comprise Michael Pearce (Uralla Shire Council), Peter Petty (Tenterfield Shire Council), Amanda Findley (Shoalhaven City Council) Tracey Norman (Dungog Shire Council) and Dominic King (Bellingen Shire Council)

4. That LGNSW be advised of Country Mayors position  
(Bellingen shire Council / Shoalhaven City Council)

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/waste/waste-levy/scheduled-waste>

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/nsw-waste-crisis-landfill-levy-gains-20190104-p50pp3.html>

<https://www.lgnsw.org.au/news/publication/save-our-recycling>

#### **17. Rural Fire Act 1997 - Grasslands**

RESOLVED that Country Mayors ask the RFS Commissioner to have a stay on implementation of the requirements under the Rural Fire Act 1997 to cover grasslands and an invitation be issued to the Commissioner to attend a future meeting (Gwydir Shire Council / Lockhart Shire Council)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.40pm.

Cr Katrina Humphries  
Chair – Country Mayor's Association of NSW

**ATTACHMENT 5: Minutes of JO Chairs' meeting 30 May 2019**[<back to meeting papers>](#)**Meeting Notes****NSW Joint Organisation – Chairs Meeting**

Thursday 30 May 2019, 2.00pm to 4.05pm

Room 814/815, NSW Parliament, Macquarie Street Sydney

<b>PRESENT</b>	
Canberra Region (CRJO)	Clr Rowena Abbey, Mayor, Yass Valley, 0427 830 910 <a href="mailto:Rowena.abbey@yass.nsw.gov.au">Rowena.abbey@yass.nsw.gov.au</a>
Central NSW	Clr John Medcalf, Mayor, Lachlan Valley Council, 02 6895 1903 <a href="mailto:council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au">council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au</a>
Hunter	Clr Ryan Palmer, Mayor, Port Stephens Council, 0402 749 467 <a href="mailto:mayor@portstephens.nsw.gov.au">mayor@portstephens.nsw.gov.au</a>
Illawarra Shoalhaven (ISJO)	Clr Gordon Bradbery OAM, Lord Mayor, Wollongong, 0418 820 144 <a href="mailto:records@wollongong.nsw.gov.au">records@wollongong.nsw.gov.au</a>
Mid-North Coast (MNCJO)	Clr Liz Campbell, Mayor, Kempsey Shire Council, 02 6566 3320 <a href="mailto:Liz.campbell@kempsey.nsw.gov.au">Liz.campbell@kempsey.nsw.gov.au</a>
Namoi Unlimited (Namoi)	Clr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor, Gunnedah, 0467 402 412 <a href="mailto:jamiechaffey@infogunnedah.com.au">jamiechaffey@infogunnedah.com.au</a>
New England (NEJO)	Clr Michael Pearce, Mayor, Uralla, 0488 752 520 <a href="mailto:Mayor@uralla.nsw.gov.au">Mayor@uralla.nsw.gov.au</a>
Northern Rivers (NRJO)	Clr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor, Kyogle, 0438 931 425 <a href="mailto:chair@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au">chair@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au</a>
Orana	Clr Craig Davies, Mayor, Narromine Shire Council, 0429 887 707 <a href="mailto:cr.cdavies@narromine.nsw.gov.au">cr.cdavies@narromine.nsw.gov.au</a>
Riverina (RivJO)	Clr Rick Firman OAM, Mayor, Temora, 0429 204 060 <a href="mailto:chair@riverinajo.nsw.gov.au">chair@riverinajo.nsw.gov.au</a>
Riverina and Murray (RAMJO)	Clr Kevin Mack, Mayor, Albury, 0419 711 147 <a href="mailto:kmack@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">kmack@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>
Far South West (FSW)	Clr Melissa Hederics, Mayor, Wentworth Council, 03 5027 5001 <a href="mailto:council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au">council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au</a>
Far North West (FNW)	Clr Lilliane Brady OAM, Mayor, Cobar Shire Council, 0438 362 005, <a href="mailto:lilliane.brady@cobar.nsw.gov.au">lilliane.brady@cobar.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
Hunter	Clr Bob Pynsent, Mayor, Cessnock City Council, 0408 267 532 <a href="mailto:Bob.pynsent@cessnock.nsw.gov.au">Bob.pynsent@cessnock.nsw.gov.au</a>
Far South West	Clr Melissa Hederics, Mayor, Wentworth Council, 03 5027 5001 <a href="mailto:council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au">council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au</a>
Orana	Clr Doug Batten, Mayor, Gilgandra, 02 6847 2057 <a href="mailto:mayor@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au">mayor@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>BY INVITATION</b>	
Canberra Region (CRJO)	David Rowe, 0427 932 390 <a href="mailto:David.Rowe@crjo.nsw.gov.au">David.Rowe@crjo.nsw.gov.au</a>

Central NSW	Jenny Bennett, 0428 690 935 <a href="mailto:Jenny.bennett@centroc.com.au">Jenny.bennett@centroc.com.au</a>
Hunter	Joe James 0405 217 249 <a href="mailto:ceo@huntercouncils.com.au">ceo@huntercouncils.com.au</a>
Illawarra Shoalhaven (ISJO)	Leanne Taylor, 0476 004 869 <a href="mailto:ltaylor@isjo.org.au">ltaylor@isjo.org.au</a>
Mid-North Coast (MNCJO)	Craig Swift-McNair, 0400 081 803 <a href="mailto:Executive.Officer@mncjo.nsw.gov.au">Executive.Officer@mncjo.nsw.gov.au</a>
Namoi Unlimited (Namoi)	Rebel Thomson, 0490 778 410 <a href="mailto:r.thomson@namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au">r.thomson@namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au</a>
New England (NEJO)	Paul Henry, 0428 264 312 <a href="mailto:executiveofficer@nejo.nsw.gov.au">executiveofficer@nejo.nsw.gov.au</a>
Northern Rivers (NRJO)	Isabel Perdriau, 0427 668 860 <a href="mailto:execofficer@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au">execofficer@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au</a>
Orana JO	Belinda Barlow, 0408 381 474 <a href="mailto:eo@oranajointorganisation.nsw.gov.au">eo@oranajointorganisation.nsw.gov.au</a>
Riverina (RivJO)	Julie Briggs, 02 6931 9050 <a href="mailto:jbriggs@reroc.com.au">jbriggs@reroc.com.au</a>
Riverina and Murray (RAMJO)	Bridget Leopold, 0408 498 534 <a href="mailto:admin@ramjo.nsw.gov.au">admin@ramjo.nsw.gov.au</a>
Far South West (FSW)	Mark Forbes, 0400 655 441 <a href="mailto:mark@southpacificwave.com">mark@southpacificwave.com</a>
OLG	Karen Purser <a href="mailto:Karen.Purser@olg.nsw.gov.au">Karen.Purser@olg.nsw.gov.au</a> Virginia Errington <a href="mailto:Virginia.Errington@olg.nsw.gov.au">Virginia.Errington@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>

## 1. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

The following was noted as business arising and was held over for discussion later in the meeting

- Remuneration for Chairs, consideration of a collective application to Remuneration Tribunal
- Issues Paper on NSW Treasury Guidelines and application of BCRs to road funding

## 2. Roundtable Discussion

### *Facilitated Session*

Chairs and Executive Officers discussed outcomes of the OLG Facilitated Session. The JO representatives expressed their dissatisfaction that the session had not resulted in a concrete solution for funding for JOs.

**RESOLVED** on a motion moved by Cr Mulholland and by seconded Cr Brady that the Joint Chairs write to the Minister for Local Government stating that JOs require a more collaborative partnership approach to the proposed business model of funding. JOs request

on-going base line funding for each JO of \$300,000 per JO per annum for the next 3 years. A response from the Minister to be requested within 28 days.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Following the passing of the motion, the Chairs agreed that the correspondence should be prepared immediately and made ready for signing by all Chairs at the conclusion of the meeting. Cr Rowena Abbey advised that she was meeting with the Minister the following morning and agreed to present the correspondence to the Minister on behalf of the group.

The correspondence was prepared, with the assistance of Steph Cooke's office and signed by all the Chairs present. A copy of the correspondence is **attached**.

#### *JOs' Update*

JOs provided an updates and comments on their activities and thoughts on their progress:

**ISJO** – expressed concern about the lack of clear commitment regarding funding and advised that they are running a deficit budget. Cr Bradbery expressed concern that attending meetings was a waste of time, particularly for Chairs travelling in from rural areas.

**FSW** – moving ahead in a sustainable model. The State Government is being supportive.

**NRJO** – Happy to share their Freight and Supply Chain Strategy with the network. Cr Mulholland expressed concern that there is a risk of mayors disengaging due to lack of State Government buy-in.

**MNCJO** – The new Executive Officer will commence on 12 June. Concern expressed over RDAs, investment could be re-directed to Local Government.

**Hunter** – Have a good relationship with local RDA. Success of the JOs is reliant on all JOs being strong. Baseline funding is essential for this to occur.

**FNW** – have received \$14 million in funding and had success with securing a plane service for Cobar. All JOs should be supported equally.

**Namoi** – Water for the Future is a very exciting strategy, which will result in a 3 year program of works. JOs must take some responsibility for the disappointing funding outcome.

**Central NSW** – Now working under deficit budget, expressed concern that the Deputy Premier was not prepared to offer any solution. There has been ample time to commit to funding since the JO proclamation in May 18. The JO will continue its advocacy and is working positively with their 10 mayors.

**NEJO** – An Executive Officer has been recruited. The NEJO Board has written to request baseline funding. Their collaboration with Namoi is continuing.

**Orana** – JOs need to remain positive to work out the issues. Dubbo membership is critical to Orana's success. Collaboration with State has not been good. JO Chair remuneration must be addressed.

**CRJO** – the onus is on us to come up with a plan. Is there potential to access the RDA funding that the State was contributing to those organisations? The JO expressed concerns that LGNSW don't represent rural communities well. This may be a role that the JOs take one. Some of their members are questioning the LGNSW value proposition and the JO has sought a review.

**RESOLVED** on a motion moved by Cr Mulholland and seconded by Cr Medcalf that the LGNSW State President, Cr Linda Scott be invited to a JO Chairs' meeting.

It was agreed that it is important that an agenda be compiled for that meeting.

**RAMJO** – echoed concerns over the value of LGNSW membership. Also expressed concerns about the negotiating points in the DP's correspondence which should have been voiced to the DP and the Minister. It is important that JOs have an agreed position.

Solar uptake has been considerable in their region. Agricultural land has been lost with no compensation or return to the community. The JO supports renewables but has concerns about the community impact with money going off-shore. RivJO advised that it has been lobbying about s7.12 contributions not being levied on State Significant Developments and particularly solar farms. RivJO is meeting with the Minister for planning to discuss the issue.

**RivJO** – RivJO advised that it has been lobbying about s7.12 contributions not being levied on State Significant Developments and particularly solar farms. RivJO is meeting with the Minister for Planning to discuss the issue.

### **3. Fees for JO Chairs**

CRJO provided a briefing paper on the issue. Some JOs were in favour of a fee while others were not. It was raised that the issue of voting on remuneration presented a conflict of interest and that it would be better if remuneration was determined by the Tribunal. This would require a change to the legislation.

It was agreed that individual JOs would take the issue to their Boards for discussion and return to the next joint meeting with their Board's stance.

### **4. Emergency Services Levy**

JO Chairs expressed their frustration at the timing and size of the ELS for 2019/20. The imposition goes against the promise the Premier made in May 2017 to consult with councils.

**RESOLVED** on a motion moved by Cr Abbey and seconded by Cr Mulholland that each JO write to the all Ministers responsible recommending that due to timing and lack of consultation that the imposition of the ESL be deferred for 12 months then shown as a separate line item outside the rate cap. JOs to include relevant State members in the correspondence.

## **5. Issues Paper on BCR for Roads Funding**

An issues paper was prepared by CRJO and circulated to the JOs. It was agreed that the Paper should be extended with local examples that demonstrated the lack of confidence in the BCR methodology. Inconsistent feedback on funding decisions was also cited as an issue.

The meeting agreed on the following actions:

- a) All EOs to forward examples of BCR issues to Namoi JO for collation into an expanded briefing paper;
- b) We invite the Treasurer, Minister for Finance and their Chiefs of Staff to the next meeting; and
- c) At the next meeting we workshop the BCR issue, using the expanded paper as the basis for discussion.

It was agreed that we need to have a bigger conversation with the State about the co-design of State programs.

## **6. Other Business**

*Regional Shared Positions* – Biodiversity Reform and CLM Positions were discussed. CRJO raised the issue of whether we should be requesting an extension of the Biodiversity Reform position funding beyond February 2020.

It was noted that the two-year funding commitment has been challenging in terms of retention of staff and program implementation.

ISJO raised the issue of pest management and how this was being managed by councils. There is potential for this to be a regional project.

## **7. Next Meeting**

Thursday, 1 August

Chair will be Cr Gordon Bradbery AM, Chair Illawarra JO

## **8. Close**

Meeting closed at 4.05pm

30May2019

Hon Shelley Hancock MP  
Minister for Local Government  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

Dear Minister

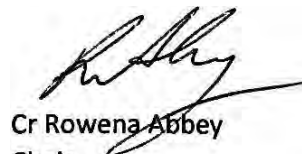
We write on behalf of all thirteen NSW Joint Organisations, following our facilitated meeting today to discuss a framework for collaboration with the NSW Government.

The meeting of Joint Organisation (JO) Chairs which followed the above meeting discussed its outcomes and the way forward. The JO Chairs have unanimously resolved that we write to you to advise that we agree that JOs require a more collaborative partnership approach to the proposed business model of funding. We agree that the provision of on-going baseline funding of \$300,000 per JO, each year for the next three years, would recognise the need for capacity building funding which would allow JOs and the State to work collaboratively to continue development on sustainable financial pathways for the new organisations.

It was noted during the facilitated session that JOs were reporting deficit budgets, during our JO Chairs' meeting it was agreed that this approach was not sustainable. Given the realised benefits of collaboration between JOs, State Government and councils to drive outcomes, we believe that a commitment from State Government to ensuring the financial sustainability of the JOs during their establishment phase is in the best interests of regional NSW.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the concerns raised in this letter with you. We are agreed that as we enter into a second Financial Year of operations for the JOs that the issue of a collaborative funding model must be suitably resolved to provide our member councils with confidence about the future of JOs. Your response to our correspondence, within 28 days would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Cr Rowena Abbey  
Chair  
Canberra Region JO



UJohn Metcalf  
Chair  
Central NSW JO





Cr Ryan Palmer  
Acting Chair  
Hunter JO

Cr Liz Campbell  
Chair  
Mid-North Coast JO

Cr Michael Pearce  
Chair  
New England JO

Cr Craig Davies  
Acting Chair  
Orana JO

Cr Kevin Mack  
Chair  
Riverina and Murray JO

Cr Lillian Brady  
Chair  
Far North West JO

Cr Gordon Bradbery OAM  
Chair  
Illawarra Shoalhaven JO

Cr Jamie Chaffey  
Chair  
Namoi Unlimited

Cr Danielle Mulholland  
Chair  
Northern Rivers JO

Cr Rick Firman OAM  
Chair  
Riverina JO

Cr Melissa Hederics  
Chair  
Far South West JO



**ATTACHMENT 6: Draft minutes of JO Chairs' meeting 1 August 2019**[<back to meeting papers>](#)**NSW Joint Organisation – Chairs Minutes of Meeting**

Thursday 2 August 2019, 2.15pm to 5.00pm

Jubilee Room, NSW Parliament, Macquarie Street Sydney

**PRESENT**

<b>Joint Organisation</b>	<b>Chair</b>
Illawarra Shoalhaven	Clr Gordon Bradbery AM, Lord Mayor Wollongong City Council cr.gbradbery@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Canberra Region	Clr Rowena Abbey, Mayor, Yass Valley Council rowena.abbey@yass.nsw.gov.au
Central NSW	Clr John Medcalf OAM, Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au
Hunter	Clr Bob Pysent, Mayor, Cessnock City Council bob.pysent@cessnock.nsw.gov.au
Mid-North Coast	Clr Liz Campbell, Mayor, Kempsey Shire Council liz.campbell@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
Namoi Unlimited	Clr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor, Gunnedah Council jamie.chaffey@infogunnedah.com.au
New England	Clr Michael Pearce, Mayor, Uralla Council mayor@uralla.nsw.gov.au
Northern Rivers	Clr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor, Kyogle Council chair@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au
Orana	Clr Doug Batten, Mayor, Gilgandra Council mayor@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au
Riverina	Clr Rick Firman, Mayor, Temora Council rfirman@temora.nsw.gov.au
Riverina and Murray	Clr Kevin Mack, Mayor, Albury Council kmack@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

**APOLOGIES**

<b>Joint Organisation</b>	<b>Chair</b>
Far North West	Clr Lillian Brady, Mayor, Cobar Shire Council mayor@cobar.nsw.gov.au
Far South West	Clr Melisa Hederics, Mayor, Wentworth Council council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

**BY INVITATION**

<b>Joint Organisation</b>	<b>Chief Executive/Executive Officer</b>
Illawarra Shoalhaven	Leanne Taylor
Canberra Region	Gabrielle Cusack
Central NSW	Jenny Bennett
Far North West	Greg Lamont
Far South West	Mark Forbes
Hunter	Joe James
Mid-North Coast	Fionnuala Dixon
Namoi Unlimited	Rebel Thompson

New England	Brooke Southwell
Northern Rivers	Isabel Perdriau
Orana	Belinda Barlow
Riverina	Julie Briggs
Riverina and Murray	Bridgett Leopold
<b>State Government Department</b>	<b>Name</b>
Local Government and Planning	Karen Purser, Manager Council Engagement Team
Local Government and Planning	Virginia Errington, Council Engagement Manager
Regional NSW	Anthony Body, Executive Director Regional NSW

## 1 Welcome

Lord Mayor Clr Gordon Bradbery in his capacity as appointed Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

## 2 Local Government and Regional Planning (previously known as Office of Local Government) Portfolio Update – Mr Tim Hurst

Deputy Secretary Mr Tim Hurst provided an overview of the recent changes to the Local Government and Regional Planning portfolio:

2.1 The portfolio has been expanded to include:

- Local and regional planning
- Planning policy
- Local government

2.2 The latest amendments to the Local Government Act were summarised, see attached powerpoint.

2.3 The latest IPART Reports released for consultation relate to:

- Review of Rating System (13/9)
- Review of Reporting and Compliance Burdens (25/10)
- Review of Compliance and Enforcement (15/11)
- Cost of Elections

These Consultation processes have staggered closing dates to enable Councils to respond. The final report on the Cost of Elections will be submitted to the Minister by the end of August.

2.4 Social Media and Councillor/staff interaction Policy is under review. Examples of best practice received from across the state is now under review to enable a state wide policy, the use of which will be voluntary.

2.5 Webcasting Guidelines are being reviewed:

- There are changes to model codes
- Guidelines use a best practice approach to encourage community participation and transparency in decision making

If member Councils already have effective guidelines, they are invited to send them to OLG for review to inform the new guidelines.

2.6 Integrated Planning and Reporting – new guidance materials are currently being developed.

2.7 Questions/Comments for Mr Tim Hurst:

JO Chairs were encouraged by the IPART Review into the cost of council elections and all agreed that one way to reduce costs was to reduce the timeframes for pre-polling.

2.7.1 NSW Audit Office External Audits:

Mr Tim Hurst was asked who the Auditor General reports to and advised it is the NSW Parliament.

The proposed cost of external audits undertaken by the Audit Office for Joint Organisations was discussed. All Chairs expressed concern at the high costs of quotes received for the FY 18/19 from the NSW Audit Office range from \$6K to \$19K.

Mr Tim Hurst agreed to raise this issue with the Auditor General.

**RESOLVED: A meeting to be arranged with the Auditor General to express the JO Chairs' and EOs' concerns of the cost proposals for external audits. Representing the JO Chairs will be Lord Mayor Clr Gordon Bradbery (ISJO) and Clr Jamie Chaffey (Namoi Unlimited); and representing the EOs will be Leanne Taylor (ISJO) and Joe James (HRJO).**

Moved: Clr Rowena Abbey

Seconded: Clr Bob Pysent

Carried unanimously

2.7.2 Local Government and Planning Cluster and communication with Councils. Mr Tim Hurst confirmed that JO Chairs are not intended to be the channel for communication between OLG and member Councils. OLG have Council Engagement Officers who work 1:1 with Councils – so that the autonomy of individual councils can be respected. He advised that the JO Chairs meetings are his chance to talk with all Chairs in one go providing the most up to date information.

2.7.3 Joint Organisations and Co-design with State Government. Mr Tim Hurst advised that this would be covered in the EO Workshop run by his team on 2 August.

### **3 Joint Organisation Updates**

**Namoi Unlimited's** Chair Clr Jamie Chaffey asked for the Terms of Reference to ensure future meetings include outcomes from previous meetings.

**Central NSW JO** Clr Rick Firman congratulated Clr John Medcalf on the recent Queens Birthday Honours where he was awarded the Order of Australia medal.

**Far West JO** EO Mark Forbes gave apologies from his Chair Clr Melisa Hederics who wasn't able to attend today's meeting. The JO has now developed their Statement of Key Priorities; and a Service Level Agreement between Councils to support the JO, removing the need to employ other staff. They are sponsoring the Practice Round Table at SEGRA on Climate Change/drought.

**New England JO** Regional Roads network strategy EOI; and regional waste collaboration initiatives are the focus currently.

#### **4 JO Chairs' Meetings Terms of Reference**

The JO Chairs discussed the need to have consistency in the Chair and Secretariat of the meetings to carry forward the decision making of meetings and in undertaking advocacy.

**RESOLVED: That the draft Terms of Reference be adopted, with the exception of Point 6 – Chair to reflect the following:**

**At the next JO Chairs' meeting, appoint a Chair for a period of up to 12 months; with the role being rotated annually. A decision regarding the Secretariat (ie the appointed Chair's EO or a dedicated externally funded Secretariat position) to be determined when the JO funding model is better understood. The current Chair to report back to the next JO Chairs' meeting.**

Moved: Clr J Chaffey

Seconded: Clr D Mullholland

Carried Unanimously

#### **5 Machinery of Government Update – Mr Steve Orr**

An update on the new Department of Planning Infrastructure and Environment was presented by Mr Steve Orr, focussing on the new structure, government priorities and regional NSW priorities.

Mr Orr explained the shift in priorities from an economic (ie infrastructure) focus to people (ie disadvantaged) (See attached copy of the Powerpoint for more detail).

The Government's priorities are: workforce; education; community – connectivity, environment; customer focus; intergenerational disadvantage. The Premier's 14 priorities reflect the social disadvantage theme which was discussed by the group.

Regional NSW Priorities include:

- Regional governance
- Regional youth
- Regional growth funds
- Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund
- Special Activation Precincts
- Drought
- Far West Communities
- Place based responses

JO Chairs were pleased to better understand the Priorities as this shows clearly how JOs can work with the State.

##### **5.1 Questions for Steve Orr**

##### **5.1.1 State Government Expectations of regions to deliver**

JO Chairs commented that the government's position lacks sustainability across the state in health, education and basic services and the drought is adding to this.

Mr Steve Orr recommended that JOs focus on delivering on actions – smaller projects based on collaboration with the State.

## **6 LG NSW Update**

Clr Linda Scott provided a summary of the advocacy work LG NSW is currently undertaking in the following areas:

- Emergency Services Levy
- IPART election costs
- Local Government and State engagement – recommending the Inter-government Agreement be reinstated
- Councils affected by drought receive relief
- Waste and Recycling – regional waste programs
- JO funding

LGNSW is also planning the following forums:

- JO & ROC Taskforce Forum to explore actions for collaboration in early October
- Crown Lands Forum – August in Lismore; November in Sydney
- Merged Councils Forum 16 and 17 September, Central Coast
- 

## **7 Youth Initiatives – Mr Daniel Newlan, Chief of Staff to The Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women**

Mr Newlan discussed the Government's new portfolio and outlined the priorities for youth (ie aged 12 – 24) living in the state. A consultation process with youth across the state has been completed which addressed four themes: work readiness; wellbeing; connectivity; and community. This consultation process has informed the State that:

- Government doesn't talk in their language. There is no recognition of youth issues in regional areas
- There is a disconnect between careers advice, relevant training and in getting a job.
- There is a need to reshape existing programs to tailor them to youth requirements and to different regional needs. For example, in health there are service gaps making accessing of health services difficult.
- It is difficult to get the hours up for learner drivers before they can get a drivers license, impacting on their ability to get jobs.
- There needs to be a way to centralise both government and NGO services.
- There needs to be a greater focus on youth's connection to community. They want jobs where they live.

The Minister has established a Youth Taskforce strategy which will be implemented across 9 regions to identify gaps and priorities and develop a strategic framework for delivery to inform government policy; accommodate regional tailoring; and provide feedback on frontline service delivery.

A Report on the Consultation Outcomes and Taskforce will be available in October 2019.

## 7.1 Questions for Mr Newlan

### 7.1.1 Are the 9 regions aligned to JO regions?

D Newlan advised that there is some alignment, but the focus was on metropolitan vs regional. The applications for membership of the Taskforce closes Monday 5 August 2019. As at 1 August 140 applications had been received, the targeted number was 200. There are currently twice the number of women to men, with more applications required from the Far West and Hunter.

### 7.1.2 How do all groups of youth get attention, not just welfare recipients?

Mr Newlan advised the Taskforce will be established to ensure diversity.

### 7.1.3 Could another consideration be given to what do communities need from their Youth? In other words, what is the community vision for retaining a youth presence in the community?

The JO Chairs expressed concern that looking at youth in isolation is problematic, recommending an integrated approach to strengthen community which in turn will create opportunities for youth.

## **8 Minister for Justice, Families and Disability – The Hon Gareth Ward: portfolio update**

Minister Ward advised that a new Bill had been passed for the Aged and Disability Commissioner, which is an independent statutory office where Robert Fitzgerald has been appointed Commissioner. This role is to investigate system failures, investigate claims of abuse and exploitation and educate the public.

Minister Ward advised his portfolio plans to halve the number of people street sleeping by 2025; through shifting the focus from welfare to assertive targeted interventions for the most vulnerable groups in society, ie recipients of the mental health system; teen pregnancy; home protection system; and children from birth to 5 years.

The Minister advised his portfolio had access to de-identified data to determine targeted interventions.

## 8.1 Questions for Minister Ward

### 8.1.1 Could the Joint Organisations get access to your de-identified data to enable placemaking conversations in LGAs?

Minister Ward agreed to provide this information.

**Action: ISJO CE to write to Minister Ward formally requesting access to [Forecasting Future Outcomes 2018 Insights Report, Taylor Frye](#).**

### 8.1.2 How is Minister Ward's portfolio integrating with Minister Taylor's Youth Initiatives?

Minister Ward said he is working with Minister Taylor and Minister Pavey on affordable housing, citing the Sirius Building sale as one example. Minister Ward said there was more local work required from local government in subdivision approvals and housing supply – where public transport corridors needed to be considered.

### 8.1.3 How can JO's work better with Minister Wards' portfolio?



Minister Ward invited JOs to engage with him to discuss their regional community needs so that services can be better engaged.

## **9. Local Government Minister Update: the Hon Shelley Hancock**

The Minister gave a summary of her focus to date: in finding ways to resolve local government issues such as webcasting of committees; donations caps; emergency service levy; and strengthening the partnership between state and local government. She is currently surveying councils to get further ideas.

The Minister then announced she had secured \$1.95m from NSW Treasury for Joint Organisations, which equates to \$150,000 per Joint Organisation for this financial year. The funding comes with conditions to enable Joint Organisations to have future certainty. Each Joint Organisation is now required to apply for the \$150,000 with Local Government and Planning. The Minister said this payment is for the current financial year and will be reviewed in 12 months.

The Minister said she was even more committed to the Joint Organisation model and continues to learn about what has been done so far.

JO Chairs thanked the Minister for securing the funding, but reminded her that this additional funding will only go to balance this financial year's budget. The Minister responded by saying JOs need to use this funding to find mechanisms to remain viable into the future. She suggested all JOs look to examples of best practice from across the state.

Chair Lord Mayor Clr Gordon Bradbery asked Hunter Region JO Chief Executive Joe James to describe their shared services model. Mr Joe James then described the HRJO model where both commercial and NFP businesses operate and contribute funds to supplement member Council contributions. He advised that this model has been running in some cases for 20 years – but warned that expecting all JOs to run businesses is not sustainable as it requires a skills set that takes the focus from the JO core business which is to service local and state government.

The issues experienced in applying for the current grant program Stronger Country Communities Fund were then discussed. JO Chairs and EOs advised the Minister that as the Fund is set up per LGA, to undertake a regional project JOs in some cases were required to complete 7 applications. The result of this is that JOs are competing against their member Councils for funding. The Minister responded to this saying the State Government need to review processes to make things work better for Joint Organisations.

**RESOLVED: That a Taskforce on JO Financial Sustainability be established to provide recommendations to the Minister. The Taskforce to comprise 4 JO Chairs and 2 JO EOs:**

<b>JO Chairs</b>	<b>JO Executive Officers</b>
Lord Mayor Clr Gordon Bradbery AM, ISJO	Julie Briggs, Riverina JO
Clr Jamie Chaffey, Namoi Unlimited	Isabel Perdriau, NRJO
Clr Rowena Abbey, CRJO	
Clr Danielle Mullholland, NRJO	

The purpose of the Taskforce would be to work closely with Local Government and Planning and DPIE to:

- Explore possible funding models for financial viability
- Identify and share examples of best practice
- Investigate opportunities for JOs to create new revenue streams
- Develop new tools/methodologies for all JOs to share

The Terms of Reference for the Taskforce to be developed by Local Government and Planning (ie OLG).

#### **10 Meeting Closed**

The meeting closed at 5.20pm.

#### **11 Next Meeting – November 2019**

Chair: Cllr Liz Campbell, MNCJO

Next meeting Agenda to include:

- 12 month appointment of Chair
- Feedback on outcome of meeting with Auditor General re audit costs
- Minister Ward's de-identified data and individual region service needs
- JO Taskforce outcomes



**ATTACHMENT 7: Correspondence received from Minister Barilaro** [<back to meeting papers>](#)



**The Hon. John Barilaro MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Industry and Trade

Ref: A2826597

Cr Danielle Mulholland  
Chairperson  
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation  
PO Box 146  
LISMORE NSW 2480

Dear Cr Mulholland

I am writing to you with an update about the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.

As you may be aware, the NSW Government established this Fund to provide regional NSW with 100 per cent of our proceeds from the Snowy Hydro transaction.

This Fund is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to unlock billions for large-scale, transformative regional infrastructure projects. Five priority areas have been established to guide our investment:

1. Water security for regional NSW;
2. Banishing mobile blackspots and boosting internet connectivity;
3. Faster and better rail;
4. Improving regional freight networks; and
5. Creating new business and industry precincts to drive jobs and investment.

I am pleased to advise since the announcement of these priority areas in 2018, the NSW Government has begun work on the first initial investments.

The 2019-20 Budget confirmed work will commence immediately to address water security in the Lachlan Valley, starting with investigations to raise Wyangala Dam wall. We have also fast-tracked Regional Water Strategies for every catchment across the state. These plans will identify the dams, pipelines and weirs suitable to receive Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund investment.

The first allocation of funding has also been made for the \$400 million Regional Digital Connectivity Program, which will ensure families, businesses and emergency services will have access to reliable mobile phone, internet and data services.

The Wagga Wagga and Parkes "Special Activation Precincts" are also well on their way to establishment, with community forums and consultative planning progressing. On 28 June, we created the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation, to deliver the Special Activation Precincts program. This body has the explicit aim of slashing red and green tape for investors and businesses interested in setting up in regional NSW and delivering the infrastructure required to get these precincts up and running.

Transport for NSW will soon deliver a report to Government on international airfreight hub options in regional NSW. This report will consider every regional airport in the state. This means NSW farmers are one step closer to getting fresh produce to their valued international customers faster.

Much of the work described in this letter is being undertaken in close consultation with councils and other regional stakeholders. An important distinction between the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund and other regional infrastructure programs is that the size and scale necessitates the NSW Government playing a leadership role in identifying and delivering projects.

The Regional Growth Fund continues to be the vehicle for smaller scale community and economic regional infrastructure projects. It received a \$100 million recharge to invest in more, much-needed, community infrastructure in the 2019-20 Budget, taking the total amount available for communities across regional NSW to a record \$1.7 billion.

I invite you to subscribe to the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund e-newsletter for regular updates by visiting [www.nsw.gov.au/snowyhydrofund](http://www.nsw.gov.au/snowyhydrofund). Please find enclosed a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document that provides more information about the mechanics of the Fund.

I look forward to working with you to create a lasting legacy for the people of regional NSW.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Barilaro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**The Hon. John Barilaro MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Industry and Trade





# SNOWY HYDRO

## Legacy Fund

### FAQs

**Q Can councils or other groups apply for project funding from the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund?**

**A** The Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund will not involve application-based funding for infrastructure projects.

One of the differences between the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund and other NSW Government infrastructure funds is that the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund will be invested in nation-building projects that are generally costlier and more complex, and have wider benefits for regional NSW. This is why the NSW Government is taking a leadership role in directing the investment of the fund.

The government's 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW is the blueprint for how the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund will be invested and is the best guide to future funding decisions.

**Q Who do we contact in the NSW Government to propose a project for funding?**

**A** The Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund will not involve application-based funding for infrastructure projects. The first point of contact for councils and Joint Organisations should be their allocated NSW Government Business Development Manager. They can provide advice about the objectives of the fund and the government's priorities for investment.

**Q How can councils and Joint Organisations have a say in Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund projects?**

**A** The government is actively engaging with councils and Joint Organisations to contribute to the development of business cases and other studies, and to partner in other aspects of project planning and delivery.

For example, the Parkes Special Activation Precinct business case is under joint development by the NSW Government and Parkes Shire Council. This has proven to be a successful model.

Councils have also been involved in developing a number of NSW Government strategies that will be key in identifying projects for funding from the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund. These include:

- regional transport strategies
- regional water strategies
- Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS)

**Q Should councils start developing business cases and other plans for the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund?**

**A** The Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund will not involve application-based funding for infrastructure projects. Councils should consult their allocated NSW Government Business Development Manager before committing funding to project planning activities that are intended to be considered for NSW Government funding. This ensures that proposals are considered within the most appropriate funding program.



**Q Are new funding programs being established under the Snowy Hydro fund?**

**A** The NSW Government announced the following Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund 'investment priorities' aligned with the government's *A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW*:

1. Water security in priority catchments
2. Rail and road passenger transport connections
3. Improving freight linkages
4. Improving regional digital connectivity
5. Special Activation Precincts for increased business investment

These priorities will guide the selection of projects for funding consideration.

**Q How much funding has been allocated to each investment priority?**

**A** Scoping studies are underway for the priority investment areas. These studies will provide an estimate of total delivery costs for each priority area.

**Q How does Snowy Hydro funding impact the Regional Growth Fund and other regional infrastructure programs?**

**A** Other NSW Government regional infrastructure funding programs will continue to operate and councils should participate in application and expression of interest processes as advertised. In most cases, local infrastructure proposals will be a better fit for existing economic activation and community infrastructure programs rather than the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.

Councils should work with their allocated NSW Government Business Development Manager to determine the most appropriate program for project proposals.

**Q How will projects be selected or assessed?**

**A** Projects will be identified by the NSW Government and will be reviewed by regional leadership executives. Project proposals must align with the 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW and other government strategies including the *NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038*.

Proposed projects will be assessed under the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund Guidelines. If a proposal satisfies the criteria, it may be recommended to the Premier and Deputy Premier for formal nomination under the *Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund Act 2018*. Projects must also be approved by the Treasurer.

**Q What criteria do projects need to meet for funding?**

**A** Projects will be assessed under the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund Guidelines. These guidelines confirm the government's priorities, and bring together requirements outlined in the *Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund Act 2018* and other NSW Government policies.

The following will be considered in identifying and approving projects for funding:

- Projects must be large-scale, with significant long-term economic benefits.
- Regional NSW must benefit from the project.
- Projects must be productive infrastructure to improve regional economic development.
- Projects need to align with the 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW and one of the fund's five investment priorities.

**Q How is regional NSW defined for the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund?**

**A** The *Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund Act 2018* defines regional NSW as all areas of the state outside of metropolitan Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

**Q What decisions have already been made about funding?**

**A** The government has committed to funding delivery of the following projects:

- \$400 million to enhance mobile and internet connectivity in regional NSW
- \$650 million to improve water security in the Central West, including investigating augmentation of Wyangala dam

The government has also commenced a number of studies to support future investment decisions including:

- business cases and master planning to support Special Activation Precincts in Parkes, Wagga Wagga and other priority locations
- business cases for key pipelines and other projects that will support water security, including Lostock to Glennies Dam pipeline
- regional water strategies to plan for catchment-level investment in water security
- investigating international air freight hubs to connect producers with international markets
- faster rail strategy for NSW

<b>Government Priority:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Creation of Office of Regional Youth</li><li>Delivery of Regional Youth Strategy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Premier's Priority – World Class Public Service</li><li>Regional Development Framework</li><li>MNC JO goal – diverse and robust economy</li><li>NR JO goal – diversified prosperous and sustainable regional economy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Premier's Priority – Better Environment</li><li>NR JO goal - thriving healthy and biodiverse natural environments</li><li>MNC JO goals – Enhance natural and cultural heritage; and an active healthy, resilient and safe community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Premier's Memorandum: Local Decision Making M2015-01.</li><li>Premier's Priority – Breaking the cycle: reducing domestic violence reoffending; and reducing street homelessness</li><li>NR JO goal – improved community wellbeing now and into the future</li></ul>
<b>Regional Priority:</b>	<b>Improving outcomes for Regional Youth</b>	<b>Local leadership, employment and skills development</b>	<b>Strengthening the Region's adaptability and sustainability for the future.</b>	<b>Place based and local solutions to strengthen communities</b>
<b>Evidence:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The 2016 Census recorded 399,000 young people living in regional NSW. The concentration of young people in regional NSW mirrors the general population.</li><li>The majority of LGAs in regional NSW have a low to medium service intensity,</li><li>The majority of youth services are located in regional centres with limited services in remote areas. The availability and location of youth-specific services often requires young people to travel significant distances. The lack of affordable and reliable transport is a significant barrier<sup>1</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As at February 2019. Coffs Harbour Grafton SA4 had unemployment significantly above the state average (8.6%, and 22.2% youth – compared to 4.6% and 10.1%). Mid North Coast SA4 was roughly in line with the state average and Richmond Tweed was marginally better.<sup>2</sup></li><li>As at 2018, 38.7% of NSW public servants in leadership positions were female, and 87 people in senior leadership positions identified as Aboriginal<sup>3</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Temperatures on the north coast are projected to increase by up to 2.5 degrees with an increase of up to 12 hot days per year. This will be accompanied by an increased frequency, intensity and duration of heatwaves and the potential for major fluctuations in rainfall, leading to increased floods and drought impacts.<sup>4</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Of the 12 LGAs in the North Coast, four have rates of domestic violence in the highest 20% of the state (Kempsey, Nambucca, Kyogle, Richmond Valley), with Coffs Harbour also in the highest 25%, and two further LGAs (Lismore and Clarence Valley) in the highest 50%.</li><li>The Northern NSW FACS district (Northern Rivers + Clarence Valley) has a rate of homelessness of 496 per 100,000. This is significantly higher than the NSW average of 408 per 100,000.<sup>5</sup></li></ul>
<b>Key initiatives planned:</b>	<b>2019/20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implement relevant actions from the NSW Regional Youth Strategy, including the North Coast Youth Action Plan (if applicable)</li><li><i>Deliver a place-based response to health eating and active living for young people in the Northern Rivers, as part of the NNSW LHD Healthy Communities Plan</i></li></ul>	<b>2019/20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Deliver the second annual North Coast Female Leadership Forum for current and emerging leaders in the NSW Public Sector and Local Government</li><li>Work with the Public Service Commission to roll out a regional NSW Graduate Program on the North Coast</li><li><i>Undertake a regional skills audit across the NSW public service agencies and local government on the North Coast, identifying skills gaps and means to address them</i></li></ul>	<b>2019/20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implement the priority projects as identified in the North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation report</li><li>Undertake a community resilience project to educate and prepare communities across the region for disaster events and climate change</li></ul>	<b>2019/20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support NSW Government readiness for Accord Negotiations with Alliances as part of Local Decision-Making Process</li><li><i>Undertake a place-based project in one Northern Rivers homelessness hot spot, which activates a second life asset to reduce street homelessness</i></li><li><i>Potential DFV project based on previous research or Premier's Priority?</i></li></ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>TBD</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>TBD</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>TBD</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>TBD</i></li></ul>
<b>Key links:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stronger Country Communities Round 3 – Youth Funds</li><li>NSW Advocate for Children and Young People</li><li>Healthy Communities Plan</li><li>Regional Youth Strategy Consultation outcomes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NSW Public Service Commission</li><li>Women NSW</li><li>Regional Development Australia (NR &amp; MNC)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>North Coast Regional Plan 2036</li><li>NSW Climate Change Policy Framework</li><li>Regional Emergency Management Committee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>OCHRE Plan – NSW Government Aboriginal Affairs Strategy</li><li>Tribal Wave (and/or RADA) Statements of Claim</li><li>NSW Homelessness Strategy</li><li>NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> 2019 Review of Youth Services in Regional NSW. Prepared by Nous for DPC Regional.

<sup>2</sup> Australian Government Department of Jobs and Small Business Key Labour Market Indicators by Region – February 2019.

<sup>3</sup> 2018 NSW State of the Public Sector Report, Public Service Commission

<sup>4</sup> North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation Report, 2019

<sup>5</sup> <https://public.tableau.com/profile/facs.statistics#1/vizhome/DistrictProfile-NorthernNSW/Dashboard1>

**ATTACHMENT 9: Joint JO Meeting - Draft agenda** [<back to meeting papers>](#)

<b>Northern Rivers and Mid North Coast JOs Strategic Actions meeting with Members of Parliament</b>	<b>Date:</b> TBA – 8 or 15 November 2019
<b>Location:</b> Parliament House, Macquarie Street, SYDNEY (Room TBA)	<b>Time:</b> TBA Est 2.5 hours

**Host:** Leslie Williams MP, Deputy Speaker & Member for Port Macquarie

**Attendees:** NSW Govt Ministers – Deputy Premier; Ministers for Police & Emergency Services; Local Government; Water, Property & Housing; Planning & Public Spaces; Energy & Environment

Mid North Coast Joint Organisation Mayors + Executive Officer

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Mayors + Executive Officer

Parliamentary Secretary for Energy & the Arts

North Coast Local Members of Parliament

Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

Item no.	Topic	Discussion Lead
1.	Welcome, introductions & apologies	Leslie Williams (as Host)
2.	<b>Emergency Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Disaster Recovery Arrangements</li> <li>Stormwater levy rates</li> <li>Rural Fire Service Level Agreements</li> <li>Funding options for flood plain risk management plans</li> </ul>	JO Rep Ministers for Emergency Services; Local Government
3.	<b>Waste Management &amp; Renewable Energy Options</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Management Strategies</li> <li>Renewable energy &amp; waste management regulations</li> <li>Opportunities for pilot projects</li> </ul>	JO Rep Minister for Energy & Environment; Parliamentary Secretary for Energy & the Arts
4.	<b>Environment &amp; Water</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional biodiversity/bio-banking opportunities</li> </ul>	JO Rep

Item no.	Topic	Discussion Lead
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Native forestry/forestry policy planning</li><li>○ Commercial water extraction</li><li>○ River Health</li></ul>	Ministers for Energy & Environment; Water, Property & Housing; Planning & Public Spaces
5.	<b>Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Access to social, crisis, affordable housing</li><li>○ Options for Ageing population</li><li>○ Planning to ensure supply of affordable housing</li></ul>	JO Rep Ministers for Water, Property & Housing; Planning & Public Spaces
6.	Meeting wrap up/close	Leslie Williams



**ATTACHMENT 10: OEH – NRJO Priority Alignment** [<back to meeting papers>](#)

**Northern Rivers Joint Organisation of Councils.**

*OEH programs/support aligned to the 5x regional priority areas*

<b>Priority 1-</b> Thriving healthy and biodiverse natural environments	<p>-Climate change and adaptation program and grants: Increasing resilience for local Government:  <a href="https://www.lgnsw.org.au/policy/increasing-resilience-climate-change">https://www.lgnsw.org.au/policy/increasing-resilience-climate-change</a>  <a href="https://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/">https://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/</a></p>
<b>Priority 2-</b> Improved community wellbeing now and into the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As per above</li> <li>- Energy affordability package for households: Rebates  <a href="https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts/energy-rebates">https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts/energy-rebates</a></li> <li>- Appliance replacement offer:  <a href="https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts/appliance-replacement-offer">https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts/appliance-replacement-offer</a></li> </ul> <p>1.</p>
<b>Priority 3-</b> A physically and digitally connected region	<p><i>None in our program (Sustainability) that would be of relevance that I'm aware of</i></p>
<b>Priority 4-</b> Innovative, sustainable energy, water and waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lighting upgrade rebates:  <a href="https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts/discounted-energy-efficient-lighting-households">https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts/discounted-energy-efficient-lighting-households</a></li> <li>- Air conditioner upgrade:            2. <a href="https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts/discounted-energy-efficient-air-conditioners-households">https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-and-discounts/discounted-energy-efficient-air-conditioners-households</a></li> <li>- Solar for households:  <a href="https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/solar-and-battery-power">https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/households/solar-and-battery-power</a></li> <li>- Community energy project funding;            3. <a href="https://energy.nsw.gov.au/renewables/renewable-energyoffers/communities">https://energy.nsw.gov.au/renewables/renewable-energyoffers/communities</a></li> <li>- Clean energy knowledge sharing initiative:  <a href="https://energy.nsw.gov.au/commercial-business/sustainability/knowledge-sharing-initiative">https://energy.nsw.gov.au/commercial-business/sustainability/knowledge-sharing-initiative</a></li> <li>- GREP Policy:  <a href="https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/government/policy.htm">https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/government/policy.htm</a></li> </ul> <p>4. <i>Isabel- also look at EPA, as occasionally they may have funding for waste and waste to energy if any help?</i></p> <p>5.</p>
<b>Priority 5-</b> A diversified, prosperous and sustainable regional economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manufacturing efficiency funding:  <a href="https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/business/discounts-and-incentives/manufacturing-efficiency-funding">https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/business/discounts-and-incentives/manufacturing-efficiency-funding</a></li> </ul> <p>6.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rebates for businesses and councils: <a href="https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/business/discounts-and-incentives">https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/business/discounts-and-incentives</a></li> <li>7.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
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### **Current political environment as at 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**NSW:** Subject to change obviously Isobel, but the main political drivers now from an energy and sustainability point of view are the NSW policies. Adaptation and mitigation are also a focus as well as the energy affordability package.

- **Net Zero emissions by 2050:** <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Climate-change/achieving-net-zero-emissions-by-2050-fact-sheet-160604.pdf>
- **Policy framework:** <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/climate-change/policy-framework>
- **Energy affordability package:** <https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/the-premier/media-releases-from-the-premier/energy-bill-relief-package-for-households-and-small-business/>
- **GREP policy:** This policy is of most interest to the NR JOC- More to come on this but I know there is a focus on encouraging Local Government to also be involved:
- 8. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/government/policy.htm>
- 

A great overarching website (which summarises all the grants etc. I have linked above) is this one: [www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au).

**Federally,** there is a focus on energy efficiency/productivity driven down through COAG, with the main priorities being

- overarching responsibility and policy leadership for Australian gas and electricity markets
- promotion of energy efficiency and energy productivity in Australia
- Australian electricity, gas and petroleum product energy security
- cooperation between Commonwealth, state and territory governments
- facilitating the economic and competitive development of Australia's mineral and energy resources

Federal initiatives include with mechanisms such as the National Energy Guarantee (this also focusses on infrastructure and meeting baseload- hence Snowy 2.0)

<http://coagenergycouncil.gov.au/sites/prod.energycouncil/files/publications/documents/Final%20Detailed%20Design%20-%20National%20Energy%20Guarantee.pdf>

and the Emissions Reduction Fund, (now called the climate solutions fund) but it is also focussed around sequestration or energy efficiency within business.

<https://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/government/emissions-reduction-fund/about>

Federally there is reducing support around renewables. The main vehicle for this being ARENA now only really funds research into solar, with a bigger focus on energy productivity and baseload.

Priority 1 — Delivering secure and reliable electricity

Priority 2 — Accelerating solar PV innovation

Priority 3 — Improving energy productivity

Priority 4 — Exporting renewable energy

**ATTACHMENT 11: DoI Regional Water Strategies Agenda** [<back to meeting papers>](#)

## **Meeting to discuss regional urban water planning across the Far North Coast – draft agenda**

**Purpose:** To develop a co-ordinated approach for projects which address regional urban water security across the Far North Coast

**Invitees**

- Isabel Perdriau (Northern Rivers Joint Organisation)
- Phil Rudd & Michael McKenzie (Rous County Council)
- Rob Siebert (Tweed Shire Council)
- Joson Lam (Water NSW)
- Glenn George & Geoff Snell (Water Utilities Branch, DPIE Water)
- Daniel Harris & Andrew Craig (Regional Water Strategies Team, DPIE Water)

**Venue:** Wollongbar Agricultural Institute, Ted Batterham Room

**Date & Time:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 9:30 – 11:30

**Proposed agenda items:**

1. Current political status of Regional Water Strategies – Andrew
  - a. RWS team to grow considerably
  - b. Requirement to deliver draft regional water strategy for FNC by March 2020
2. NRJO's plans for further regional investigations – Isabel
  - a. Are there proposed regional urban water security investigations not captured by NRJO's project? - All
3. How might we co-ordinate regional investigations into urban water security?
  - a. Possible pathway / timing of NRJO project – SSWP Version 2 process – Glenn / Geoff
  - b. Timelines and deliverables of Regional Water Strategy project
  - c. Project planning / management – schedule regular (as required) communication between NRJO and DPIE Water – how formal do we make this?
  - d. Sharing of information / results and reporting
  - e. other?

ATTACHMENT 12: Report from Spatial Services <[back to meeting papers](#)>



**NSW**  
GOVERNMENT

## Spatial Services

## GDA2020 Update



Information Sheet
June 2019



Australia is on one of the fastest moving tectonic plates on the globe (~7cm per year).  
Image courtesy of <http://www.ga.gov.au/scientific-topics/positioning-navigation/datum-modernisation>

### GDA2020 – Australia’s new National Datum

GDA2020 was gazetted in October 2017 as Australia’s new National Datum. The datum provides the framework for coordinating all spatial information. GDA2020 defines coordinates which are approximately 1.8 metres to the north east of GDA94, which represents the tectonic motion of the Australian plate since GDA94 was defined in 1994.

GDA2020 is of higher-accuracy than GDA94, aligns more closely with GPS and GNSS positioning services and will result in nationally consistent datasets, free of the known distortions of GDA94. These changes are needed to support the increased accuracy required for positioning applications.

### When will NSW adopt GDA2020?

From 01 January 2020, GDA2020 will be adopted for use across NSW. Spatial Services is intending to update the Surveying and Spatial Information (S&SI) Act (2002) and Regulation (2017), for GDA2020 to become the legal datum from this date. Other legislation which refers to spatial information will progressively be updated to refer directly to the Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation, to allow a more consistent treatment of approved coordinate systems across legislation.

During 2019, NSW Spatial Services has been enabling the supply of key datasets and services in **both GDA94 and GDA2020**:

10 Feb 2019:	<a href="#">CORSnet-NSW</a> available in GDA2020 (and GDA94)
01 July 2019:	<a href="#">SCIMS Online</a> (Survey Control) available in GDA2020 (and GDA94)
Oct to Dec 2019:	Other data including Digital Cadastre, Topography, Addressing, Imagery etc. are scheduled to be made available in GDA2020 (and GDA94). (Timeframes still to be confirmed)
01 Jan 2020:	GDA2020 orientation and coordinates required on survey plans prepared under the S&SI Act and Regulation.
30 June 2020:	<a href="#">ANZLIC nominated date</a> by which Australian States and Territories will be ready to deliver and receive Foundation Spatial Data in GDA2020.

In the year 2020 we expect to see significant adoption of GDA2020 across most data users. Spatial Services is working across government, industry and academia to coordinate this transition.

Spatial Services, a unit of Department of Finance, Services and Innovation

## New Services and Tools – when can we expect them?

Existing delivery mechanisms for Spatial Services' data will need to be upgraded before all datasets can be delivered in both GDA94 and GDA2020. This will include updates to our **'Clip and Ship'**, **'Incremental Feed'**, and **Web-services**, scheduled for the second half of 2019. Spatial Services will ensure that existing users are informed in advance of any changes, to assist with transition planning.

Tools to transform existing GDA94 data are available already via:

- [positioning.fsdf.org.au](http://positioning.fsdf.org.au)
- [www.icsm.gov.au/datum/gda-transformation-products-and-tools](http://www.icsm.gov.au/datum/gda-transformation-products-and-tools)
- your existing GIS tools and service providers.

## What do you need to do to prepare for GDA2020?

- 1) Keep informed of changes and updates to GDA2020 through the [GDA2020 forum and FAQs](#);
- 2) Enquire with your spatial data software provider(s) if they are already supporting GDA2020 and the [published transformations between GDA94 and GDA2020](#) in your current versions;
- 3) Plan to upgrade your data to GDA2020; note however that incoming and outgoing data can still be transformed to suit your spatial data systems as required;
- 4) Discuss with your data providers and clients about when they intend to supply or require data in GDA2020;
- 5) Consider and revise your policy regarding GDA94/GDA2020 data provision and submission.

## What will happen to GDA94? Do you have to update to GDA2020 now?

GDA94 data and services will still remain available for several years to come. As GDA2020 capabilities are rolled out, it is recognised that not every organisation is ready or capable of upgrading their processes and software to cater for GDA2020 or the expected mixture of GDA94, GDA2020 and WGS84 datasets. It is therefore the intention of Spatial Services to support both GDA94 and GDA2020 into the foreseeable future, while assisting those organisations who want to realise the early benefits of transitioning to GDA2020.

## Where can you find out more?

Fact-sheets, FAQ and a discussion forum on GDA2020 and its adoption can be accessed via: [www.icsm.gov.au/gda2020](http://www.icsm.gov.au/gda2020)

For more information, please contact the Spatial Services - GDA2020 Implementation Team:

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