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**MINUTES OF NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING HELD  
FRIDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2024 AT RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL - 10 GRAHAM PLACE,  
CASINO NSW 2470**

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The Chair opened the meeting at 10.03 am.

In attendance:

Voting Committee:

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

General Managers:

- Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council
- Troy Green, Tweed Shire Council
- Jon Gibbons, Lismore City Council
- Paul Hickey, Ballina Shire Council
- Laura Black, Clarence Valley Council

Other attendees:

- Phillip Rudd, Executive Officer NRJO
- Anita Gambhir, Office of Local Government
- Amanda Leck, Reconstruction Authority
- Nerida Buckley, Reconstruction Authority
- Alex Platt, Reconstruction Authority
- Phil Courtney, Project Manager NRJO
- Cass Wilson, Regional NSW
- Jillian Fryer, Regional NSW
- Jai Vaze ([online](#))
- Cr Debrah Novak, Clarence Valley Council ([online](#))
- Cr Big Rob, Lismore City Council
- Cr Colby, Lismore City Council

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**1 OPENING OF THE MEETING**

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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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## 3 APOLOGIES

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Jeff McConnell – Scenic Rim Regional Council  
Chris White – General Manager, Kyogle Council

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## 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

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Nil.

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## 5 ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITOR(S)

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- 5.1 NSW Reconstruction Authority - Disaster Adaptation Planning  
Amanda Leck – Head, Adaptation, Mitigation & Reconstruction  
Nerida Buckley and Alex Platt
- 5.2 CSIRO – Regional update  
Jai Vaze – Senior Principal Research Scientist
- 5.3 NRJO Disaster and Risk Reduction Project  
Phil Courtney – NRJO Project Officer

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## 6 CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR ELECTIONS

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**RESOLVED** (Lyon/Johnstone) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board conduct an election for a chairperson and a deputy chairperson consistent with the election process for chairpersons of a joint organisation contained in the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* by way of open vote.

Election of chairperson

The Executive Officer, as Returning Officer, advised the meeting that two nominations for Chair was received.

**CARRIED** that the Executive Officer declare Cr Michael Lyon, Chairperson and will hold office until the ordinary local government elections expected to occur in September 2024.

Election of deputy chairperson

The Executive Officer, as Returning Officer, advised the meeting that two nominations for Deputy Chair was received.

**CARRIED** that the Executive Officer declare Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Deputy Chairperson and will hold office until the ordinary local government elections expected to occur in September 2024.

| <b>Chair and deputy chair elections (Resolution)</b> |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| For  | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Kylie Webster | 7 |
| Against  | None   | 0 |
| Abstain  | None   | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests                                | None   | 0 |
| Absent   | None   | 0 |
| <b>Carried</b>                                       |  |   |

Meeting was adjourned at 11.31am for a short recess.

Cr Webster left the meeting at 11.32am.

Meeting resumed at 11.55am.

Cr Lyon took the Chair and acknowledged the work of the outgoing Chair (Cr Cadwallader) and thanked the members present for placing their trust in him.

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## 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader/Mustow) that the Minutes of the meeting held 10 November 2023 and business arising be approved with the following amendment: -

Cr Kylie Thomas name be changed to Cr Kylie Webster.

| <b>Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting (Resolution)</b> |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| For   | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Kylie Webster | 6 |
| Against   | None   | 0 |
| Abstain   | None   | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests   | None   | 0 |
| Absent  | Cr Kylie Webster   | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>  |  |   |

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## 8 URGENT BUSINESS

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### 8.1 Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and Waste Levy

**RESOLVED** (Lyon/Mustow) that Northern Rivers Joint Organisation accept the below matter as urgent business:

**RESOLVED** (Cherry/Krieg) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation:-

1. Note Member Council's strong objection to the payment of the shifted costs such as the ESL and Waste Levy.
2. Liaise with other NSW joint organisations and advocate for a united decision in conveying the strong objection to the payment of the shifted costs such as the ESL and Waste Levy.
3. NRJO write to the Premier, the NSW Treasurer and the NSW Minister for Local

Government seeking that they urgently seek to address these costs through a combination of regulatory reform, budgetary provision and appropriate funding.

| <b>ESL and Waste Levy (Resolution)</b> |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| For                                    | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow | 6 |
| Against                                | None  | 0 |
| Abstain                                | None  | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests                  | None  | 0 |
| Absent                                 | Cr Kylie Webster  | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>                         |   |   |

## 8.2 Reconstruction Authority Workshop

**RESOLVED** (Lyon/Mustow) that Northern Rivers Joint Organisation accept the below matter of urgent business:

**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader/Johnstone) that Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board:-

1. Participate in a workshop to be coordinated and funded by the Reconstruction Authority to develop a scope and vision for the Disaster Adaptation plan for the Northern Rivers region.
2. Request Reconstruction Authority invite members of the public to participate in the workshop.

| <b>Reconstruction Authority Workshop (Resolution)</b> |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| For   | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow | 6 |
| Against   | None  | 0 |
| Abstain   | None  | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests                                 | None  | 0 |
| Absent  | Cr Kylie Webster  | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>  |   |   |

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## 9 NOTICE OF MOTION

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Nil.

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## 10 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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### 10.1 Executive Officer Report

**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader/Lyon) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board receive and note the Executive Officer's report as presented.

| <b>Executive Officer Report (Resolution)</b> |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| For  | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow | 6 |
| Against                                      | None  | 0 |
| Abstain                                      | None  | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests                        | None  | 0 |
| Absent                                       | Cr Kylie Webster  | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>                               |   |   |

## 10.2 Financial Reports ending January 2024

**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader/Johnstone) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board receive and note the financial reports for period ending 31 January 2024

| <b>Financial Reports ending January 2024 (Resolution)</b> |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| For   | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow | 6 |
| Against   | None  | 0 |
| Abstain   | None  | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests                                     | None  | 0 |
| Absent  | Cr Kylie Webster  | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>  |   |   |

## 10.3 Draft Statement of Revenue Policy 2024-2025

**RESOLVED** (Lyon/Cherry) that:

1. The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board endorses the draft the 2024/25 Budget and Statement of Revenue policy attached to this report, for public exhibition.
2. Publish the Draft Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy for 2024/25 on the website for 28 days.
3. If public submissions are made during the public exhibition period, a report be furnished to the NRJO May 2024 meeting, including Executive Officer comments on how the submissions have been considered, for the Board to determine a position on endorsement of the 2024/25 Budget and Statement of Revenue policy.
4. If no public submissions are made during the public exhibition period, the version of the draft the 2024/25 Budget and Statement of Revenue policy placed on public exhibition, is deemed to be adopted by the Board.

| <b>Draft Statement of Revenue Policy 2024-2025 (Resolution)</b> |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| For   | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow | 6 |
| Against   | None  | 0 |
| Abstain   | None  | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests   | None  | 0 |
| Absent  | Cr Kylie Webster  | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>  |   |   |

#### 10.4 Short Term Investment Proposal

**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader/Cherry) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board support the Short-Term Investment proposal outlined in the report.

| <b>Short Term Investment Proposal (Resolution)</b> |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| For  | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow | 6 |
| Against  | None  | 0 |
| Abstain  | None  | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests                              | None  | 0 |
| Absent   | Cr Kylie Webster  | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>                                     |   |   |

#### 10.5 Electrification of Vehicle Fleets and Infrastructure Event

**RESOLVED** (Mustow/Cadwallader) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board note:

1. The event as outlined in the proposal.
2. The extension of the JONZA grant program to June 2024.

| <b>Electrification of Vehicle Fleets and Infrastructure Event (Resolution)</b> |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| For  | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow | 6 |
| Against  | None  | 0 |
| Abstain  | None  | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests  | None  | 0 |
| Absent   | Cr Kylie Webster  | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>   |   |   |

#### 10.6 NSW 2022 Food Production and Supply Inquiry report

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

1. Note and receive the NSW 2022 Food Production and Supply Inquiry Report
2. Call on the NSW Premier and relevant Ministers to provide response to the report.
3. Requests the implementation of recommendation 6 of the Report.

| <b>NSW 2022 Food Production and Supply Inquiry report (Resolution)</b> |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| For  | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow | 6 |
| Against  | None  | 0 |
| Abstain  | None  | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests  | None  | 0 |
| Absent   | Cr Kylie Webster  | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>   |   |   |

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## 11 INFORMATION REPORTS

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

1. Conclusion to Capacity Round 2 Funding and associated projects
2. Associate member – Office of Local Government
3. Associate member – Destination North Coast
4. Associate member – Scenic Rim Regional Council
5. Associate member – Regional NSW - *verbal*
6. Correspondence – Incoming and Outgoing

| Information reports (Resolution) |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| For                              | Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Peter Johnstone, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow | 6 |
| Against                          | None  | 0 |
| Abstain                          | None  | 0 |
| Conflict of Interests            | None  | 0 |
| Absent                           | Cr Kylie Webster  | 1 |
| <b>Carried</b>                   |   |   |

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## 12 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

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Nil.

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## 13 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.10 pm.