



Agenda for the Northern Rivers

Joint Organisation

Ordinary Board Meeting

Date: Friday, 19 August 2022
Location: Kyogle Council Chambers
Time: 9.30am

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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

Apologies have been received from Cr Jeff McConnell, Scenic Rim Regional Council and Destination North Coast.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4 MOTIONS

5 ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITOR(S)

A presentation by James McTavish and Amy Mouafi, Cross Border Commissioner, will be made to the meeting at the culmination of Board business.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION HELD 20 MAY 2022

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION
HELD AT LISMORE CITY COUNCIL
FRIDAY 20 MAY 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Crs Sharon Cadwallader (Chair) Steve Krieg, Michael Lyon, Robert Mustow

Cr Kylie Thomas (Deputy Chair) arrived 9.40am, Cr Chris Cherry arrived 10.05am

General Managers Mark Arnold, Vaughan Macdonald, John Walker, Graham Kennett, Troy Green

Cr Jeff McConnell (Scenic Rim Regional Council), Tim Williamson (RDA NR), Michael Thurston (DNC)

Jodie Healy (OLG) via Zoom

Phil Rudd, Donna McIntyre (minute taker)

James McTavish (Cross Border Commissioner), Ange Anderson (Dept Regional NSW)

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Chair

8 APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from Cr Ian Tiley, Clarence Valley Council, Tenterfield Shire Council

20052022/1 RESOLVED

MOVED: M Lyon/ S Krieg

THAT the apologies received for the meeting be noted

CARRIED

FOR VOTE: Cr Lyon, Mustow, Cadwallader, Krieg

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil received.

11 ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITOR(S)

The Hon Stephanie Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery updated the group on the roll out of flood recovery grants, requesting Councils to encourage applicants to submit the additional information required to complete the process for the 3,400 incomplete applications totalling over \$50M.

James McTavish, Cross Border Commissioner provided the meeting with an update on activities of the agency.

12 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF NRJO BOARD MEETING HELD 4 FEBRUARY 2022

20052022/2 RESOLVED

MOVED: M Lyon/ S Krieg

THAT the minutes of the NRJO Board meeting held 4 February 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting

CARRIED

FOR VOTE: Cr Lyon, Mustow, Cadwallader, Krieg

6.2 RATIFICATION OF CIRCULAR RESOLUTION

20052022/3 RESOLVED

MOVED: M Lyon/ S Krieg

THAT the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation note the decisions of the Circular Resolution dated April 2022

CARRIED

FOR VOTE: Cr Lyon, Mustow, Cadwallader, Krieg

13 REPORTS

7.1 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT - DESTINATION NORTH COAST

20052022/4 RESOLVED

MOVED: R Mustow/ S Krieg

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – Cr Lyon, Mustow, Cadwallader, Krieg

Cr Thomas joined the meeting at 9.40am

7.2 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – RDA NORTHERN RIVERS

20052022/5 RESOLVED

MOVED: M Lyon/ R Mustow

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – Cr Lyon, Mustow, Cadwallader, Krieg, Thomas

Tweed Shire Council requested RDA Northern Rivers lobby for decisions and funding for Voluntary House Purchase and House Raising programs to be made in a timely manner

ACTION:

NRJO write to relevant ministers regarding Member Councils' concerns and the need for guidance and focus on recovery on behalf of the community and urgent allocation of funding for VHP and house raising programs

7.3 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

20052022/6 RESOLVED

MOVED: R Mustow/ K Thomas

THAT the report from Rous County Council be received and noted.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – Cr Lyon, Mustow, Cadwallader, Krieg, Thomas

Cr Cherry joined the meeting at 10.05am

7.4 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL

20052022/7 RESOLVED

MOVED: R Mustow/ K Thomas

THAT the report from Scenic Rim Regional Council be received and noted.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously

A foreshadowed motion was made

20052022/8 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry / S Krieg

THAT the NRJO write to the 2032 Regional Working Group and request representation on the group in terms of opportunities across the Northern Rivers

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously

ACTION

NRJO write to the 2032 Regional Working Group and request representation on the group in terms of opportunities across the Northern Rivers

7.5 DELEGATES REPORT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW SPECIAL CONFERENCE

20052022/9 RESOLVED

MOVED: K Thomas/ R Mustow

THAT the report from the Local Government NSW Special Conference be received and noted

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously

7.6 CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL'S JOINT ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP

20052022/10 RESOLVED

MOVED: R Mustow/ C Cherry

THAT the Board receive and note the provided report

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously

7.7 EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

200052022/11 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ M Lyon

THAT the Executive Officer report be received and noted.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.8 EXTENTION OF THE MYROADINFO PLATFORM

200052022/12 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ K Thomas

The Board approve:

- 1. the extension of the MyRoadInfo platform's operation for up to six months until 31 December 2022; and*
- 2. funding of \$15,000.00 to facilitate the MyRoadInfo platform's extended operation period.*

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.9 SHARED AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WITH ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

200052022/13 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ K Thomas

The Board approve the interim Executive Officer to enter into an arrangement with associate member Rous County Council by 4 June 2022 to share its Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee with the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and ensure compliance with section 428A of the Local Government Act 1993.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

Minister Steph Cooke, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery joined the meeting at 10.30am

7.10 MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

200052022/14 RESOLVED

MOVED: K Thomas/ M Lyon

The Board approve the proposal from Rous County Council for the provision of the financial management services required by the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.11 STATEMENT OF REVENUE POLICY

200052022/15 RESOLVED

MOVED: M Lyon/ R Mustow

That:

1. *The Board endorses the draft the 2022/23 Budget and Statement of Revenue policy attached to this report, for public exhibition.*
2. *Publish the Draft Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy for 2022/23 on the website for 28 days.*
3. *If public submissions are made during the public exhibition period, a report be furnished to the NRJO August 2022 meeting, including Executive Officer comments on how the submissions have been*
4. *considered, for the Board to determine a position on endorsement of the 2022/23 Budget and Statement of Revenue policy.*
5. *If no public submissions are made during the public exhibition period, the version of the draft the 2022/23 Budget and Statement of Revenue policy placed on public exhibition, is deemed to be adopted by the Board.*

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.12 FINANCIAL REPORTS

20052022/16 RESOLVED

MOVED: M Lyon/ C Cherry

THAT the Board receive and note the financial reports for the period ending 30 April 2022

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.13 AUDIT ENGAGEMENT PLAN

20052022/17 RESOLVED

MOVED: K Thomas/ R Mustow

THAT the Board receive and note the Audit Engagement Plan for period ending 30 June 2022

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.14 TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL

20052022/18 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ R Mustow

THAT the NRJO advocate against the proposed amendments to local infrastructure contributions

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

14 URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Lyon circulated a motion to be considered as urgent business

20052022/19 RESOLVED

MOVED: M Lyon/ C Cherry

THAT the NRJO:

- 1. Endorse Byron Shire Council's planning proposal to implement a precinct system in the Byron Shire regarding Short-term Rental Accommodation, which will see 90-day cap precincts and unlimited cap precincts established with respect to unhosted holiday letting*
- 2. Request the Minister for Planning and Environment, in light of the exacerbated housing crisis following the recent flood events, to place the planning proposal on public exhibition without further delay.*

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously

15 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

No items of confidential business were raised

16 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Items were noted

Meeting closed 10.46am

Next meeting

19 August 2022 at Kyogle Council

Following the Board meeting a Flood Recovery Forum was held. Copies of presentations were circulated to the group prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda is included.

NRJO Board meeting/disaster forum

20 May 2022

Organisation	Presenter
Department of Regional NSW	Gary Barnes – Departmental Secretary
Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation	David Witherdin David.witherdin@regional.nsw.gov.au
Regional NSW	Kristy Swain kristy.swain@regional.nsw.gov.au
Cross Border Commissioner	James McTavish ange.anderson@regional.nsw.gov.au 0428 963 855
Destination North Coast	Michael Thurston michael.thurston@dncnsw.com 0409 982 913
Business NSW – Northern Rivers	Jane Lavery Jane.Lavery@businessnsw.com 0419 260 220
RDA Northern Rivers	Tim Williamson director@rdanorthernrivers.org.au 0407 724 110
Resilience NSW	Gary McKinnon Gary.McKinnon@resilience.nsw.gov.au 0412 464 564
Northern Rivers Together (NR Brand)	Dean Gould Dean.gould@scu.edu.au

7 REPORTS

7.1 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT - DESTINATION NORTH COAST

Destination North Coast – Northern Rivers Joint Organisation of Councils Update

Market Conditions

Operator feedback indicates that the visitor market is returning to historical trends for this time of year. There has been a softening of demand and reduced levels of occupancy and forward bookings, reflective of greater choice for consumers with overseas destinations opening and border closures no longer being an issue.

DNC North Coast, Destination Management Plan Renewal

The [DNC, North Coast Destination Management Plan](#) is in the final stages of being refreshed and will cover from 2022-2030 mirroring the state-wide Visitor Economy Strategy 2030. The document is the key strategic document for the North Coast with the priorities and areas of focus outlined within having greater scope and opportunity to secure public funding moving forward.

Feedback from the one virtual session and six in person stakeholder sessions have demonstrated the continued importance of nature-based tourism and business events sectors with wellness and water-based activity appearing to be of increased importance. Ensuring that sustainability is central for any planning and development, which was a key theme of the original document, remains a priority for DNC and stakeholders moving forward.

DNC Project Updates

North Coast Festival of Flavour Open Weekend

The festival that was originally planned to be held in late March was moved to 5-7 June due to the flooding events. Whilst hampered by mixed messaging about the receptiveness of visitors to the Northern Rivers at the time the festival proved a success with 49 events being staged across the North Coast with an estimate cumulative attendance of 3.7k. Participating stakeholders expressed their desire for the event to be staged again but this will be dependent on securing funding to facilitate the coordination and promotion of the festival.

Aboriginal Product Development Mentoring program – DNC and the NSW Aboriginal Tourism Operators Council (NATOC) who we have engaged to conduct this program are currently seeking Northern Rivers operators to participate. There remains an opportunity for up to four existing or emerging Northern Rivers businesses to partake in the program.

Northern Rivers Rail Trail Product Development Program

DNC and Wrey Consulting delivered a mentoring program for 20 Northern Rivers businesses. Each business received three hours of mentoring to develop their Rail Trail proposition. The mentoring program was aimed at ensuring that we have the critical mass of experiences available when the first section of the trail is launched, providing a diverse range of experiences, accommodation and support

services are on offer, improving the visitor experience and maximising the benefits to the visitor economy.

Accommodation Reinvestment

DNC in collaboration with Stafford Strategy have launched an Accommodation Reinvestment Mentoring program. The program will help owners and operators review their current performance, where investment is need to meet evolving consumer demand and to develop a strategy for reinvestment that will deliver the best return on investment.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive and note the report from Destination North Coast



RDANR DIRECTOR'S Report to NRJO Board Meeting Aug 2022

[1] Key Activities against RDANR Recovery Priorities:

1. Accommodation and housing

- a. Interviewed by consultancy engaged to research Accommodation issues and homelessness for Northern Rivers Community Foundation.
- b. RDA Network is holding a statewide housing summit. Opportunity to represent RDANR
- c. Tweed Shire Council's "Growth Management and Housing" Project Reference Group is progressing well. Outcomes will be delivered in the next couple of weeks.

2. Business and Industry Recovery

- a. (Co-chair) The Australian Government Business Recovery Network raises issues to the NSW Govt's Regional Business Industry and Tourism Committee (RBIT). The RBIT format and timing is being reviewed and we have paused the AGBRN noting the ongoing interest from participants to continue as a valuable network.
- b. Participant on the Insurance Sub-Committee which is looking at innovative insurance vehicles for the region; e.g. community discretionary insurance fund.
- c. Business as Usual picking up and now receiving an increased number of unsolicited requests for information regarding investing/reinvesting in the region.
- d. Attended all three REDS consultation forums (Tweed, Northern Rivers, Clarence Valley)
- e. Attended North Coast Regional Plan (2041) consultation workshop.
- f. Attended Harwood Marine precinct strategy meeting (Waste to Wages project)

3. Industrial Land Audit

- a. (Chair) Successful consultants have been notified by NRJO Exec Officer. Fantastic support received by Byron, Ballina and Tweed planning and ED Officers
- b. Responded to CVC's Employment Land strategy call for submissions

4. Employment and Workforce Development

- a. (Chair) Northern Rivers Displaced Workforce Recovery Steering Committee is progressing well with ongoing interest from key stakeholders (lead agencies) and industry.
- b. Attended and promoted My Future Workforce Platform at the Lismore Jobs Expo which attracted over 2800 new entrants to the labour force, students and job seekers.
- c. Many local businesses experiencing extreme difficulty in hiring labour. Assisting these businesses to use alternative labour pools e.g. SERCO Correctional Centre, visas (eg Pacific Area Labour Mobility) scheme to ease pressure

5. CBD and Main Street redevelopment:

- a. Attended Lismore Business Renewal workshops in Lismore, Nimbin and online

6. Local Buy, Supply Chain Development

- a. A project to establish a locally based platform to assist recovering businesses (B2B) was put on hold during caretaker period.

[2] Other Key Activities:

Ms Kirsty McBain, MP has been announced as Minister responsible for the Regional Development Program.

Application submitted to Disaster Risk reduction Fund - \$1.4 million program divided equally among LGAs to reduce risk to life and property by enhancing Command and communication operations between community groups, responsible agencies and councils.

Consultation phase of RDANR Regional Recovery Plan has begun

Met with SCU project officers leading the development of the Northern Rivers Carbon Net Zero Project. RDANR can add value by connecting industry and other regional projects which support this project.

Attended NSW RDAC network meeting held in Canberra to meet new Minister, Kristy McBain, MP.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive and note the report from RDA Northern Rivers



Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Associate Members Report - Scenic Rim Regional Council

Meeting date: 19 August 2022

Council adopts \$103.2 million 2022-23 Budget

On 11 July, Council adopted its 2022-2023 Budget at a Special Meeting in Beaudesert, announcing total expenditure of \$103.2 million for the 2022-23 financial year. The expenditure represents an increase of \$1.3 million from the previous year, which brings the budget back in line with previous years.

The budget has been shaped by a number of significant challenges in the region, particularly the need for extensive repairs to the road network after severe flooding, and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, which continued to hamper day-to-day operations for Council's suppliers and employees.

A \$34 million capital works program will support Council's commitment to the recovery of infrastructure, repeatedly damaged since the end of 2021 as a result of impacts from significant rain events," he said.

\$31.54 million has been allocated for the essential upgrade and repairs of roads and bridges, which represents an ongoing investment in a well maintained, safe and interconnected transport network to serve the region's growing population as well as visitors to the region.

This Budget also includes an allocation of more than \$800,000 for drainage improvements to alleviate historical issues which have impacted the growth potential of key centres and had significant impacts on businesses. Kalbar and Beaudesert drainage projects will account for \$609,000 of this allocation.

More than half a million dollars has been allocated towards a series of new footpath works in urban and peri-urban locations across the region to increase accessibility, as well as minor works to maintain established footpaths.

\$4.01 million is scheduled for landscape maintenance and the upkeep of parks and gardens, and capital expenditure on a broad array of projects including repairs to a community centre, improvements to a caravan park, new picnic shelters, a new shade structure, water infrastructure, lighting upgrades, effluent disposal areas, playground updates and CCTV, lighting and resurfacing of internal roads at Council's waste transfer stations.

Council is grateful for the co-investment from both the Queensland and Australian governments, which collectively are contributing \$14.2 million for both operational and capital projects.

A copy of the Scenic Rim Regional Council 2022-2023 Community Budget Report is available for downloading from Council's website: <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/2022-2023-budget>

Scenic Rim Economic Snapshot boosts confidence in the region

The Scenic Rim's \$1.95 billion economy has withstood the cumulative impacts of bushfires, drought, floods and the pandemic to achieve a 4.45 percent increase in Gross Regional Product (GRP) for the year ending 30 June 2021, almost double that of Queensland's 2.31 percent overall growth. This remarkable growth rate reflects a diverse and resilient community focused on a sustainable and prosperous economy.

The Scenic Rim Economic Snapshot outlines key statistics for 2020-2021, highlighting regional performance, particularly in terms of jobs growth, investment (measured through value of building approvals) and GRP. The 4.45 percent growth rate has been driven predominantly by agriculture, forestry and fishing, wholesale trade and the construction industries. Unfortunately, not all industries escaped the effects of COVID-19, with the transport, postal and warehousing, accommodation and food service sectors negatively impacted.

At 6.8 percent, the region's unemployment rate is on par with the whole of Queensland, with strong employment growth in agriculture, health care and education.

Despite the pandemic and natural disasters, the region has added 1,500 local jobs during the past five years, with more than 140 net local jobs created in the year ending 30 June 2021. The establishment of more than 100 new GST-registered businesses in the Scenic Rim since March 2020 is another reason for optimism about increasing job opportunities in the region.

View the Scenic Rim Regional Council Economic Snapshot 2020 – 2021 online at <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/rps>

Council's recent approved grants and subsidies total \$75 million

Council has published its latest register of active grants and subsidies that includes projects totalling more than \$75 million. The funding includes almost \$26.5 million from the Australian Government, \$19.3 million from Queensland Government, \$8.3 million joint funding of projects from the Australian and Queensland governments and \$635,650 from the Council of Mayors (SEQ), matched by \$21 million Council contribution.

Council is proud of its strong track record of preparing robust and well-considered grant applications for competitive funding. It allows us to achieve infrastructure, social and economic outcomes for Scenic Rim residents, businesses and ratepayers.

The community can view the most up to date register of approved grants and subsidies along with an additional register of completed grants and subsidies here: www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/homepage/199/grants-received-by-council

Council to deliver Government Wireless Network communications system to aid disaster responses

Council will invest in Government Wireless Network (GWN) hardware to enable reliable communications during disaster responses. The GWN provides approximately 99% coverage of Southeast Queensland, and brings public safety agencies, including Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Ambulance Service and the SES into the same radio communications platform and frequency group to allow effective communications between multiple agencies.

The purchase of 30 handheld radios, 30 single unit chargers and two fixed station terminals will enable coverage across the Scenic Rim region for Council personnel and will replace antiquated radio systems currently in place.

Trials of GWN devices have addressed concerns about black spot coverage and identified options to use Council-owned communications aerials and to deploy mobile radio transmission sites to further extend GWN coverage if required.

The GWN is a fully managed service provided by an external telecommunications provider in conjunction with a major sub-contractor who install all equipment and provide technical support and maintenance 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.

Winter Harvest Festival 2022

The Winter Harvest Festival was back, bigger and better than ever following cancellation due to COVID in 2020 and 2021, the event up a delicious day of family fun at the Aratula Community Sports Complex on Saturday 2 July.

The long-running festival will cap off a huge Scenic Rim Eat Local Week program for 2022, starring over 125 fun and flavoursome events from 25 June to 3 July, attracting approximately 35,000 attendees.

The Winter Harvest Festival truly had something for everyone. From tasting tables to food trucks, rustic bars overflowing with beer, wine and spirits, a fashion on the field competition, cooking demonstrations, live music and kids' entertainment. Unfortunately due to weather, the always-competitive Bendigo Bank Kalbar & District Community Bank Tractor Pull event did not go ahead.

The Winter Harvest Festival brought the best of the Scenic Rim's local producers, suppliers, retailers and chefs together for an excellent celebration of the region.

Council backs the horses, supporting a spectacular Scenic Rim event

Now in its 10th year, the **Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular** held at Boonah Showgrounds on 11 and 12 June celebrated the history and heritage of the Clydesdale horse, which was used by pioneering Scottish and German families to transform the Scenic Rim's bushland into a leading agricultural area.

This is an event that attracts competitors, participants and spectators from around Australia, as well as overseas, and attendance has grown exponentially since its establishment in 2013, reaching almost 10,000 visitors in 2022.

The two-day event showcases the heritage, history and culture of the Clydesdale breed with a range of heavy horse competitions and driving displays as well as rare trades demonstrations by harness makers, blacksmiths and wheelwrights.

It also features workshops, working dog and horse displays, rides, live entertainment, markets, and traditional Scottish food.

The Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular is supported through Council's Regional Events Program Grants. With an estimated economic benefit to the region of more than \$3million, the \$10,000 grant represents an excellent return on investment for the Scenic Rim.

EmpowHer initiative hikes into national innovation award

The Scenic Rim's EmpowHER hiking program was nationally recognised, taking out the Programs and Activities Award at the 2022 Australian Sport, Recreation and Play Innovation Awards, held in Melbourne on 11 July.

The annual awards, hosted by the National Sports and Physical Activity Convention 2022, recognise innovative projects that encourage the community to be more active.

The EmpowHER Hiking program empowers women and girls to explore the spectacular Scenic Rim whilst building confidence, fitness and participation through hiking. The program aims to increase the physical activity of women and girls by reducing barriers to participation, including affordability, time flexibility, transport and self-motivation.

Seventy-five guided walks, 80 per cent of which sold before the program commenced, and catering for a range of abilities, were hosted between February and June 2022, with 390 women between the ages of 10 and 76 years lacing up their hiking boots to participate.

The EmpowHER Hiking Program is the only program in Queensland, and possibly even in Australia, involving multiple operators with a specific focus on women and girls, and set in an enriching region like the Scenic Rim.

The innovative program offered guided hikes at a subsidised price for participants in an initiative jointly funded by the Queensland Government's ActiveKIT program in partnership with Health and Wellbeing Queensland and Scenic Rim Regional Council.

Tamborine Mountain awarded Queensland Top Tourism Town

Tamborine Mountain was awarded top honours at the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's (QTIC) 2022 Top Tourism Town Awards, held 13 June in Brisbane.

The Awards recognise towns whose tourism operators, businesses and community groups work together to encourage tourism and offer outstanding experiences for visitors.

Public voters from across Australia and beyond selected Tamborine Mountain as a favourite destination for weddings, honeymoons, special events and extra-long-weekend adventures.

Tamborine Mountain Chamber of Commerce and Industry worked in close partnership with Scenic Rim Regional Council and local tourism operators and businesses to showcase Tamborine Mountain's exquisite wedding and reception venues, five-star dining options, outstanding wineries and breweries, unique shopping, incredible rainforest experiences and luxury accommodation offerings.

The Scenic Rim region was well represented at the awards, with Canungra, Boonah and Kalbar also included among 23 towns that made the shortlist.

Tamborine Mountain will now compete in the National Top Tourism Town Awards to be held later this year.

Queensland Championship Rowing Regatta to be held at Scenic Rim later this year

Council are proud to partner with Rowing Queensland in bringing the 2022 Queensland Grade Championship Rowing Regatta to the Scenic Rim following a funding boost to support the event. Council, in partnership with Rowing Queensland, were successful in receiving \$50,000 from the Regional Sports Events Fund supported by the Australian Sports Commission. The funding will contribute to assembling the regatta which is scheduled to be held on the weekend of the 3 and 4 December 2022.

Hosting an event of this scale is also hugely beneficial to reinvigorating the local economy after a challenging two years. The region's fantastic hospitality and tourism providers will be thrilled to host the influx of visitors this event will bring.

Lake Wyaralong has also been identified as one of the venues for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games that will feature rowing and sprint canoeing events, demonstrating the region's potential to host world-class sporting events.

Council's Shop Scenic Rim gift card program to keep money local

Scenic Rim Regional Council is supporting local businesses and the regional economy with the launch of *Shop Scenic Rim*, a gift card program that will encourage people to shop locally. Jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, the program will enable residents and visitors to purchase gift cards that will be redeemable in participating local businesses.

Using an EFTPOS-based system, shoppers will be able to purchase *Shop Scenic Rim* gift cards at several local businesses, and online. These cards can then be used just like a normal EFTPOS card for purchases at participating businesses within the Scenic Rim.

'Go Local, Grow Local' Partnership Program is a key deliverable of Council's Regional Prosperity Strategy 2020-2025, which supports the vision shared by Council and the community, for a region that enjoys a sustainable and prosperous economy. Establishing this program was thankfully accelerated by the government's funding support.

Appropriately, the program was launched on Friday, 20 May at the Business Breakfast held during Queensland Small Business Month, a four-week program celebrating small businesses and highlighting the importance of the business sector to the state's economy.

The gift cards will keep money circulating in the community, prompting shoppers to patronise local businesses and allowing participating businesses to capitalise on the loyalty of the region's close-knit communities and enthusiastic visitors. The 'multiplier' effect, meaning that money initially spent in local businesses will continue to circulate locally, can see a \$100 spend having an \$180 impact on the local economy. Additionally, modelling conducted using the .id economic impact model indicates that every \$500,000 spent within retail businesses supports five local jobs.

To purchase gift cards online and for a list of participating businesses, please see <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/shopsenicrim>

Smart strategy promotes adoption of technology and data to drive a prosperous, connected and sustainable region

On 21 June 2022, Council endorsed a landmark strategy for investment in smart technologies and commitment to smart collaboration, planning, design and local services, while aligning with the values of the region, to deliver a vibrant and prosperous economy and community.

The first of its kind, the Scenic Rim Smart Region Strategy 2022-2032 will leverage new technologies, innovation and data to enhance the liveability, workability and sustainability of the region.

This strategy was developed following consultation with local residents and business operators to create a shared vision for the region's use of new technologies and data and to allow local businesses and communities to embrace and adapt to changing global digital trends.

The vision of the strategy is to be an accessible and serviced region with a vibrant, sustainable and prosperous economy and community. This will be achieved through investment in smart technologies and innovation focused in the areas of:

- Economy: leading an innovative and progressive economy attracting growth and investment.
- Place: Enabling resilient and sustainable management to future-proof communities and the environment.
- Community: Creating inclusive, liveable, and supported communities that attract and retain residents.

The Scenic Rim Smart Region Strategy 2022-2032 can be viewed at <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/scenic-rim-smart-region-strategy>

Council adopts minor amendment to Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020 to incorporate updated flood studies

Mid June, Council adopted a minor amendment to the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020 at this week's Ordinary meeting to incorporate two flood studies for Veresdale and Canungra.

The two recent flood studies incorporate climate change projections and enable Council to provide the most up to date flood levels and to inform changes to land use and new building works.

The Veresdale Flood Study (February 2022) has been developed to improve flood hazard information in the Cyrus Creek catchment of Veresdale, to inform development and building work. The Canungra Township – Detailed Flood Study (Version 2, July 2021) updates the existing flood model by applying a more suitable 'roughness' level that is reflective of the built environment and vegetation in the Canungra township area. The updated model results in only minor changes to the existing flood hazard mapping.

User-friendly planning scheme platform to go online

Council's investment in an online planning platform will pay dividends for Council and the community through time and cost savings from early 2023. Council's 2022-2023 Budget includes \$70,000 for the *Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020* e-Plan Project to streamline town planning enquiries.

The new e-Plan will combine mapping and planning scheme documents in a single, user-friendly platform providing enhanced service delivery in line with current community and industry expectations.

Council continues to strive to provide a high level of customer service and this project is another significant business improvement initiative. the new e-Plan will deliver a user-friendly format combining mapping and planning scheme documents in a single platform which includes a property enquiry function and the ability to extract information to support development applications.

The introduction of the e-Plan represents another milestone in the region's journey following the adoption of the Scenic Rim's first ever unified Planning Scheme in 2020.

This online platform will play a valuable role in the growth of the region as the Scenic Rim continues to power ahead, with some 10,000 additional dwellings and essential infrastructure needed to meet the projected population growth between now and 2041.

The *Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020* is expected to be delivered in an e-planning format by December 2022 and accessible on Council's website by February 2023.

Severe wet weather, COVID-19 and limited supplies impact 2021-2022 Capital Works program delivery

As of mid-April 2022, all planned capital projects have been impacted as a result of ongoing wet weather, the COVID-19 pandemic and industry supply delays, with impacts expected to be ongoing while Council works to undergo further emergency repairs as a result of the most recent period of severe and associated wet weather.

Many specialist external contractors and sub-contractors have been experiencing back-log commitments due to these same issues. The number and severity of these weather events has exceeded the additional contingency time accounted for in the delivery of most projects. Landscaping materials, concrete, steel and electrical products have limited availability, and specialist machinery we need to carry out these projects to the desired standard are not readily available, and when they are, there's long wait times. We understand this is a state-wide issue.

Council officers also are continuing to undertake a growing list of assessments for provision to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority where the total number of damage points has exceeded 2,000 across Council's 1,756-kilometre road network as a result of the three disaster activations for last financial year.

Head Road Carney's Creek remains closed for public safety, works delayed due to ongoing wet weather

Council has engaged a contractor to undertake a series of important works to replace approximately 200 metres of guard rail originally damaged by bushfires in 2019 at Head Road near Brett Road at Carneys Creek, which were anticipated to start at the end of May, 2022.

Recent wet weather and flooding has caused additional damage to the previously damaged site and to further sections of Head Road, resulting in the closure of the road.

the impact of repeated wet weather events have hindered the ability to fix Head Road, with the recent weather event causing further damage and that a continued road closure is required to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

Head Road will remain closed while works occur with an alternate route available through the Cunningham Highway or White Swamp Road, noting the White Swamp Road contains unsealed sections.

The works on Head Road are just one of a large number of works across the road network that Council crews are responding to as efficiently as possible to make them safe for residents and travellers to the region.

Approved Biodiversity Implementation Plan provides momentum for biodiversity vision in the Scenic Rim

The implementation plan was a key action from the Scenic Rim Regional Council's Operational Plan 2021-2022, which includes an Area of Focus on biodiversity. It outlines the recognition, preservation and enhancement of the region's unique environment and natural resources.

A recent mid-point review of the 10-Year Biodiversity Strategy inspired the Council to develop an implementation plan for the remaining five years, with the aim of providing a renewed direction and outlining the next steps towards achieving the region's biodiversity vision.

It identifies a detailed work plan for Council's Biodiversity and Climate Change team and provides a clear line of sight to the team's work on preserving and enhancing the region's biodiversity.

In addition, the document identifies actions delivered in partnership with other Council teams, providing insight into internal and external partnerships required as part of the implementation plan.

Council recently adopted the *Scenic Rim Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2025 - Report Card 2015-2020*, which provides an update on implementation of the Strategy in its first five years, from 2015 to 2020, as well as further information about the state of biodiversity within the Scenic Rim region.

Highlights include that Council had provided 393,095 native trees through the One Million Trees Program by 2020 and over 13,000 hectares of private land was included in the Habitat Protection Program.

Council is proud to partner with a range of organisations and individuals who have each helped in developing and delivering actions of the strategy, including delivering 143 Environmental Grant projects valued at \$477,882.

The Report Card also brings to light some of the challenges the region is facing including the reduction in native vegetation cover, with a loss of almost 1,300 hectares. Furthermore, between 2015-2020, the number of threatened species increased significantly at both a state and national level, with more species nearing extinction.

To view the Scenic Rim Biodiversity Strategy Report Card 2015-2020, visit Council's website and search 'Biodiversity'.

View the webpage at: <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/our-environment/biodiversity>

Scenic Rim celebrates withdrawal of permits for coal seam gas exploration

Two tenements to explore the operation of coal seam gas in the Scenic Rim have been withdrawn following a Ministerial announcement on 24 June. Minister for Resources Scott Stewart advised company Arrow Energy has withdrawn its application to renew the permits to explore coal seam gas just outside of Beaudesert.

The announcement came after Arrow Energy's ten year campaign encountered opposition from locals across the Scenic Rim in a bid to halt the exploration. The withdrawal is a huge win for the region and ensures that the natural beauty of the area remains unharmed.

The region's priorities revolve around the stunning environmental precincts, including six significant National Parks, our high performing agricultural precincts and our unique network of characterful communities. Our acknowledgement as a world recognised destination is based on these foundations.

Council releases first Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

At its Ordinary Meeting held 21 June, Council adopted the final report on the results of the customer satisfaction survey, the first ever to be conducted through the Let's Talk Scenic Rim community engagement platform which launched in February.

Council's waste services rated highly, with 76 per cent of respondents being either very satisfied or satisfied with their bin service and 62 per cent very satisfied or satisfied with their recycling and waste stations. Council-owned facilities also received positive feedback as 60 per cent of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the accessibility of parks while 44 per cent were very satisfied or satisfied with park maintenance.

This reflects the concerted efforts of Council through its Playground Strategy which, since 2017, has been focused on the construction of new playgrounds and playground upgrades right across the region. This has included the playground at Billabong Park at Kooralbyn, DJ Smith Park at Canungra, Jubilee Park at Beaudesert, Springleigh Park at Boonah, Lions Park at Tamborine Mountain, the Kalbar Civic Centre playground upgrade, Moffatt Park at Aratula, Bowman Park at Mount Alford, the Tiny Tots Playground at Boonah, the Tamborine Memorial Hall playground, and Queen's Park at Harrisville and the current upgrade to the Rathdowney Memorial Grounds playground.

Council's library programs were also well received, with 45 per cent of respondents being very satisfied or satisfied, while respondents said they were either very satisfied or satisfied with Council's environmental programs.

To view the Customer Satisfaction Survey results can be viewed online at <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/5446/customer-satisfaction-survey-final-report>

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive and note the report from Scenic Rim Regional Council

7.4 NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

PREPARATION OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES 2023–2026 STATEMENT

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board for the budgetary allocation needed to prepare a new statement of strategic regional priorities as required by the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Background

A principal function of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation ('NRJO') under section 400R of the *Local Government Act 1993* is to establish strategic regional priorities for the Northern Rivers area. In doing so, the NRJO must consider any relevant strategies or plans of its member councils and the NSW Government.

Regulation 397H of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires the NRJO to have in place a publicly available statement setting out its strategic regional priorities, which must be prepared no later than 12 months after an ordinary election of councillors for its member councils. In preparing a proposed statement of regional priorities, the NRJO must consult with its member councils.

The NRJO's current Strategic Regional Priorities 2019–2022 statement was adopted at the Board's ordinary meeting on 2 November 2018 [at 02112018/8]. Following the latest NSW local government elections on 4 December 2021, the NRJO needs to prepare and publish a new statement of strategic regional priorities for the 2023–2026 period by December 2022.

Proposal to prepare the Strategic Regional Priorities 2023–2026 statement

In June 2022, an appropriate proposal was received from a suitably qualified consultant to undertake a review and update of the NRJO's current strategic regional priorities and prepare a new statement of priorities for the 2023–2026 period.

The NRJO's 5 current strategic regional priorities are:

1. thriving, healthy and biodiverse natural environments
2. improved community wellbeing now and into the future
3. a physically and digitally connected region
4. innovative, sustainable energy, water and waste management
5. a diversified, prosperous and sustainable regional economy.

While the review will build upon the current statement of priorities (reshaping existing or introducing new priorities as needed), ensuring the new statement of priorities focuses on the region’s recovery and rebuilding needs after the February 2022 flood disaster will be paramount.

Along with considering the community strategic plans of member councils as well as relevant regional and state plans/programs, preparation of the new statement will involve direct engagement with the Board and member councils (including a strategic planning workshop).

At this stage, it is anticipated a draft Strategic Regional Priorities 2023–2026 statement will be ready for the Board’s feedback sometime in October 2022 – before a final statement is presented for formal adoption at its ordinary meeting scheduled in November 2022.

A total budget allocation of \$25,000 is sought to prepare the NRJO’s new statement of strategic regional priorities for the 2023–2026 period. This budget allocation also includes the expected cost to produce a properly designed public document suitable for publishing on the NRJO’s website as well as an allowance for contingency costs.

Conclusion

Following the latest NSW local government elections in December 2021, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires the NRJO to prepare and publish a new statement of strategic regional priorities for the 2023–2026 period by December 2022.

The NRJO has received a proposal from a suitably qualified consultant to prepare the new statement of priorities, which is considered appropriate. A total budget allocation of \$25,000 is needed to prepare the statement, produce a public-facing document and cover contingency costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve a budget allocation of \$25,000 to prepare and produce the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation’s Strategic Regional Priorities 2023-2026 statement.

7.5 AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE – MEETING UPDATE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board a summary of the recent Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting.

Background

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee met on Monday 25 July 2022. A copy of the minutes is attached (Attachment 1).

Key Messages

1. Interim Executive Officer Presentation

The committee note:

- The presentation and status of Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) compliance audit.
- Future state / structure of the NRJO needs to be considered by the Board prior to formalisation of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter and internal audit requirements.

Conclusion

This report provides a summary of the key messages from the 25 July 2022 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive and note the report from ARIC Committee.

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes

Monday, 25 July 2022

Meeting held at Rous County Council Administration Office – 218-232 Molesworth Street, Lismore, NSW 2480.

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.40am

In attendance:

Voting Committee

- Brian Wilkinson (Independent member / Chair)
- Andrew MacLeod (Independent member)
- Cr Big Rob (Councillor member)

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation staff

- Phillip Rudd (Interim Executive Officer)

Other attendees

- Lauren Edwards (Governance and Risk Manager – Rous County Council)

1. APOLOGIES

Nil.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. REPORTS

6.1 Interim Executive Officer's verbal report

RECOMMENDATION (Wilkinson/MacLeod) that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Note the verbal presentation provided by the Interim Executive Officer of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation ('JO'); and
2. Note the proposed 'structure' of the JO will be considered by its governing body in the coming months; and
3. Draft documentation for the establishment and operation of the JO's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee will be presented to the next meeting.

5. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.18pm

7.7 NORTHERN RIVERS INDUSTRIAL AND EMPLOYMENT LANDS AUDIT

NORTHERN RIVERS INDUSTRIAL AND EMPLOYMENT LANDS AUDIT PROJECT

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board for the budgetary allocation needed to undertake an industrial and employment lands audit across the region.

Background

The Executive Officer previously reported to the Board [at 12112021/6] that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation ('NRJO') has been provided an additional \$150,000 in funding under Round 2 of the NSW Government's Joint Organisation Capacity Building Fund.

One of the 4 projects proposed and approved for this funding is an audit of available industrial and employment land in the Northern Rivers region.

The audit project is a key action towards achieving Goal 12 of the NRJO's strategic regional priorities – that is, to deliver a strong, diverse regional economy which provides local employment by attracting new enterprises, enabling existing enterprises to innovate and expand, and offering the conditions required for emerging industries to flourish.

An adequate supply of suitably located and zoned industrial and employment land is considered vital to ensuring and promoting the region's economic growth and sustainability.

At its 4 February 2022 ordinary meeting, the Board was informed [at 04022022/8] that a brief was to be prepared and sent to market seeking to engage a suitably qualified consultant to undertake the required audit. The original budget estimate was \$70,000 (\$45,000 from NRJO).

Requests for quotations have now been invited to complete an audit of industrial and employment lands across the 6 local government areas of Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Kyogle, Lismore City, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire.

Audit project proposal and budget

In July 2022, an appropriate proposal was received from a suitably qualified consultant (HillPDA Consulting) to undertake the Northern Rivers Industrial and Employment Lands Audit project.

HillPDA Consulting is well-positioned to undertake the regional audit having recently completed several similar projects across NSW including those for the Byron Shire, Clarence Valley and Ballina Shire local government areas. This previous work will form part of the current audit, thereby reducing the amount of time required to complete the project.

Essentially, the project's scope involves the following 3 deliverables/outcomes:

- Region-wide audit to understand the amount and status of current industrial and employment land stocks.

Along with targeted industry consultation, the audit will also include analysis of socio-economic, employment and industrial trends as well as planning provisions and land constraints.

- Twenty-year demand forecast to identify the additional supply of industrial and employment land needed across the region.

The forecast will include employment/industrial land demand modelling as well as analysis of future employment/industrial land characteristics and barriers to growth.

- Concise, highly visual final report distilling key findings and recommendations.

A total budget of \$100,000 is required to undertake the Northern Rivers Industrial and Employment Lands Audit project.

The project is being delivered in collaboration / partnership with associate member Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers. As such, a budget allocation of \$75,000 is required from the NRJO as the remaining \$25,000 will be funded by Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers.

Conclusion

The NRJO received funding under Round 2 of the NSW Government's Joint Organisation Capacity Building Fund to undertake 4 projects – one of which is an audit of available industrial and employment land in the Northern Rivers region.

A key action towards achieving Goal 12 of the NRJO's strategic regional priorities, the audit project will support planning for the region's economic growth and sustainability by capturing current industrial and employment land stocks and forecasting the demand for such lands over a 20-year period.

The NRJO has received a proposal from a suitably qualified consultant to complete the required audit, which is considered appropriate.

A budget allocation of \$75,000 is needed from the NRJO to undertake the project as associate member Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers will be funding the additional \$25,000 required to complete the audit.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT The Board approve a budget allocation of \$75,000 to undertake the Northern Rivers Industrial and Employment Lands Audit project.

-

7.8 NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL GRANT APPLICATION

NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL GRANT APPLICATION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board about a grant application to be made by the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation in relation to the Northern Rivers Rail Trail.

Background

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation ('NRJO') Chair and Executive Officer recently met individually with representatives from Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc ('NRRTI') regarding a grant application for the business case and strategy development of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail.

NRRTI is seeking to partner with the NRJO to apply for funding under a recently announced NSW Government grants program, the Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund.

At its 8 August 2022 meeting, the NRJO General Managers' Advisory Committee considered the NRRTI's request for the NRJO to be the lead organisation for the grant application.

Northern Rivers Rail Trail grant application

Grants under Stream One (Regional Significance) of the \$24 million Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund are available to:

- local councils or Joint Organisations of Councils
- infrastructure providers such as telecommunication, energy, or water companies
- peak bodies such as business, industry, and community associations
- cooperatives
- tertiary educational institutions
- incorporated not-for-profit organisations.

Co-contribution is not required under the grant criteria. The grant application process can also include a contingency amount up to 25% of the quoted costs to cover project management, administration and contingency costs.

NRRTI has provided a short summary of their vision for the rail trail's business case and strategy development as well as the basis for the grant application, this has also been amended to incorporate Byron Shire Council solar train opportunities. (see Attachment 1).

The General Managers' Advisory Committee considers the rail trail's business case and strategy development to be consistent with the NRJO's strategic regional priorities and, as such, worthy of the NRJO taking the lead in making a grant application.

If the grant application was successful, the NRJO would need to engage a dedicated project manager to lead the business case and strategy's development. An important part of this process would also be to work closely with member Byron Shire Council to look at opportunities to incorporate the solar train's expanded use of the region's rail corridor in conjunction with the rail trail's development between Byron Bay and Mullumbimby and also to consider the feasibility of rail beside trail between Byron and Bangalow. The following additional points have been raised by Byron Council for consideration as part of the business case and strategy process:-

- Examine viability of on-rail and off-rail formation (Rail with Trail) from Byron to Mullumbimby and Mullumbimby to Bangalow.
- Identify the required LEP amendments to enable potential economic activation within the rail corridor and adjoining lands
- Develop an overview Northern Rivers Rail Trail map demonstrating linkages to cycle, hiking and water activation

Given applications for Stream One of the Fund close 24 August 2022, grant application preparation activities have commenced.

Conclusion

The NRJO has been contacted by representatives of the NRRTI requesting it to be the lead organisation regarding a grant application under the Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund for the business case development of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail.

The General Managers' Advisory Committee considers the rail trail's development to be consistent with the NRJO's strategic regional priorities and, as such, worthy of the NRJO making a grant application by 24 August 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive and note the Northern Rivers Rail Trail report.

Attachment 1

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

General Managers meeting

8 August 2022

Agenda item: Grant application Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund - Submission to NRJO by Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc

The State Government has established the Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund (BCSDF) to:

develop business cases or strategies for projects delivering significant economic or social benefits to regional communities, with a focus on infrastructure.

It is proposed that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) apply for funding to complete a business case for the development of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail (NRRT) on the disused Casino-Murwillumbah rail corridor.

Agenda item: Grant application Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund - Submission to NRJO by Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc

The State Government has established the Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund (BCSDF) to:

develop business cases or strategies for projects delivering significant economic or social benefits to regional communities, with a focus on infrastructure.

It is proposed that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) apply for funding to complete a business case for the development of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail (NRRT) on the disused Casino-Murwillumbah rail corridor.

NRRT projects in Richmond Valley and Tweed Shires have already commenced and Lismore has funding for Bentley to Lismore. But several issues remain unresolved and the trail needs to be completed to deliver significant benefits to the region. In particular, the business case needs to:

- Update capital and ongoing costs, economic analysis, financial appraisal and proposed funding to complete unfunded section (Lismore to Crabbes Ck)
- Examine and consult on governance arrangements and make recommendations
- Review all corridor land for potential revenue options and develop a viable financial model for ongoing management that does not impact on councils' finances
- Provide an opportunity for submissions from potential major sponsors
- Develop staging options for delivery of the trail that consider timing of other potential joint uses of the corridor
- Include consideration of the proposed Bangalow to Ballina connector link and the relationship of the trail with Kyogle
- Consider and review other (than cycling and walking) opportunities the unused corridor provides eg environmental restoration, establishment of wildlife connecting corridors, horse riding etc

To minimise financial risk, the NRJO can request an additional 25% of the quoted cost:

to cover contingency, project management and administration costs.

The development of the business case does not place any onus on the NRJO or other organisations to deliver the rail trail. Rather, it provides a sound basis for councils in this region to make decisions about development of their sections of the corridor. The business case also gives the NRJO a region-wide project that will support the local economic recovery.

7.10 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide DRAFT financial results for the year ended 30 June 2022 for the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO).

Background

A DRAFT copy of the Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and Jobs Profit and Loss as at 30 June 2022 is presented in this report.

Rous County Council took over responsibility for the NRJO's accounting in June 2022. Rous's Financial Accountant is finalising the accounts and preparing the Financial Statements in accordance with the Office of Local Government Code of Accounting Practice. The draft reports replicate the formatting and presentation the NRJO is familiar with receiving to, except for some additional breakdown of the project expenses.

The draft operating result is an operating loss of \$260K against a forecast operating loss of \$770K. The extent of the forecasted operating loss represents the timing impact of incurring project expenses for money actually received in prior financial years. Expenditure on these incomplete projects will continue into the next financial year.

In April 2022 the NRJO sought and received an extension of time for lodgement of the Financial Statements from the Office of Local Government (OLG). The extension provides an additional 2 months to 31 December 2022 to lodge the Financial Statements. The NRJO's contracted auditors, Thomas Noble and Russell (TNR) will commence their audit on the 24 October 2022.

The process for the completion and submission of the year-end financial accounts is as follows:

- The Accountant and Auditor prepare the audited accounts which are then signed by the NRJO, approved and issued by the Audit Office and submitted to OLG by 31 December 2022.
- We then advertise on our website that the next meeting of the Board will include the Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Reports and notify the date of the Board meeting.
- We then include these reports as part of the Annual Performance Statement that will be approved by the Board.
- Once the Annual Performance Statement is approved by the Board it is submitted to OLG and placed on the NRJO website.

1.

Rous's Financial Accountant is reviewing all financial information required to be presented to the NRJO board and will be making changes progressively once the 2022 Financial Statements are completed. This is to ensure the presentation of the reports communicate effectively the financial position of NRJO.

Attachment/s: Profit Loss Statement as at 30 June, Balance Sheet June 2022

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive and note the financial reports for period ending 30 June 2022

Profit and Loss Statement for NoRJO
as at 30 June 2022

DRAFT ONLY

	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Actual	2020/21 Actual
	\$	\$	\$
<u>Operating Revenues</u>			
Membership Fees	201,000	201,100	160,800
Myroadinfo Fees	33,725	33,725	33,725
LG Procurement Rebate	30,000	47,182	37,386
Power Infrastructure Upgrade Project	-	-	-
Capacity Building	-	-	150,000
State Gov't Contribution	-	-	-
Sundry Income / Recharge Workshops	-	-	-
Interest	2,000	1,341	2,235
Total	266,725	283,348	384,146
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Bank Charges	-	-	40
Conferences, Events, Travel	12,250	2,333	2,089
Consultants (Economic Report)	-	-	500
Professional Development	-	-	-
Prof Dev - Member Council Training	14,250	12,000	-
Exec Officer - Salary/Oncosts/Recruit	93,318	71,015	83,823
Exec Officer - Computer	-	1,817	-
Exec Officer - Vehicle Allowance	8,580	6,960	7,508
Exec Officer - Support (RDA)	54,000	51,281	54,000
Exec Officer - Office (Rous)	-	-	-
Chair Stipend	10,000	9,048	10,000
Committee Support	5,400	681	-
Professional Fees – Audit	10,400	12,160	10,560
Media and Communications	5,200	-	-
Sundry Expenses	3,950	2,788	3,335
MyRoadInfo	29,300	16,842	24,072
Regional Projects - Capacity Building I			
<i>Waste Micro-industry</i>	-	-	49,800
<i>Renewable Energy</i>	70,000	66,968	-
<i>Biosphere</i>	30,200	14,914	-
	100,200	81,882	49,800
Regional Projects - Capacity Building II			
<i>Shared Services</i>	55,000	9,250	-
<i>Audit of Available Industrial and Empl Land</i>	45,000	-	-
<i>Energy and Waste Related Projects</i>	30,000	-	-
<i>Mobile Phone Black Spots</i>	20,000	-	-
	150,000	9,250	-
Regional Projects - Other			
<i>Regional Priorities Workshop</i>	158,200	-	-
<i>Infrastructure</i>	265,537	237,988	27,549
<i>Disaster Dashboard</i>	52,800	4,700	4,800
	476,537	242,688	32,349
Vendor Panel Access	63,250	22,553	58,363
Total	1,036,635	543,296	336,439
		-	-
Net Cash Movement	-769,910	-259,948	47,707
Retained Earnings - 1 July	1,043,966	1,043,966	996,259
Retained Earnings - 30 June	274,056	784,018	1,043,966

Balance Sheet

As of June 2022

PO Box 146

LISMORE NSW 2480

ABN: 68 587 813 167

Email: accounts@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Assets		
Cash		
Summerland Community First	\$4,496	
Summerland Saver	\$829,873	
Debit Card - Chair	\$1,290	
Debit Card - Exec Officer	\$1,042	
Total Cash		\$836,701
Debtors		
Trade Debtors	\$20,053	
Sundry Debtors	-\$19,008	
Total Debtors		\$1,045
Total Assets		\$837,746
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors		
Trade Creditors	\$7,704	
Sundry Creditors/Accruals	\$10,660	
Total Creditors		\$18,364
Income in Advance/Unearned		
Unearned/Unexpended Revenue	\$44,352	
GST Liability		
GST Collected	-\$5,741	
GST paid	-\$3,247	
Total GST Liability		-\$8,988
Payroll Liabilities		
PAYG	-\$1	
Total Payroll Liabilities		-\$1
Total Liabilities		\$53,727
Net Assets		\$784,019
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$1,043,966	
Current Year Earnings	-\$259,948	
Historical Balancing	\$0	
Total Equity		\$784,019

Job Profit & Loss Statement

June 2022

PO Box 146
LISMORE NSW 2480

ABN: 68 587 813 167

Email: accounts@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Account Name	Selected Period	Year To Date
A100	Operational expenses	
Income		
Membership	\$0	\$201,100
LG Procurement Rebate	\$0	\$47,182
Interest Received	\$34	\$1,341
Total Income	\$34	\$249,623
Expense		
Computer Maint/Support	\$0	\$64
Computer ISP and Registrations	\$130	\$1,783
Phone charges	\$87	\$896
Stationery	\$0	\$45
Support services - Admin contr	\$3,141	\$51,281
Wages	\$0	\$66,442
Allowances	\$0	\$6,960
Superannuation	\$0	\$5,941
Provision for Staff Entitlements	\$0	-\$3,320
Temp Staff	\$0	\$681
Travel expenses (non payroll)	\$0	\$650
Travel - Meals	\$0	\$32
Training/Prof Devt/Workshops	\$0	\$12,000
Conference & Forums (Staff)	\$0	\$59
Workers Comp Insurance	\$0	\$1,951
Audit Fees	\$10,660	\$12,160
Meeting Catering	\$0	\$821
Computer Equipment	\$0	\$1,817
Total Expense	\$14,018	\$160,265
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$13,984	\$89,359
A102	Chair costs	
Expense		
Allowance-Chair Stipend	\$0	\$8,214
Travel expenses (non payroll)	\$0	\$711
Conference & Forums (Staff)	\$0	\$59
Total Expense	\$0	\$8,984
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$0	-\$8,984
B104	Regional Business Power Infrs	
Expense		
Project Contributions	\$0	\$237,988
Total Expense	\$0	\$237,988
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$0	-\$237,988

Job Profit & Loss Statement

June 2022

Account Name	Selected Period	Year To Date
B105b	Cap Bldg1 Renewable Energy	
Expense		
Printing & Design	\$0	\$3,868
Project Contributions	\$0	\$63,100
Total Expense	\$0	\$66,968
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$0	-\$66,968
B105c	Cap Bldg 1 Biosphere	
Expense		
Project Contributions	\$0	\$14,914
Total Expense	\$0	\$14,914
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$0	-\$14,914
B106	Disaster Dashboards	
Income		
State Govt Funding	-\$57,600	\$0
Total Income	-\$57,600	\$0
Expense		
Project Consultants	\$0	\$4,700
Total Expense	\$0	\$4,700
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$57,600	-\$4,700
B107a	Cap blg 2_Shared Services	
Expense		
Project Consultants	\$0	\$9,250
Total Expense	\$0	\$9,250
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$0	-\$9,250
C101	Myroadinfo	
Income		
Myroadinfo	\$0	\$33,725
Total Income	\$0	\$33,725
Expense		
Myroadinfo costs	\$0	\$16,842
Total Expense	\$0	\$16,842

Job Profit & Loss Statement

June 2022

PO Box 146
LISMORE NSW 2480

ABN: 68 587 813 167
Email: accounts@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Account Name		Selected Period	Year To Date
Net Profit/(Loss)		\$0	\$16,883
C102	Vendor Panel		
Expense			
Vendor Panel Licence Costs		\$0	\$22,553
Total Expense		\$0	\$22,553
Net Profit/(Loss)		\$0	-\$22,553

8 URGENT BUSINESS

9 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence of significance – Incoming

- Kyogle Council, housing crisis
- Lake Macquarie Council, flood recovery support
- Office of Local Government, NRJO lodgment
- ROUS County Council, Shared ARIC and compliance agreement
- ROUS County Council, shared ARIC and compliance acceptance

Correspondence of significance - Outgoing

- Letter to Lake Macquarie Council, flood recovery support
- Letter to COMSEQ, assistance to the working group
- Letter to Nambucca Valley Council, MyRoadInfo and transition to OneRoad
- Letter to Director Regional Development Australia, management of financial services
- Letter to The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, Byron short term accommodation proposal

11 ATTACHMENTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Kyogle Council
PO Box 11
KYOGLÉ NSW 2474



20 July 2022

Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Chair
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
sharon.cadwallader@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cr Cadwallader

Housing Crisis

As you would be aware, housing supply and affordability on the Northern Rivers is at crisis point, with the catastrophic February/March 2022 floods, which displaced thousands of residents, intensifying the problem.

Kyogle Council feels strongly that local government needs to work in partnership with other levels of government to address the issue and at its 11 April 2022 meeting resolved to:

Write to the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) requesting urgent and immediate advocacy be undertaken with State and Federal Government Ministers to address the housing crisis occurring on the Northern Rivers including, but not limited to, social house which is currently below the State average.

There has been a lot of discussion at various levels of government about the need to build around 42,000 homes for the next 40 years to meet demand. This is insufficient. Population pressure will continue to build through time and the Northern Rivers, in particular, will continue to feel that pressure. The escalation in property prices, both developed and undeveloped, the COVID population migration, our proximity to South East Queensland and the coast where existing property is already over developed and unaffordable, and the catastrophic flooding will place ongoing stress on the local housing market.

In its last term the NRJO developed a submission on behalf of all NSW JOs to the State Government. With meaningful advocacy around the recent floods and the desperate need for housing and accommodation, Council is hopeful the State and Federal Governments will be prompted into action. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to call me on 0428 919 496.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kylie Thomas', written over a horizontal line.

Kylie Thomas
MAYOR



3 August 2022

Mr P Rudd
Executive Officer
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
via email: admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Phillip

Subject: Flood Disaster Support

Thank you for your letter dated 21 July 2022 in relation to Lake Macquarie City Council's support during the February 2022 flood disaster.

I am aware that my colleague, Tony Farrell continues to be in contact with Lismore City Council to offer support, knowing the devastation caused cannot be rectified in the short term.

Lake Macquarie City Council remains committed to assisting Lismore, Richmond Valley and other members of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation where we are able to and may look for further support construction crews in the future.

We will remain in contact and again, thank you for your letter of appreciation.

Should you require further information or require any further assistance or coordination, please contact Deputy CEO, Tony Farrell on telephone number 4921 0250.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Morven Cameron".

Morven Cameron
Chief Executive Officer

Our Ref: F2022/00465/ Your Ref:

126-138 Main Road
Speers Point NSW 2284
Box 1906 HRMC NSW 2310

T 02 4921 0333
E council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au
W lakemac.com.au

[lakemac](#) [lakemaccity](#) [ourlakemac](#)



Office of Local Government

5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541

Our Reference: A816914
Your Reference:
Contact: Performance Team
Phone: 4428 4100

Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Chair
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Email: admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Councillor

Thank you for your letter of 11 April 2022, seeking an extension of time for the lodgement of Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's (Northern Rivers JO) 2021-22 Financial Statements to 28 February 2023.

I appreciate the reasons for Northern Rivers JO's extension request and acknowledge the severe impact the recent devastating floods have had on the communities and infrastructure of those councils listed in your letter. I also acknowledge that these events will have a significant impact on accessibility and staff resources to address natural disaster assessments, financial accounting and reporting outcomes.

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) authorises me to grant an extension of time for the preparation and auditing of annual financial statements (section 416(5)).

Having considered the information provided to me, I have approved an extension of time for Northern Rivers JO to complete its 2021-22 financial statements to 31 December 2022. If Northern Rivers JO finds that it cannot meet this extension date, then a further extension will be considered based on its particular circumstances in consultation with the Audit Office NSW at that point in time.

For those councils listed in your letter, in accordance with section 416(5) of the Act, I would ask that each General Manager of those respective councils write to the Office of Local Government (OLG) stating its particular circumstances for the extension request. The councils will also need to confirm that their auditor supports their request for an extension. Each request will then be reviewed, considered, and responded to accordingly. If you could communicate this instruction to the councils that would be appreciated.

Should you need to discuss this further, please contact Stepanka Halik, Manager the OLG Performance Team on 4428 4100.

Yours sincerely

Ally Dench
Executive Director, Office of Local Government



Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Chair
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
PO Box 146
LISMORE NSW 2480

Via email: execofficer@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au
admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cr Cadwallader

Thank you for your correspondence to the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes regarding Byron Shire Council's planning proposal which seeks to reduce the number of days of non-hosted short-term rental accommodation (STRA) in parts of the Byron Shore Local Government Area. The Minister asked me to respond on his behalf.

As you are aware, on 3 June 2022, the Minister determined that it was in the public interest to alter the Gateway determination for the proposal to proceed to exhibition. I can advise that the Minister's position was informed by the unique and exceptional circumstances facing Byron Shire, particularly regarding the impact of the recent flooding on the availability and affordability of housing, combined with the existing high proportion of short term rental accommodation in the Shire.

The documents relating to the Gateway alteration and progress of the proposal can be followed on the NSW Planning Portal at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/ppr/pre-exhibition/planning-proposal-short-term-rental-accommodation-byron-shire>.

If you have any more questions, please contact Ms Gina Davis, Senior Planner, Northern Region at the Department of Planning and Environment on 5778 1487.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Van Laeren
Acting Deputy Secretary
Planning and Land Use Strategy

30 June 2022

Phil Rudd
General Manager
Rous County Council
Phillip.rudd@rous.nsw.gov.au

9 June 2022

Dear Phil

At its meeting of 20 May 2022, the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation agreed to enter into an arrangement with Rous County Council ('Rous') to share its Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee ('ARIC') and ensure the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation ('NRJO') is compliant with the *Local Government Act 1993* ('the Act').

200052022/13 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ K Thomas

The Board approve the interim Executive Officer to enter into an arrangement with associate member Rous County Council by 4 June 2022 to share its Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee with the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and ensure compliance with section 428A of the Local Government Act 1993.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

Under the proposal, a shared arrangement will be entered into whereby Rous' ARIC members are concurrently appointed as members of the NRJO's ARIC.

The 'shared' members would be appointed to the NRJO's ARIC for a period up to 30 June 2025. This appointment period ensures the NRJO has an ARIC until the next local government elections in 2024 and for a reasonable period thereafter to allow a new joint organisation board the time to endorse an ARIC or shared arrangement for its term.

NRJO thanks Rous for this offer to ensure the NRJO's compliance with section 428A of the Act by 4 June 2022.

Yours sincerely



Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Chair



NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION

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Post PO Box 146, Lismore, NSW 2480
ABN 68 587 813 167

Phil Rudd
General Manager
Rous County Council
Phillip.rudd@rous.nsw.gov.au

9 June 2022

Dear Phil

At its meeting of 20 May 2022, the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation agreed to accept the proposal for the provision of bookkeeping, financial reporting and financial statement requirements as well as assist with its external audit process submitted by Rous County Council.

200052022/14 RESOLVED

MOVED: K Thomas/ M Lyon

The Board approve the proposal from Rous County Council for the provision of the financial management services required by the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

This will take effect 30 June 2022.

As agreed, Rous County Council will provide the following financial management services to the NRJO:

- payroll
- accounts receivable and payable
- business activity statements
- quarterly and annual reporting
- budget preparation
- grant administration
- attendance at NRJO board meetings
- associated financial software platforms.

Rous County Council has estimated the provision of these services could cost up to \$29,446.00 (excluding GST) per year, with a one-off additional cost of \$3,094.00 (excluding GST) in year one to cover setup expenses.

Rous County Council has proposed an open book cost recovery option whereby it only charges the NRJO for expenses incurred and hours spent in relation to the provision of financial management services required.



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As agreed, Rous will invoice for hours undertaken with a maximum monthly cost of \$2500 following the initial set up period.

RDA Northern Rivers have been advised of this change in financial management services and will arrange for the handover of documentation and transfer of MYOB licence to Rous representatives in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Cadwallader', followed by a small dot.

Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Chair

Morvern Cameron
Chief Executive Officer
Lake Macquarie City Council
18-32 Creek Reserve Rd, Boolaroo, NSW, 2284

21st July 2022

Dear Morven Cameron,

RE: Lake Macquarie City Council Flood Disaster Support

I write to express the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's (NRJO) profound gratitude for the assistance Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) continues to offer our region following the February 2022 flood disaster.

In particular, the NRJO greatly appreciates the direct support given to Richmond Valley Council (one of our member councils) by LMCC through its building inspectors as well as the provision of a road maintenance/repair truck.

Our understanding is that LMCC staff are also currently in discussions with another of our member councils – Lismore City Council – regarding the sharing of plant and other heavy equipment to support its flood recovery efforts. As the Northern Rivers local government area worst hit by the flood, the immense value of any assistance LMCC is able to provide Lismore City cannot be emphasised enough.

The NRJO and its six member councils have been overwhelmed by the thoughts and well-wishes received from the state's local government community since this year's natural disaster struck.

However, without doubt it is the day-to-day, on-the-ground support like that being provided by LMCC which is most welcome – delivering significant relief and aid for Northern Rivers councils, their staff and communities.



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Your council's willingness and determination to assist wherever possible to help our devastated region respond and recover remains of great comfort.

With a long flood recovery still ahead, it is the NRJO's sincere hope that our member councils can continue calling on LMCC for much-needed assistance.

Similarly, if there is ever anything the NRJO or its member councils may be able to assist LMCC with, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Phillip Rudd

Executive Officer

Signed: 

Date: 21/07/2022

Cr Adrian Schrinner
Chair
Council of Mayors (SEQ)
Via email

21 June 2022

Dear Cr Schrinner,

NSW Northern Rivers region seeks 'qualification' for 2032 Regional Working Group

I am pleased to write on behalf of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) and member councils to offer assistance to the Council of Mayors (SEQ) 2032 Regional Working Group as it works toward the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As the peak representative organisation for the NSW Northern Rivers region's local government areas, the NRJO is the recognised regional voice and collaborative body for its six member councils – Tweed Shire, Byron Shire, Ballina Shire, Kyogle, Lismore City and Richmond Valley councils.

We're also fortunate to have several valued associate members, one of which, Scenic Rim Regional Council, is a member of the 2032 Regional Working Group.

Given its close proximity to Brisbane, the Gold Coast and wider South East Queensland region, the NRJO feels the Northern Rivers is well-positioned to help the Regional Working Group plan for and deliver a successful visitor experience as part of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Pertinently, the Northern Rivers region boasts:

- easy accessibility, especially given the upgraded Pacific Motorway and major regional Ballina-Byron Gateway Airport
- strong, well-established visitor economy supported by plentiful accommodation options and a vast array of tourism, hospitality and other related experiences and services
- modern, fit-for-purpose sporting venues and training facilities often utilised by visiting national sporting codes and teams
- renowned natural environment – from idyllic beaches through to picturesque hinterland and unique rainforest areas.

An opportunity to possibly be involved with a truly global event right on our region's doorstep is one the NRJO is excited about and reluctant to let slip by.



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Our board and member councils would sincerely appreciate if the 2032 Regional Working Group could consider the NRJO's offer of assistance as well as the suitability of admitting the NRJO as either an associate member or in some other representative capacity.

Another of our valued associate members, the Australian Government backed Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers organisation, may also be of assistance as an associate member or otherwise to the working group.

Should you wish to discuss the above proposal further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip Rudd', written in a cursive style.

Phillip Rudd
Interim Executive Officer
NRJO

execofficer@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

0427 668 860



Michael Coulter
Nambucca Valley Council
PO Box 177
NAMBUCCA NSW 2447

May 31, 2022

Wind up of MyRoadInfo platform and transition to OneRoad

Dear Michael,

At its 20 May 2022 ordinary meeting, the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board considered a report on the long-planned wind up of the MyRoadInfo platform and transition to Transport for NSW's new back end solution that feeds into Live Traffic NSW, OneRoad.

Subsequently, I write to inform you that from **30 June 2022**, the front end of the MyRoadInfo website will no longer be available for the community to use and access local road information.

Any community member who visits the MyRoadInfo website after this date will instead be redirected to the Live Traffic NSW site.

It is important your council's public information resources and channels are updated to reflect this change as soon as possible please.

Local road information provided to the MyRoadInfo platform by your council and other member councils is already shared with and available via the Live Traffic NSW online service.

Transport for NSW is currently finalising development of a new online platform that will allow each LGA to share live traffic information to a central hub that gets published to Live Traffic.

The goal is to have one central source of truth for motorists, freight operators, and third-party providers, that is managed by the Transport Management Centre.

With OneRoad, we can help road users make informed travel decisions, and plan and complete their journeys safely. To do this, we need accurate, reliable and up to date information across all roads in NSW. With the right information at the right time we can:

- inform our road users with real-time information on traffic conditions, incidents, hazards and major events on all roads in NSW
- enable road users to make the right decisions and choices



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- help save lives by giving people the right information at the right time
- reach more people, as the solution is designed for data sharing and collaboration with third-party navigation systems like Google Maps and Apple Maps, Waze, TomTom.

Recent advice from Transport for NSW indicates its solution -will be finalised by Quarter 3 of 2022 with councils using MyRoadInfo selected to go live with OneRoad first.

Given this advice, the Board resolved to put in place an interim arrangement to ensure local road information continues to be available on the Live Traffic NSW platform in the meantime.

Essentially, operation of the MyRoadInfo platform's back end (non-public facing) administration system is to be extended by up to six months (only) so that local road information can still be shared with the Live Traffic NSW platform until Transport for NSW's new system is up and running.

As part of finalising and rolling out its new system, Transport for NSW will be engaging directly with all NSW councils in the next few weeks. This will include workshops to demonstrate and test the system, seek feedback and provide training.

To help facilitate the engagement process, I would appreciate if you could provide me the details of your council's best point of contact please so I can pass these on to Transport for NSW by Friday 3 June 2022, hoping to commence engagement by mid June.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



Phillip Rudd
(Interim) Executive Officer
execofficer@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au
0427 668 860

Tim Williamson
Director of Regional Development
RDA Northern Rivers
director@rdanorthernrivers.org.au

9 June 2022

Dear Tim

At its meeting of 20 May 2022, the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation agreed to accept a proposal for the management of financial services submitted by Rous County Council.

200052022/14 RESOLVED

MOVED: K Thomas/ M Lyon

The Board approve the proposal from Rous County Council for the provision of the financial management services required by the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

This will take effect 30 June 2022.

A representative from Rous County Council will be in touch to discuss the handover process, including the transfer of the MYOB licence agreement.

The NRJO would like to thank RDA Northern Rivers for their provision of financial services since its inception and in particular, Kyllie Walker for the assistance she has provided to the organisation.

Yours sincerely



Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Chair



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The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Planning
Minister for Homes

Thursday, 2 June 2022

Dear Minister,

RE: Public exhibition of Byron Shire's short-term rental accommodation planning proposal

I write on behalf of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation to seek your assistance with expediting the public exhibition of a vital planning proposal put forward by one of its member councils to address rental accommodation issues in the Byron Shire local government area.

In light of the exacerbated housing crisis following the recent floods that devastated the Northern Rivers region, Byron Shire Council's short-term rental accommodation planning proposal is fast becoming an increasingly critical, much-needed initiative.

By providing appropriate planning controls to manage non-hosted holiday letting in the Byron Shire, the proposal aims to find a suitable solution to maintaining housing for local residents while supporting the area's important visitor economy.

Following preparation of an Economic Impact Assessment late last year, the Council submitted an amended planning proposal as well as application to alter its previous Gateway Determination to the Department of Planning and Environment in February 2022.

Three months on, it is crucial the planning proposal is placed on public exhibition as soon as possible so the community can be consulted and the proposal finalised to ensure its benefits to the Byron Shire are realised in a timely manner.

Your assistance in making sure the planning proposal is placed on public exhibition without further delay would be sincerely welcomed.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above further, please do not hesitate to contact the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's Interim Executive Officer Phillip Rudd on 0427 073 440 or via execofficer@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Chair



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