



Agenda for the Northern Rivers

Joint Organisation

Ordinary Board Meeting

Date: 20 November 2020

Location: Richmond valley Council Chambers

Time: 12 noon

AGENDA

1	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	1
2	APOLOGIES	1
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	1
4	ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITOR(S).....	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.....	2
5.1	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION HELD 25 SEPTEMBER 2020	3
6	NOTICES OF MOTION	7
7	REPORTS.....	8
7.1	ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT - DESTINATION NORTH COAST	9
7.2	ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – RDA NORTHERN RIVERS	11
7.3	ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL.....	13
7.4	EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT	21
7.5	FINANCIAL REPORTS.....	24
7.6	AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019-2020	27
7.7	PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2021.....	28
8	URGENT BUSINESS	29
9	CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS	30
10	CORRESPONDENCE	31
11	ATTACHMENTS	32

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 Troy Green, Tweed Shire Council, Cr Jim Simmons and Ashley Lindsay, Clarence Valley Council, Louise McMeeking, Regional NSW and Cr Virginia West, Scenic Rim Regional Council

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4 ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITOR(S)

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION HELD 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Friday 25 September 2020 are included for information and adoption by the Board.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION

HELD via zoom

ON FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

ATTENDANCE

Crs Danielle Mulholland (Chair), Isaac Smith, David Wright, Simon Richardson, Robert Mustow, Chris Cherry

General Managers Troy Green, Graham Kennett, Mark Arnold, Paul Hickey, Graeme Towers (LCC)

Michael Thurston (Destination North Coast), Phil Rudd, (Rous County Council), Ashley Lindsay (Clarence Valley Council)

Nicole Reeve Donna McIntyre (minute taker)

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from Cr Derek Swanborough (Scenic Rim Regional Council), Cr Jim Simmons (Clarence Valley Council); Tim Williamson (RDA Northern Rivers); Anita Gambhir (Office of Local Government); Louise McMeeking (Dept of Regional NSW); Shelley Oldham (Lismore City Council), Vaughan MacDonald (Richmond Valley Council)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITORS

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES and BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION HELD 21 AUGUST 2020

25092020/1 RESOLVED

MOVED: R Mustow/D Wright

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held Friday 21 August 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

NIL received

7. REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL ELECTIONS

25092020/2: RESOLVED

MOVED: D Wright/I Smith

THAT the Board congratulate Cr Danielle Mulholland on her re-election as Mayor of Kyogle Council and her continuing role as Chair of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and welcome Cr John Byrne as the alternate delegate from Kyogle Council

THAT the Board welcome Cr Neil Marks as Deputy Mayor of Lismore Council and the alternate delegate to the NRJO

THAT the Board welcome Cr Chris Cherry, newly appointed Mayor of Tweed Shire Council to the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and Deputy Mayor Reece Byrnes as the alternate member.

THAT the Board thank Cr Katie Milne for her contribution to the Board since its inception

THAT the Board welcome and send letters of acknowledgement to Cr Sharon Cadwallader as Deputy Mayor of Ballina Shire Council; Cr Steve Morrissey as Deputy Mayor of Richmond Valley Council and Cr Michael Lyon as Deputy Mayor of Byron Shire Council

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.2 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT - DESTINATION NORTH COAST

25092020/3 RESOLVED

MOVED:

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.3 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – RDA NORTHERN RIVERS

25092020/4 RESOLVED

MOVED: S Richardson/R Mustow

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.4 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL

25092020/5 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/R Mustow

THAT the report from Clarence Valley Regional Council be received and noted.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.5 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL

25092020/6 RESOLVED

MOVED: R Mustow/D Mulholland

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

25092020/7 RESOLVED

MOVED: D Mulholland/C Cherry

THAT the Board receive and note the amended Executive Officer's report noting change of date and location of Northern Rivers NSW Brand MOU signing to now coincide with the Board meeting 20 November 2020 at Richmond Valley Council

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.7 FINANCIAL REPORTS

25092020/8 RESOLVED

MOVED: D Wright/R Mustow

THAT THE Board accept the financial reports for period ending 31 August 2020

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

NIL RECEIVED

9. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

NIL RECEIVED

10. CORRESPONDENCE

25092020/9 RESOLVED

MOVED : D Wright/I Smith

THAT the correspondence report be received and noted

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

.

MEETING CLOSED 11.19am

Next meeting

20 November 2020

Richmond Valley Council

Casino

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held Friday 25 September 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of that meeting.

6 NOTICES OF MOTION

7 REPORTS



Crisis Management

Staffing shortages of operational staff in a tight/reluctant labour market continue to be the primary issue that we are hearing from operators and LGA's throughout region. The topic has been discussed between the Destination Networks with all regions reporting similar issues.

DNC are participating in two Local Jobs Programs Taskforces that are being run by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment. The Local Jobs Program supports is tailored to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment in 25 regions across Australia (Northern Rivers and MNC both feature). The project aims to identify projects that can be funded in each region to ensure the maximum number of people are placed in appropriate employment or training opportunities as quickly as possible to meet employer needs as labour markets recover. Each project must be valued between \$10,000 and \$200,000 with the program open through to June 2020.

The Office for Regional Youth have advised that they will be launching a marketing program aimed at getting the 25k NSW high school graduates who would traditionally take a gap year to do so domestically travelling and working in regional areas. A dedicated website is being constructed and the marketing activity is due to launch towards the end of November.

Compliance of Covid restrictions has also been another pressing issue. Both operators and councils have relayed the increase costs of implementing Covid practices and for councils ensuring compliance. As a result, DNC would be happy to support the NRJO's application to state government for assistance for LGA's with a high visitor economy profile to assist financially to support the compliance work required to be undertaken.

Business Events

The Business Events sector is starting to experience increased leads and conversion. The increase in activity has been driven by increases in allowed capacity to 300 delegates and the reopening of state borders. Over the last month DNC have secured a major Thermomix incentive to be held next May that will see 200 delegates stay for a combined 400 nights with an economic impact of \$142k. In addition, we have three tenders that have been identified and chased over that have the potential to deliver a combined 120 delegates staying for 260 nights with an economic impact of \$94k.

DNC are running a Reboot Roadshow that is due to be held on the 1st December. The event will feature a keynote speaker, destination profiles, one-on-one meetings, wellness and teambuilding activities, prizes and competitions. Facilitated one-on-one meetings will match client requirements with relevant regional stakeholders. If you would like to attend the event please register via the following link - [Reboot Roadshow Registration](#)

Food & Beverage Trail

DNC secured \$145k in funding from Austrade's, Bushfire Recovery Fund to create a digital Food & Beverage Trail platform for the North Coast. We are currently liaising with DNSW regarding the platform and methodology to be used for the trail which was one of the funding requirements from Austrade. Ultimately, we aim to deliver a dynamic digital platform that promotes key routes but also enables consumers to design their own route. One of the key aims of the project is to provide a promotional vehicle that enables small producers, operators and farm date experiences that they can plug into and reach relevant consumers.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from Destination North Coast be noted

7.2 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – RDA NORTHERN RIVERS



In October 2020 Assistant Minister for Regional Development Nola Marino, MP approved a new Charter for Regional Development Australia Committees.

RDA Committees have an active and facilitative role in their communities with a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize economic opportunities and attract investment.

Collaborating with other RDA Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector, RDA Committees will:

- a) Facilitate regional economic development outcomes, investment, local procurement and jobs.
- b) Promote greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian Government policies, grant programs and research.
- c) Improve Commonwealth regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues.
- d) Co-ordinate the development of a strategic regional plan, or work with suitable existing regional plans that will align with the Commonwealth's regional priorities.

The Charter accompanies a renewed and extended commitment from the Commonwealth Government to fund RDA Committees for 4.5 year terms (up from previous 3 year terms). A new Funding Agreement will be approved by Jan 2021 and advertising to fill positions of Chair and D/RD will be placed during Nov 2020.

The RDA Committee would welcome dialogue with all councils to explain the new charter and how RDA's revised focus of operations can benefit each LG area.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

An opportunity arose to apply for funding for a Hydrogen Technology Cluster Facilitator through a NERA sponsored grant. Following a call out for interested parties over 30 experienced businesses, university, individuals and organisations responded and are very keen to see this new industry grow in the region.

EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

My Future Workforce Platform

This RDA-developed employment platform is focussed on local employment solutions and has recently increased its youth and employment entry focus. Working with NSW Training Services a large increase of school based trainees and apprenticeships have been added alongside promotion to encourage youth employment opportunities.

COMMITTEES

Committee	Comment
Youth Employment Networks	Networks developing pathways for students to industry. Online meetings held. RDA provides industry linkages and input
RLE Economic Sub Committee	Sub Committee reports to the Regional Leadership Executive, wide-ranging issues with COVID focus.
NR Branding Committee	At the establishment phase but a next phase could see it evolve to a Committee for NR. The focus of the brand aligns with RDA Charter.
Cross Border Tourism Committee	Tourism specific, focus for the group for 2020: Skills and training workshops, a regional networking event, taking more of a lead advocacy role.
Clarence Valley Wages to Work Committee	Project specific around skills and employment in the marine industry based at Harwood Marine
NRJO Committee	Assoc Membership
COVID 19 Safe Compliance	Hosted by NSW Health and business partners

MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

The Director of Regional Development attends regular teleconference meetings with Assistant Minister Nola Marino and other RDA Directors across Australia. These teleconferences provide an excellent platform for regional advocacy and has directly contributed to Federal regional policy development.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from RDA Northern Rivers be noted

7.3 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL



Below is an update of key initiatives, projects and successful grant funding announcements for the Scenic Rim.

2019-20 Annual Report

Despite the challenges of drought, bushfires, floods and a global pandemic, Council continued to deliver projects to meet the long-term infrastructure needs of the region.

The Scenic Rim Local Disaster Management Group was activated four times during the year to support the community, with Council providing significant coordination and services to help meet the community's needs during these challenging times.

Over the year Council invested almost \$12 million in a road construction program, more than \$4 million in a bridge program and more than \$3 million in road reseals.

Improving the region's road corridors and bridges enables better access for residents and visitors across our towns and villages, and supports a more efficient transport network, which encourages future economic development.

Long gone are the days when Councils only delivered roads, rates and rubbish. This report shows the vast number of activities that were specifically undertaken this year.

Council's 2019-20 Annual Report is available on the website. www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/our-council/administration/corporate-publications

10 Point Advocacy Plan

In the lead up to October's 2020 State General Election, political parties and local candidates were asked to support initiatives outlined in the Scenic Rim Regional Council's 10 Point Plan.

The 10 Point Advocacy Plan focuses on key areas including investment in critical transport connectivity on State-controlled roads, better access to public transport and equal access to Queensland Government grant funding.

The ten key issues outlined in the plan (in no particular order or hierarchy) include: Transport and logistics connectivity

1. Mount Lindesay Highway/Bromelton connections
2. Canungra Town Bypass
3. Coulson crossing of the Teviot River
4. Upgrade/maintain Boonah Rathdowney Road
5. Cook Road (Gallery Walk) Bypass - Tamborine Mountain
6. Beaudesert - Nerang Road - Rogers Flat section

Support for reasonable access for community amenity

1. Passenger rail connection to Beaudesert

2. Public transport (bus) services east and west - two-year development programs

Ongoing financial sustainability for service and infrastructure support

1. Review of State Financial Assistance Grants distribution
2. Review of tied and untied grants program

The 10 Point Advocacy Plan and the responses received from the major political parties and local candidates is available at <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/our-council/administration/advocacy>

COVID-19 Economic Impact

Council has drawn on data from the .id COVID Economic Outlook tool. This tool utilises the economic forecast model developed by National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) and focuses on the impacts to September Quarter 2020. Comparatively speaking, the region is sitting quite well due to its diverse, strong and growing economy. Key statistics below:

- GRP is forecast to be 0.5% lower in the September quarter 2020 than the same quarter in 2019. This fall is less than that experienced by the state as a whole (Queensland: -3.1%)
- Local Jobs are forecast to fall by -3.5% in the September Quarter 2020. This equates to a fall of 548 local jobs.
- In the absence of JobKeeper payments, the employment fall is estimated at -4.4% (697 jobs)
- The impact on employed residents (-3.5%) was higher than the local job impact.
- Top three sectors impacted in terms of jobs loss
 - Accommodation and Food Services (-547 local jobs)
 - Arts and Recreation Services (-100 local jobs)
 - Manufacturing (-54 local jobs)
- Further details relating to impact on output, value-add and resident workers (including JobKeeper recipients) can be found at <https://economy.id.com.au/scenic-rim/covid19-quarter-impacts>

Win in the Resilient Australia Awards (Queensland)

Scenic Rim Farm Box, which Council supported as part of its Economic Stimulus Package in response to COVID-19 in lieu of its usual contribution to Eat Local Week, won an award in the Local Government Award category at the 2020 Resilient Australia Awards (Queensland) on 14 October.

At a time when local producers were losing valuable income as a result of the global pandemic, the farm to fridge pivot went a long way to filling the gap caused by both the cancellation of Scenic Rim Eat Local Week and loss of business as supply chains and restaurants closed due to COVID-19.

By leveraging existing networks created by the highly successful annual Eat Local Week, Council was able to work with local producers to ensure Scenic Rim Farm Box had a fast turnaround to implementation to bring much needed economic stimulus to the region.

There has been steady growth in the number of participating suppliers registered with Scenic Rim Farm Box, offering over 240 different product lines available for purchase. The project has generated 18 direct casual jobs, which is equivalent to 10 full-time positions, and also the additional indirect jobs supported by the 50 local producer which supply produce to the operation.

Scenic Rim Farm Box is a perfect example of local government building better links with the private sector as a priority, not least because infrastructure is often owned or managed by private interests which deliver services that enable communities to function.

This initiative is inspiring people to visit the Scenic Rim, enhancing the region's brand for produce excellence and cementing our reputation as a foodie destination.

Scenic Rim Economic Stimulus Package Round 2: COVID-19 Update

On 6 July Council adopted a second Economic Stimulus Package to minimise the ongoing financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support the Scenic Rim's economic recovery. The range of initiatives in the Scenic Rim Economic Stimulus Package 2: COVID-19 built on the tranche of initiatives delivered in the first economic stimulus package announced by Council in March and will continue to assist residents, local businesses and community organisations. Three initiatives are outlined below.

1. Council adopted the guidelines for the **Façade Improvement Scheme** at the Ordinary meeting held on 7 September 2020. Details on the program are:
 - The cost of works undertaken will be supported by a Council contribution of 25% of the total project cost to a maximum of \$3,000, from a total funding pool of \$50,000.
 - Open to property owners and business owners (with approval from landlord), with approvals progressively rolled out as applications are received.
 - Applicants must complete all proposed scope of works within four months of signing a letter of agreement with Council. Eligible expenses include:
 - Lighting
 - Exterior walls
 - Windows
 - Doors
 - Entranceways
 - Awnings/canopies
 - Landscaping
 - Painting
 - Signage

Further information can be found at <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/businesses/facade-improvement-scheme/1>

Regional Prosperity and Communications team continue to promote the program to local businesses and landlords, as well as provide guidance in the application process. The team are aware a number of projects are in the pipeline and anticipate more applications will be received in the coming weeks.

2. The **Scenic Rim Digital and E-Commerce Grant** program was release on 13 October, which allows business to apply for matched funding, with a maximum Council contribution of up to \$2,000, from a total funding pool of \$20,000. Proposed procurement from local suppliers, where possible, in the Scenic Rim is favourable considered. Details on the program are:
 - Eligible expenses include:

- Website design and development
- E-commerce platforms
- Online content development
- Digital marketing and promotion
- Development of online marketing plan
- Supporting hardware and/or software, and;
- Mentoring and/or training in online and e-commerce activities.

Further information can be found at <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/businesses/scenic-rim-digital-e-commerce-grant-program/1>

The Regional Prosperity and Communications team continue to promote the program to local businesses and landlords, as well as provide guidance in the application process.

3. Council appointed Educare College to deliver a **Business Resilience and Mentoring Program**. This 12 week program has been designed to provide local business operators with the tools to assess, grow and understand the working of their current business and to source new and innovative opportunities that present growth. The workshops will concentrate on business capability, business resilience, financial planning/tender and grant writing, marketing and branding. 20 individuals have enrolled and commenced in the program so far.

Smart Region Strategy

Council secured matched funding under Round 4 of the Building Better Region Fund – Community Stream, to develop a Smart Region Strategy for the Scenic Rim (total project cost of \$77,000). CyQIQ have been appointed to deliver this project, which will be the first ever Smart Region Strategy for the region. The development of the Strategy will ensure the region's business and community embraces the global digital trend, in order to advance its economy, attract investment, build prosperity and improve its community's lives and lifestyles, ultimately enhancing the liveability of the Scenic Rim region.

Background research has been completed, with stakeholder engagement commencing with a presentation at the Council and Executive Workshop on 10 November 2020. The Regional Prosperity team is working with CyQIQ to facilitate a number of stakeholder engagement sessions with community, business, industry groups and government agencies at State and Federal Level. These stakeholder engagement sessions are crucial to informing the strategy in the early stages development. The project will be completed June 2021.

Regional Events

The Great Gondwana Festival will now be further developed across the eastern and central geographical areas of the Scenic Rim region. These include an O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat Gondwana Adventures Program, an Adventure Symposium hosted by Mt Barney Lodge (also includes major Fun Run and Mountain Biking event components), Binna Burra Reborn - Gondwana Festival 2021, and Arthur's Trek Walking Journeys hosted by InterNational Park Tours. Brisbane Economic Development Agency (formerly Brisbane Marketing) have been successful in securing \$145,000 funding from the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants Program to assist with the planning and delivery of the Great Gondwana Festival in March 2021. The Great Gondwana Festival is expected to attract 9,950 visitors to the region that will see an estimated economic return of \$1,734,794 to the Scenic Rim.

Council, in partnership with Queensland Music Festival, will deliver POPera in the Paddock - a destination event to be delivered at Hazelwood Estate at Beechmont in April 2021 with a joint operational budget of \$300,000. Queensland Music Festival's funding contribution is \$100,000 and Council has been successful in obtaining \$145,000 funding from the Australian Government via Austrade's Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants program and \$55,000 from the Drought Communities Program administered by Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. On Saturday 8 May, POPera in the Paddock is expected to attract an audience of 5,000, with 4,500 of those predicted to visit the Scenic Rim purely for the event, bringing an estimated impact of \$1.3 million to the local economy.

Regionality Pty Ltd are recognised as a leader in the field of agri-tourism, farm and farm-gate development and innovation and brand development and will deliver the Farm2Plate Exchange conference in the Scenic Rim on Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 May 2021. Council has been granted \$60,000 from Queensland Reconstruction Authority under the Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Package - Events/Community Stream to support this event and to proceed with this activation as Host Partner of Farm2Plate Exchange in 2021 at The Centre Beaudesert.

The 10th anniversary Scenic Rim Eat Local Week will be held 26 June until 4 July 2021 and the region's signature event will be celebrated with activations such as the 10th Anniversary Special Event to open Eat Local Week, and an extended Main Stage program with guest performers at the 2021 Winter Harvest Festival, with expected outcomes of increasing the economic and tourism impact of Eat Local Week to \$2.5 million and attracting 45,000 visitors to the combined events in 2021.

Other Regional Events planned for delivery in coming months:

- Cardigras Community Christmas Carols - Kooralbyn 12 December 2020
- Carralbyn - Kooralbyn 26 - 28 February 2021

Tourism Marketing Campaign

The Richest Place on Earth campaign, driven by Scenic Rim Regional Council, in close partnership with local tourism operators and with support from the Queensland and Australian Governments via bushfire recovery funding is in final stages of post reporting, however Council and are excited to share early analytics proving its success.

During the campaign which kicked off mid-July in line with easing of Covid-19 travel restrictions in Queensland, the VisitScenicRim.com.au website saw over 105,000 visitors, an increase of 160% when compared to the same period in 2019.

Most importantly the campaign generated 61,807 leads direct to Scenic Rim's tourism operators, and helped to deliver what many businesses are reporting as their busiest period ever.

To see more detail of the campaign activity take a look at the [toolkit](#), and stay tuned for more results to come.

Regional Skills Investment Strategy

Hundreds of Scenic Rim employers are getting support to find, train and upskill the workers they need to prosper and grow via the [Regional Skills Investment Strategy](#) (RSIS) project.

Since the RSIS project commenced in 2019, 338 employers across the Scenic Rim's agriculture, health and allied services, tourism and hospitality sectors have engaged with it, securing 176 training outcomes and 139 employment outcomes.

Scenic Rim Regional Council's RSIS project is funded by the Queensland Government's Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) for two years until June 2021 and is making a significant difference in the Scenic Rim.

The RSIS Project closely aligns with the workforce development intent of the Scenic Rim Regional Prosperity Strategy 2020-2025 and fundamentally exists to drive significant economic outcomes, job containment and growth and lifestyle and liveability outcomes for the Scenic Rim.

Through the RSIS project, Tamborine Mountain tourism icon [Cedar Creek Lodges](#) has been supported to develop their pilot hospitality program and a pilot program has been developed to train new workers for the Scenic Rim's turf industry.

Actions to engage with the region's business operators include providing guidance to access funding for business development, securing apprentices, assisting displaced employees affected by fires, floods and COVID-19, staging of the Scenic Rim Jobs and Skills Fest event, delivery of the recent [Scenic Rim Business Breakfast](#) event and planning for the World of Work event.

The creation of an RSIS Reference Group and the launch of the Scenic Rim Jobs portal have also proved successful.

2020 Scenic Rim Business Breakfast

Collaboration between Council officers was a key driving force behind the successful 2020 Scenic Rim Business Breakfast on 15 October.

Commissioner of Small Business, Maree Adshead, was guest speaker at the event, which the Scenic Rim Regional Council and Department of Employment, Small Business and Training hosted at The Centre, Beaudesert.

The Scenic Rim's agriculture, health, tourism, hospitality and education sectors were among those represented at the 2020 Scenic Rim Business Breakfast, along with representation from the region's chambers of commerce, Council officers and elected representatives.

To help simulate real-life career opportunities, Hospitality students from Beaudesert State High School and McAuley College served guests food prepared by local family company Scenic Rim Event Catering, featuring local produce.

The purpose of the event was to engage, promote and stimulate ideas to create business confidence within the Scenic Rim and ultimately help create pathways to skills development and employment.

This event was attended by 70 people from business, industry and government agencies, adhering to strict COVID-19 measures.

Upgrades to Beechmont Road

Works recently completed on stage one of the upgrades, were funded in large part through the

Australian Governments Roads to Recovery program. The recent completion of upgrades to Beechmont Road from Tucker Lane to James Sharp Memorial Park, was another investment in this critical road corridor, aimed to improve accessibility, safety and efficiency on this critical route between the Scenic Rim and the Gold Coast.

The Australian Government had partnered with council to fund \$1,089,053 of the \$1,701,580 investment in Beechmont Road, for realignment, widening, drainage works, full pavement reconstruction and sealing to current design standards. The partnership between local government and the Australian Government has been critical to the delivery of these projects.

The work not only benefited the local residents, but also for the many visitors who travel to the region.

Bromelton House Road

Bromelton House Road will soon be off-limits to heavy vehicle through-traffic in response to community concerns about safety.

The move was endorsed at today's Ordinary Council Meeting following further community consultation during August and September

Vehicles weighing more than 4.5 tonnes (Gross Vehicle Mass) will be limited on Bromelton House Road, however it's important to note this is designed to impact through-traffic only. The restriction doesn't impact the farms and other businesses who operate heavy vehicles on this road, or vehicles servicing properties in this area.

It's much more appropriate for through-traffic to use the Beaudesert Bypass and the Beaudesert Boonah Road, which is designed for these types of vehicles.

Local businesses in the area have been very supportive of limiting the heavy vehicle usage on this road, and appreciate the efforts to reduce traffic on this corridor.

Environmental Grants Program

Community groups and landowners will benefit from a total of more than \$102,000 through Scenic Rim Regional Council's 2020-21 Environmental Grants Program.

Funding has been approved for 16 projects by community groups and landowners whose efforts will support Council's conservation strategies by enhancing, protecting and restoring the Scenic Rim's natural environment as well as raising community awareness of the region's natural values.

Many of the projects funded through Council's 2020-21 Environmental Grants Program focused on the restoration of Scenic Rim waterways, which support a wide variety of plant and animal species and are vital in maintaining the region's biodiversity.

Council is committed to working in partnership with the community to preserve and enhance the Scenic Rim's unique natural environment. Working together to care for the environment is a key theme of the Scenic Rim Regional Council Biodiversity Strategy and Council's Environmental Grants Program provides valuable assistance to the community in ensuring the sustainability of our region.

Council received 23 applications totalling more than \$198,000, which far exceeded its budget

allocation for environmental grants 2020-21. Unfortunately, as grant requests far exceeded available funding, not all projects were able to be supported and Council officers will continue to work with applicants to understand where their projects could be improved so that they may be considered for future funding opportunities.

The Environmental Grants Program represents an investment by Council in conserving and enhancing some of our region's most valuable natural assets, our spectacular scenery and healthy environment.

RECOMMENDATION

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

7.4 EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

NSW / QLD BORDER

Northern Border Recovery Committee

The NRJO is represented by the Executive Officer on the Northern Border Recovery Committee which is being coordinated by Dept. of Regional NSW and chaired by Geoff Provest MP, Member for Tweed. The Committee meets every two weeks.

A process has been put in place by the NRJO ensuring Councils are able to table any issues or policies they would like put forward at the meetings and subsequently a reporting process back to the Councils at the completion of each meeting.

- Increased homelessness
- Assistance with COVID compliance
- Regulation for Airbnb accommodation
- Strategic analysis at a regional level of manufacturing capacity, improved planning path for gateway planning.
- Greater understanding of the role of the Major Event Taskforce and how LGA's can link.
- Regulations around New Year's Eve celebrations.
- Planning for storm, fire and flood season with coordination with relevant Queensland entities to ensure ability to respond effectively.
- Consideration to amending Public Health Order to allow return to workplace in non-COVID hot spots and where appropriate COVID safety plans are in place.
- Communication between NSW Health and Police of any Public Health Order event exemptions that the Police are expected to control.

A summary of key talking points is developed by the EO at the completion of each meeting which is then distributed to members of the NRJO.

Discussion Paper – Cost of COVID19 COMPLIANCE in High Tourism Areas

A common theme for the NRJO at each border recovery meeting is the impost of COVID Education and compliance for Councils in high tourist areas and possible assistance that could be provided by the NSW Government.

To create a consolidated approach Ballina, Byron Bay and Tweed Shire Councils provided relevant data. A paper was submitted to the Cross-Border Commissioner James McTavish and Louise McMeeking, Regional NSW.

Waste Microindustries Project

Progress Report – Development of a business case to establish a 'state of the art' facility for waste microindustries in the Northern Rivers region

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) engaged Astrolabe Group Pty Ltd (Astrolabe) to deliver the above project.

The project has commenced and a meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), UNSW and Waste Managers took place in October to inform all on the UNSW process and waste challenges for member councils. Since that meeting Astrolabe have been working with Waste Managers and North East Waste to collect data from member councils.

Northern Rivers NSW Brand

The Northern Rivers NSW Brand continues to gain traction and now has 150 businesses and organisations signed up. The MOU signing with the NRJO Councils is scheduled to be held on Friday November 20 at the Richmond Valley Council offices.

Disaster Dashboards

Through the Transition North Coast Committee, the Executive Officer became aware that Resilience NSW had been working with four JOs to introduce Disaster Dashboards to their Councils. These dashboards consolidate existing emergency information and alerts, utility outages, basic preparedness information and local recovery information into one website.

An expression of interest was sent to all six NRJO Councils regarding attending information sessions, four became involved: Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore City and Richmond Valley. Briefings were held with initially with Resilience NSW and then with the two companies Resilience NSW had used in their own scoping process.

A grant application for two years of funding was submitted through the **Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Stream 2** on behalf of Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Lismore City and Ballina Shire Councils which would enable them to implement a Disaster Dashboard which would be anchored off their existing website.

LG Procurement

The Memorandum of Understanding with Local Government Procurement in relation to the Rebate Scheme was signed for the 2020 – 20201 financial year. The rebate for the 2019-2020 financial year was finalised. A meeting was held with Business Development Manager for the Northern Rivers to discuss ways to improve the involvement of local businesses in the procurement process.

ARC Linkage Program

As decided at the GMAC meeting on 25 September, a Letter of Support was sent in support of the ARC Linkage Projects scheme being undertaken by Queensland University of Technology. The letter outlined the in-kind and financial support that the NRJO had previously committed to.

Meetings

Briefings were held with Rous County Council, North East Waste and representatives from the Natural Resources Access Regulator.

Future Business

EO will raise new table new initiatives for discussion.

Forums

The Executive Officer represented the NRJO on the following forums:

- The Northern Rivers Together Committee (implementation and development of the Northern Rivers NSW brand)
- The NSW Government's Regional Leadership Executive Meetings
- North Coast RLE Communities & Service Delivery Sub-Committee
- North Coast RLE Environment & Economic Sub-Committee
- The NSW Government COVID-19 Vulnerable Communities and Environment and Economy Sub-Committee Interagency meetings
- The Joint Organisations Executive Officers Meetings
- Joint Organisation Chairs Forum
- Northern Border Recovery Committee
- Waste Micro Industries Steering Committee
- Transition North Coast

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive and note the Executive Officer's report

7.5 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position for NoRJO as at 31 October 2020

DRAFT ONLY

	2020/21 Budget	2020/21 Actual	2019/20 Actual
<u>Operating Revenues</u>			
Membership Fees	160,800	160,800	128,600
Myroadinfo Fees	34,400	-	33,725
LG Procurement Rebate	10,600	37,386	37,388
Power Infrastructure Upgrade Project	-	-	-
Capacity Building	-	-	150,000
State Gov't Contribution	-	-	-
Sundry Income / Recharge Workshops	-	-	6,276
Interest	5,000	854	5,090
Total	210,800	199,040	361,079
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Bank Charges	-	40	-
Conferences, Events, Travel	12,250	191	22,715
Consultants (Economic Report)	-	500	-
Professional Development	5,200	-	-
Exec Officer - Salary/Oncosts/Recruit	96,351	25,918	85,172
Exec Officer - Computer	3,000	-	-
Exec Officer - Vehicle Allowance	8,580	1,073	8,580
Exec Officer - Support (RDA)	54,000	18,000	54,600
Chair Stipend	10,000	3,333	9,167
MyRoadInfo	29,300	-	28,031
Professional Fees – Audit	6,500	160	6,500
Media and Communications	5,200	-	-
Regional Projects - Capacity Building	-	2,490	-
Regional Projects - Other	550,537	-	214,895
Vendor Panel Access	77,500	15,000	65,375
Sundry Expenses	3,709	1,217	3,541
Total	862,127	67,922	498,576
	-	-	-
Net Cash Movement	651,327	131,118	137,497
Retained Earnings - 1 July	996,259	996,259	1,133,756
Retained Earnings - 30 June	344,932	1,127,377	996,259

Balance Sheet

As of October 2020

Assets			
Cash			
Summerland Community First		\$6,261.81	
Summerland Saver		\$1,135,954.45	
Debit Card - Chair		\$2,211.57	
Debit Card - Exec Officer		\$1,158.65	
Total Cash			\$1,145,586.48
Total Assets			\$1,145,586.48
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors			
Trade Creditors	\$12,276.00		
Sundry Creditors/Accruals	\$218.18		
Total Creditors		\$12,494.18	
GST Liability			
GST Collected	\$3,741.26		
GST paid	-\$1,401.83		
Total GST Liability		\$2,339.43	
Payroll Liabilities			
PAYG	\$1,344.00		
Superannuation Payable	\$548.08		
Provision - Staff entitlements	\$1,483.78		
Total Payroll Liabilities		\$3,375.86	
Total Liabilities			\$18,209.47
Net Assets			\$1,127,377.01
Equity			
Retained Earnings		\$996,258.74	
Current Year Earnings		\$131,118.13	
Historical Balancing		\$0.14	
Total Equity			\$1,127,377.01

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2020 To October 2020

PO Box 146
LISMORE NSW 2480

ABN: 68 587 813 167

Email: admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Income		
Projects		
Membership	\$160,800.00	
LG Procurement Rebate	\$37,386.00	
Other Income		
Interest Received	\$854.16	
Total Income		\$199,040.16
Gross Profit		\$199,040.16
Expenses		
Operational Expenses		
Computer ISP and Registrations	\$543.96	
Vendor Panel Licence Costs	\$15,000.00	
Consultants	\$500.00	
Phone charges	\$454.96	
Stationery	\$135.68	
Support services - Admin contr	\$18,000.00	
Payroll and Staff Expenses		
Direct Staff Expenses		
Wages	\$17,101.63	
Allowances	\$1,072.50	
Allowance-Chair Stipend	\$3,333.32	
Superannuation	\$1,624.65	
Provision for Staff Entitlemen	\$1,483.78	
Other Staff Expenses		
Recruitment	\$5,707.73	
Financial, Legal, Professional		
Bank charges	\$40.00	
Audit Fees	\$160.00	
Marketing, Promotional, Events		
Printing	\$218.18	
Regional Projects		
Project Consultants	\$2,490.00	
Board and Committee Expenses		
Meeting Catering	\$55.64	
Total Expenses		\$67,922.03
Operating Profit		\$131,118.13
Net Profit/(Loss)		\$131,118.13

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the financial reports for period ending 31 October 2020 be accepted.

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

7.6 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019-2020

The audit report completed by TNR has been included in the meeting papers.

The general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (as amended) and the regulations made thereunder
- the Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Joint Organisations Supplement to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The Engagement Closing Report, prepared by the NSW Audit Office is also included for Board review.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the 2019-2020 general purpose financial statements presented to members be accepted and the Chair and nominated voting representative sign the statement as attached

Proposed meeting dates 2021

Date	Venue
Friday 12 February	Lismore City Council
Friday 9 April	Kyogle Council
Friday 4 June	Tweed Shire Council
Friday 30 July	Ballina Shire Council
Friday 15 October	Byron Shire Council
Friday 3 December	Richmond Valley Council

The dates have been set taking into account the Local Government Elections schedule for 4 September 2021, Country Mayors' Association meetings and NRJO Member Council Meetings

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the proposed Board meeting dates for 2021 be accepted

8 URGENT BUSINESS

9 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Board members and the Executive Officer were required to complete Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest forms. Once received, these are to be tabled at a Board meeting. Information contained in returns made and lodged under clause 4.21 of the Model Code of Conduct is to be made publicly available in accordance with the requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009* and any guidelines issued by the Information Commissioner. Copies of the completed documentation was circulated to Board members only via separate email

Personal information such as residential address may be redacted from the forms prior to publishing on the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's website. Such a request should be made to the Executive Officer in writing by **30 November 2020**.

Returns will be made publicly available on 1 December 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board agree to publish the Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Forms

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence of significance – Incoming

- Notification of Local Government Procurement rebate

Correspondence of significance - Outgoing

- Letter of support provided for Tweed Shire Council's Future Drought Fund application
- Letters of congratulation sent to incoming Deputy Mayors
- Letter of thanks sent to Cr Milne
- Letter of support provided for Building Country Bridges application

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the correspondence report be noted

11 ATTACHMENTS

General Purpose Financial Statements 2019-2020

Engagement Closing Report for period ending 30 June 2020

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation General Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Contents

Statement by Members of the Board and Management	1
Income Statement and Other Comprehensive Income	2
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Changes in Equity	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to the financial statements	6

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

PO Box 146
Lismore
NSW 2480

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Statement by Members of the Board and Management made pursuant to Section 413 (2c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (as amended)

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- * the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (as amended) and the regulations made thereunder.
- * the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board reduced disclosure requirements
- * the Joint Organisations Supplement to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- * present fairly Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's operating result and financial position for the period, and
- * accord with Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render this report false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation made on 20 November 2020.

Danielle Mulholland
Chairperson

____/____/____

Voting Representative Board Member

____/____/____

Nicole Reeve
Executive Officer

____/____/____

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Income Statement and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2020

		Year ended 30 June 2020	11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019
	Notes	\$	\$
Income from continuing operations			
Member council contributions	2a	128,600	102,893
User charges and fees	2b	33,725	33,725
Interest and investment revenue	2c	5,090	7,061
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	2d	150,000	800,000
Other income	2e	43,664	36,602
Total income from continuing operations		361,079	980,281
Expenses from continuing operations			
Employee benefits and on-costs	3a	104,541	50,488
Project expenses	3c	280,088	128,157
Administrative expenses	3b	113,947	108,774
Total expenses from continuing operations		498,576	287,419
Net operating result for the year		(137,497)	692,862
Gain on transfer of assets from former entities NOROC		-	440,893
Net result for the period		-	440,893
Total comprehensive income		(137,497)	1,133,755

The above Income statement and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,021,504	1,195,754
Receivables	5	6,777	9,714
Total current assets		1,028,281	1,205,468
Non-current assets			
Total non-current assets		-	-
Total assets		1,028,281	1,205,468
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	6	32,022	69,117
Provisions	7	-	2,596
Total current liabilities		32,022	71,713
Non-current liabilities			
Total non-current liabilities		-	-
Total liabilities		32,022	71,713
Net assets		996,260	1,133,755
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		996,259	1,133,755
Total equity		996,259	1,133,755

The above Statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Statement of changes in equity For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020 \$		2019 \$	
	Accumulated surplus	Total equity	Accumulated surplus	Total equity
Opening balance	1,133,755	1,133,755	-	-
Net operating result for the period	(137,497)	(137,497)	1,133,755	1,133,755
Total comprehensive income	(137,497)	(137,497)	1,133,755	1,133,755
Closing balance	996,259	996,259	1,133,755	1,133,755

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Year ended 30 June 2020	11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019
Notes	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts:		
Contributions from member councils	128,600	102,893
User charges and fees	35,815	31,825
Investment revenue and interest	5,673	6,978
Grants	150,000	800,000
Other (GST, Procurement rebate)	43,928	113,593
Payments:		
Employees and suppliers	(488,240)	(296,187)
Borrowing costs	-	-
Other (GST)	(50,026)	(4,761)
Net cash provided from (or used) in operating activities	(174,250)	754,341
Cash flows from investing activities		
Net cash used in investing activities	-	-
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by (or used in) financing activities	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(174,250)	754,341
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of reporting period	1,195,754	-
Cash and cash equivalents transferred from NOROC	-	441,413
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period	1,021,504	1,195,754

The above Statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2020

Contents of the notes to the financial statements

	Page
Note 1 Basis of preparation	7
Note 2 Income	8
Note 3 Expenses	10
Note 4 Cash and cash equivalents	11
Note 5 Receivables	12
Note 6 Payables and borrowings	13
Note 7 Provisions	14
Note 8 Change in accounting policy	15
Note 9 Contingencies	16
Note 10 Financial risk management	16
Note 11 Related party disclosures	16
Note 12 Events after the reporting period	16

Note 1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements include the results of the Joint Organisation for the financial year ending 30 June 2020 and the comparative period from 11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board of the Joint Organisation on 20 November 2020. The Board has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and Regulations, and the Joint Organisation Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation is a not-for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest dollar.

(a) New and amended standards adopted by Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2020 reporting period. Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's assessment of the impact of these new standards and interpretations relevant to them, is set out below.

AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors**AASB 2018-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Deferral of AASB 1059****AASB 2019-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Implementation of AASB 1059**

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation has not applied any pronouncements before its operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2019.

AASB 1059 provides guidance for public sector entities (grantors) who have entered into service concession arrangements with private sector operators.

This standard requires grantors to recognise a service concession asset and, in most cases, a corresponding liability on the balance sheet. A control approach is used to assess the service concession arrangements in place.

On initial recognition the asset is measured at current replacement cost based on *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement* and existing assets of the grantors are reclassified at the date of transition. After initial recognition, the grantor accounts for the assets under either *AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment* or *AASB 138 Intangible Assets*.

The nature of the consideration given to the operator will affect whether the grantor applied either the 'financial liability' or the 'grant of right' model for the recognition of the liability.

AASB 2019-2 makes amendments to the recognition and measurement of the asset and liability where the modified retrospective approach to transition is being used and provides a practical expedient due to the different effective dates of AASB 16 and AASB 1059.

The effective date of this standard is the annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 January 2020 (i.e. year ended 30 June 2021).

The JO does not expect an impact since we generally do not enter into service concession arrangements.

(b) Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(c) Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Joint Organisation's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Joint Organisation and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- (1) employee leave provisions - refer Note 7

Significant judgements in applying the Joint Organisation accounting policies

- (1) None are applicable at this stage.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority are presented as operating cash flows.

Note 2 Income from continuing operations

2020

\$

Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15)

User charges and fees

33,725

33,725**Revenue recognised on receipt (not enforceable or no sufficiently specific performance obligations – AASB 1058)**

Member Council Contributions

128,600

Grant revenue

150,000

Procurement Rebate

37,388

Other

6,276

322,264

	2020	11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019
	\$	\$
(a) Member Council contributions		
Ballina Shire Council	21,900	17,567
Byron Shire Council	19,300	15,067
Kyogle Council	13,100	9,924
Lismore City Council	22,200	18,307
Richmond Valley Council	16,700	13,084
Tweed Shire Council	35,400	28,944
Total member council contributions	128,600	102,893
(b) User charges and fees		
MyRoadInfo	33,725	33,725
Total user charges and fees	33,725	33,725
(c) Interest and Investment revenue		
Interest in financial assets measured at amortised cost	5,090	7,061
Total interest and investment revenue	5,090	7,061
Operating		
	2020	11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019
	\$	\$
(d) Grants		
Office of Local Government (OLG) joint organisation establishment funding	-	300,000
Office of Local Government (OLG) joint organisation capacity building funding	150,000	-
Regional Business Power Infrastructure Program	-	500,000
Total grants	150,000	800,000
Comprising:		
- Commonwealth funding	-	-
- State funding	150,000	800,000
- Other funding	-	-
	150,000	800,000

Note 2 Income from continuing operations continued

	2020	11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019
	\$	\$
(e) Other income		
Procurement Rebate	37,388	36,602
Sundry Income (recharges)	6,276	-
Total other income	43,664	36,602

Accounting policy for income 2020

Contributions by member councils are accounted for when the amount to be paid for the period has been determined and communicated to councils. The contribution may be in the form of a cash payment or non-monetary contribution (which is recorded as its fair value).

The methodology for determining the contributions is:

- equal contributions by all member councils in order to perform the principal functions of delivering on strategic regional priorities, regional leadership and intergovernmental cooperation.
- contributions by participating member councils for the functions of enhancing strategic capacity and direct service delivery.

User charges and fees Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

Interest and investment income is recognised using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

Grant revenue under AASB 1058

Assets arising from grants in the scope of AASB 1058 is recognised at the asset's fair value when the asset is received. The JO considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

Gain on transfer of assets relates to the value of net assets received free on charge from NOROC on establishment of the Joint Organisation.

Other revenue

Where the revenue relates to a contract with customer, the revenue is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

Where the revenue relates to a contract which is not enforceable or does not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations then revenue is recognised when an unconditional right to a receivable arises or the cash is received, which is earlier.

Note 3 Expenses from continuing operations

	2020 \$	11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019 \$
(a) Employee benefits and on costs		
Salaries and wages	82,955	34,209
Travelling	3,981	3,341
Employee leave entitlements	(2,596)	2,596
Superannuation	6,590	2,842
Workers' compensation insurance	1,891	1,494
Other	11,720	6,006
Total employee costs expensed	104,541	50,488

Accounting policy for employee benefits and on-costs

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

(b) Administrative expenses

Contractor and consultancy costs	82,631	94,150
Advertising	-	620
Audit	6,500	6,500
Board Costs	18,888	3,220
Catering	1,988	1,389
Office Expenses	3,326	2,415
Other	614	480
Total administrative expenses	113,947	108,774

(c) Project expenses

Contractor and Project Contributions	279,838	110,950
Advertising	-	10,618
Catering	250	975
Printing	-	2,411
Other	-	3,203
Total project expenses	280,088	128,157

Accounting policy for expenses

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

Auditors' remuneration

Auditors of the Joint Organisation - NSW Auditor-General:

(i) Audit and other assurance services

Audit and review of financial statements	6,500	6,500
Total fees paid or payable to the Auditor-General	6,500	6,500

Total remuneration of auditors

6,500	6,500
--------------	--------------

Note 4 Cash and cash equivalents

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash at bank and on hand	6,904	556,176
Deposits at call	1,014,600	639,578
	1,021,504	1,195,754
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
External restrictions	415,537	500,000
Unrestricted	605,967	695,754
	1,021,504	1,195,754

Accounting policy for cash and cash equivalents

For Statement of Cash Flow presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

Note 5 Receivables

	2020 Current \$	2019 Current \$
Purpose		
Other (Myroadinfo annual license fee)	-	2,090
Other (interest)	-	583
Other (GST receivable)	6,777	7,041
Total	6,777	9,714
Net Receivables	6,777	9,714

Accounting policy for receivables

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measures at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

The Joint Organisation applies the simplified approach for receivables in providing for expected credit losses prescribed by AASB9, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision. To measure the expected credit losses receivables have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

Note 6 Payables and borrowings

	2020 Current \$	2019 Current \$
Payables		
Trade payables	19,195	11,000
Accrued expenses	9,335	6,500
Other payables (GST)	2	50,029
Other payables (PAYG)	3,490	1,588
Total payables	32,022	69,117

Accounting policy for payables and borrowings

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transactions costs, subsequent financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Council comprise trade and other payables.

Trade payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the JO prior to the end of financial period that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Note 7 Provisions

	2020	2019
	Current	Current
	\$	\$
Employee benefits provisions		
Annual leave	-	2,596
Total provisions	-	2,596
Current provisions not expected to be settled within the next 12 months	-	-

Accounting policy for provisions

Provisions are recognised when: the JO has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as interest expense.

Employee benefits**Short-term obligations**

Liabilities for wages and salaries, (including non-monetary benefits and annual leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method.

Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

On-costs

The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include superannuation, payroll tax and workers compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if the JO does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

Note 8 Change in accounting policy

Changes in accounting policy due to adoption of new Accounting Standards

During the year ended 30 June 2020, Northern Rivers Joint Organisation has adopted *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-profit Entities* and *AASB 16 Leases* using the modified retrospective (cumulative catch-up) method and therefore the comparative information for the year ended 30 June 2019 has not been restated and continues to comply with *AASB 111 Construction Contracts*, *AASB 117 Leases*, *AASB 118 Revenue*, *AASB 1004 Contributions* and associated Accounting Interpretations.

The impacts of adopting these standards and associated transition disclosures are provided below:

AASB 15 and AASB 1058

The following approach has been applied on transition to AASB 15 and AASB 1058:

- The JO has not adopted the completed contract expedient and therefore has not excluded revenue which was fully recognised in previous years in accordance with the former accounting standards and pronouncements
- The JO has retrospectively restated contracts for modifications that occurred before 1 July 2019 unless such contract modification were minor.

Grants – operating

Under AASB 1004, most grant income was recognised as revenue on receipt. Under AASB 15, where an agreement is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations, the revenue is either recognised over time as the work is performed, or recognised at the point in time that the control of the services passes to the customer.

Grants – capital

Under AASB 1004, most grant monies were recorded as revenue on receipt. Under AASB 1058, where the JO has received assets (including cash) to acquire or construct a non-financial asset, the asset is to be controlled by the JO and the contract is enforceable, then the asset is recognised as a contract liability on receipt and recorded as revenue as the performance obligation to acquire or construct the asset is complete.

Changes in presentation

In addition to the above changes in accounting policies, the JO has also amended the presentation of certain items to align them with the requirements of AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

Financial Statement Impact of adoption of AASB 15 and AASB 1058

There was no impact on the financial statements as a result of adopting these new standards.

Note 9 Contingencies

The JO is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. The JO's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects the JO's contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June 2020 may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that the JO will be required to fund or share respectively.

Note 10 Financial risk management

Risk management

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, including credit risk, liquidity risk, and interest rate risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by the finance team under policies approved by the Board of the Joint Organisation.

The fair value of receivables, investments and financial liabilities approximates the carrying amount.

Note 11 Related Party Disclosures

Key management personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) of the Joint Organisation are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Joint Organisation, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement and Other Comprehensive Income is \$101,308 (2019: \$37,051).

Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

There were no other transactions between the JO and the KMP and their related parties (2019: nil).

Other related parties

There were no transactions between the JO and other related parties (2019: nil).

Note 12 Events occurring after reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Joint Organisation or the results of those operations.

Ms Nicole Reeve
Executive Officer
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
PO Box 146
LISMORE NSW 2480

Contact: Gearoid Fitzgerald
Phone no: 02 9275 7392
Our ref: D2026170/1862

6 November 2020

Dear Nicole

Engagement Closing Report
for the year ended 30 June 2020
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

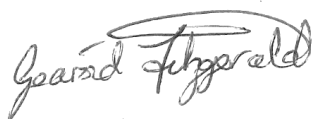
We have audited the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (the Joint Organisation's) general purpose financial statements (GPFS).

Attached is the Engagement Closing Report, which details findings relevant to you in your role as one of those charged with governance. This report gives the Executive Officer and the Chairperson the opportunity to assess the audit findings.

This report is not intended for publication or distribution to persons other than those described above.

If you need more information about the audit, please contact me on 02 9275 7392 or Adam Bradfield 02 6626 3000.

Yours sincerely



Gearoid Fitzgerald
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

cc: Cr Danielle Mulholland, Chairperson

Engagement Closing Report

for the year ended 30 June 2020

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation



contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	AUDIT OVERVIEW	1
3.	AUDIT OUTCOME AND REPORTS	1
3.1	Audit outcome	1
3.2	Report on the Conduct of the Audit	2
3.3	Auditor-General's Report to Parliament	2
3.4	Management Letter	2
4.	AUDIT FINDINGS	2
4.1	Response to key issues and audit risks	2
4.2	Misstatements	3
4.3	Compliance with legislative requirements	4
5.	THE AUDIT PROCESS	4
5.1	Management co-operation	4
5.2	Next year's audit	4

APPENDIX ONE – GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTSError! Bookmark not defined.

Table one: Uncorrected monetary misstatements and disclosure deficiencies**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Table two: Corrected monetary misstatements and disclosure deficiencies**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

1. INTRODUCTION

We have audited the Norther Rivers Joint Organisation's (the Joint Organisation):




- general purpose financial statements (GPFS)





This report informs the Executive Officer and Chairperson of audit findings relevant to their responsibilities and oversight of the Joint Organisation's financial statements. We will inform you if significant new matters are found while finalising the audit.

An audit is designed to obtain reasonable assurance the financial statements are free from material misstatement. It is not designed to identify all matters of governance interest, nor is it conducted to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. Matters of governance interest identified during the audit are included in this report.

2. AUDIT OVERVIEW

The table below provides an overview of findings identified during the audit of the Joint Organisation.

Impact assessment		
	High	Matters identified which had a high impact on the financial statements and/or audit.
	Moderate	Matters identified which had a moderate impact on the financial statements and/or audit.
	Low	No matters or matters identified which had a low impact on the financial statements and/or audit.

Section	Outcome		Reference
Audit outcome:			
GPFS	Unqualified opinion		3.1
Response to key issues and audit risks	Matters addressed		4.1
Misstatements	No misstatements noted		4.2
Compliance with legislative requirements	No matters noted		4.3

3. AUDIT OUTCOME AND REPORTS

3.1 Audit outcome

We are likely to express an unmodified opinion on the GPFS.

The Independent Auditor's Report is expected to be signed after the outstanding matters listed below are completed and the signed financial statements and management representation is received.

The following matters are outstanding at the date of this report:

- Finalisation of quality review procedures
- Review of subsequent events up to the date of issuing the Independent Auditor's Report
- Receipt of the signed letter of representation (to be signed and dated the same day as the GPFS).

Promptly resolving these matters will avoid delays in issuing the Independent Auditor's Report.

Other Information' section

The Joint Organisation's annual performance statement will include information in addition to the financial statements and Independent Auditor's Report. For the purposes of our audit this is considered 'other information'. Auditing Standards require us to consider whether the other information is materially consistent with the financial statements, is materially consistent with the knowledge we obtained during the audit, and otherwise appears not to be materially misstated. Where matters are identified, we are required to disclose them in the Independent Auditor's Report.

3.2 Report on the Conduct of the Audit


We will issue the Report on the Conduct of the Audit required by section 417(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* at the same time as the Independent Auditor's Report. The Report on the Conduct of the Audit will incorporate comments we consider appropriate, based on the audit of the Joint Organisation's financial statements.

3.3 Auditor-General's Report to Parliament

The 2020 Auditor-General's Report to Parliament will incorporate the results of the audit.

3.4 Management Letter

A Management Letter from the final phase of my audit will be sent to you during November 2020. The following audit finding will be reported in the Management Letter. The Management Letter will be issued once formal management response has been received.

Risk assessment*	Issue
 Low	No agreement with councils for my road info membership There is no formal agreement in place between the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and member Councils that supports the "My Road Info" membership.

4. AUDIT FINDINGS

4.1 Response to key issues and audit risks

The Annual Engagement Plan sent on 26 February 2020, identified key issues affecting the Joint Organisation and how the audit team planned to respond to them. The results of the audit work are detailed below.

Issue or risk	Audit outcome
Impact of COVID-19 pandemic	
The COVID-19 pandemic and its consequential impact will have a dramatic effect on the way public services are delivered by NSW public sector entities. This will have a flow on impact to the way the audit is conducted. A documented assessment by the Joint Organisation on the impact and the response will be required.	The impacts of COVID-19 were discussed with management. We did not identify any material financial reporting issues in relation to the pandemic.
New Accounting Standards	
The following new accounting standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board became effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AASB 15 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers' 	We reviewed the Joint Organisation's application of AASB 15, AASB 16 and AASB 1058 to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all income streams and lease agreements/service contracts are recognised and measured on a reasonable basis opening balance adjustments were appropriate

Issue or risk	Audit outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AASB 16 'Leases' AASB 1058 'Income of Not-for-Profit Entities'. <p>AASB 1059 'Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors' became effective on 1 January 2020.</p> <p>Significant preparation is required by management to apply these standards and ensure the 2019–20 financial statements materially comply with the requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disclosure requirements were met in the 2019–20 financial statements the sample of transactions tested for 2019–20 audit were accounted for appropriately under the new requirements. <p>Our audit work concluded management have appropriately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accounted for the transition of AASB 15, AASB 16 and AASB 1058; accounted for revenue transactions appropriately; and met the disclosure requirements. <p>Our audit work also concluded that management's assessment of AASB 16 was appropriate and no lease agreements or service contracts required recognition at 30 June 2020. This has been appropriately disclosed.</p> <p>The impact of AASB 1059 is appropriately disclosed for accounting standards issued but not yet effective. The JO concluded there is unlikely to be any impact of this standard and we did not identify any material exceptions.</p>

Quality and timeliness of financial reporting

Quality and timeliness of financial reporting is key for sound financial management, public accountability and effective decision making. Absence of an effective project plan for year-end financial reporting can result in delays, errors, poor quality and increased audit costs.

Quality and timeliness can improve by:

- preparing pro-forma financial statements before 30 June 2020
- assessing the impact of material, complex and one-off significant transactions
- assessing the impact of new and revised accounting standards effective in the current and future years
- regularly reconciling key accounts and clearing reconciling items

As agreed in the audit timetable a complete draft of the financial statements was made available to the audit team upon commencement of the audit.

As noted in Table one of Appendix One, the audit team did not identify any uncorrected monetary misstatements in the GPFS.

Some minor disclosure deficiencies were identified and corrected to conform with the presentation of the OLG Code of Accounting Practice – Joint Organisations Supplement.

4.2 Misstatements

Auditing Standards require matters of governance interest and significant misstatements identified during the audit to be communicated to those charged with governance.

Misstatements (both monetary and disclosure deficiencies) are differences between what has been reported in the financial statements and what is required in accordance with the Joint Organisation's financial reporting framework. Misstatements can arise from error or fraud.

The GPFS did not contain any uncorrected misstatements.

4.3 Compliance with legislative requirements

The Annual Engagement Plan and Terms of Engagement explain that audit procedures are targeted specifically towards forming an opinion on the Joint Organisation's financial statements. This includes testing whether the Joint Organisation has complied with legislative requirements that may materially impact the financial statements.

Our audit procedures did not identify reportable findings on compliance with legislative requirements.

5. THE AUDIT PROCESS

5.1 Management co-operation

We appreciated the co-operation and help received from the Joint Organisation's staff.

5.2 Next year's audit

Your comments about the audit process are welcomed.

OUR VISION

Our insights inform and challenge government to improve outcomes for citizens.

OUR PURPOSE

To help parliament hold government accountable for its use of public resources.