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**MINUTES OF NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION, HELD FRIDAY, 23 MAY 2025 AT LISMORE CITY COUNCIL 42 OLIVER STREET, GOONELLABAH**

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In attendance:

Voting Committee:

- Cr Chris Cherry, Tweed Shire Council (Chair) (*online*)
- Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council (Deputy Chair)
- Cr Steve Krieg, Lismore City Council
- Cr Danielle Mulholland, Kyogle Council (*online*)
- Cr Robert Mustow, Richmond Valley Council
- Cr Sarah Ndiaye, Byron Shire Council

General Managers:

- Laura Black, Clarence Valley Council
- Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council
- Troy Green, Tweed Shire Council
- Eber Butron (Acting), Lismore City Council

Other attendees:

- Phillip Rudd, NRJO Executive Officer
- Lauren Edwards, NRJO Operating Officer
- Kalina Koloff, NSW Cross-Border Commissioner (*online*)
- Jane Lavery, Business NSW
- Anthony Schreenan, Regional Development Australia
- Matthew Wood, Ballina Shire Council (*online*)
- Cameron Bragg, Premier's Department (*online*)

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**1 Opening of the meeting**

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The Chair opened the meeting at 10:00am.

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**2 Acknowledgement of Country**

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*The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation showed its respect and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Land, of Elders past and present, on which this meeting took place.*

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**3 Apologies**

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**CARRIED** that the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation accepted an apology for:

- Cr Ray Smith, Clarence Valley Council
- Paul Hickey, Ballina Shire Council
- Marcus Schintler, Kyogle Council
- Anita Gambhir, Office of Local Government
- Michael Thurston, Destination North Coast NSW
- Vaughan MacDonald, Richmond Valley Council

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#### 4 Disclosure of Interest

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Nil.

#### 5 Address by official visitor(s)

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##### 5.1 Kalina Koloff, Cross-Border Commissioner

*The Chair revised the order of business by deferring the address by the Cross-Border Commissioner (attending online) to later in the meeting agenda to allow technology issues to be resolved.*

##### 5.2 Jane Laverty, Business NSW – Introduction to ProspER Northern Rivers project

The Board received a 15-minute verbal presentation, supported by presentation slides, from Jane Laverty on the ProspER Northern Rivers project.

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#### 6 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

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**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader / Mulholland) that the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation receive and note the minutes from the previous meeting held 21 February 2025.

Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting (Resolution)		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

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#### 7 Urgent business

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Nil.

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#### 8 Notice of Motion

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##### 8.1 Chair's Minute – 2025 Street Count Results

**RESOLVED** (Cherry / Ndiaye) that the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation:

1. Note the recent rough sleeper street count conducted in February 2025 with the results for the Northern Rivers local government areas as follows:
  - Kyogle – 3
  - Lismore – 66
  - Tweed – 155
  - Ballina – 64
  - Byron – 291
  - Richmond Valley – 4
  - Clarence Valley – 71

2. Writes to the NSW Minister for Homelessness, the Honourable Rose Jackson, requesting the Assertive Outreach Program be extended for a further 3-year period in Tweed and Byron and extended to Ballina, Clarence Valley and Lismore local government areas to try to reverse the trend of increasing homelessness. Included in this request will be a renewed request for transitional and crisis accommodation across the Northern Rivers, particularly, Byron and Tweed in order to address the current homelessness.
3. Writes to Federal Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness, the Honourable Clare O'Neil MP requesting;
  - i. Funding and program assistance to address the Northern Rivers homelessness issues
  - ii. A meeting for Mayors attending ALGAs National General Assembly in Canberra
4. Notes the predicted 262,000 shortfall of the 1.2 million social and affordable housing target set by the National Housing Accord and writes to the Federal Government to encourage it to review its immigration targets.

<b>Chair's Minute - 2025 Street Count Results (Motion)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

*Mayor Mulholland left the meeting at 10:53*

*Mayor Mulholland rejoined the meeting at 10:58*

## 8.2 Cr. Robert Mustow, RVC – Regional Waste Solutions Investigations

**RESOLVED** (Mustow / Kreig) That the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation:

1. Establish a NRJO led Steering Committee to guide investigations into regional options and solutions for residual waste management over the fifty years,
2. Requests the General Managers Advisory Committee to report back to the next NRJO meeting with the proposed representation on the Steering Committee and a Draft Terms of Reference and an estimate of funding to support the investigations.

<b>Cr. Robert Mustow, RVC - Regional Waste Solutions Investigations (Motion)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

*The Cross-Border Commissioner joined the meeting at 11:15*

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### 5.1 Kalina Koloff, NSW Cross-Border Commissioner – via ‘Teams’

The Cross Border Commissioner provided a verbal update to the Board on the general work of the Cross Border Office.

*Kalina Koloff, Cross-Border Commissioner left the meeting at 11:37*

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## 9 **Reports for discussion**

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### 9.1 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

**RESOLVED** (Mustow / Mulholland) That the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation:

- a) Receive and note the attached minutes from the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 24 March 2025.
- b) Affirm the current arrangement to share Rous County Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and decline the invitation to participate in the establishment of a similar model being led by the Hunter Joint Organisation.

<b>Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (Resolution)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

### 9.2 Associate Member – Regional Development Australia

**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader / Krieg) That the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation receives and notes the request for financial assistance from Regional Development Australia to undertake a Northern Rivers Regional Skills Audit, and is –

1. Supportive of the concept of the audit, however
2. Not supportive of providing funding which it considers is more appropriately provided by State or Federal Government.

<b>Associate Member - Regional Development Australia (Motion)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

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## 10 **Information Reports**

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### 10.1 General Managers Advisory Committee – meeting update

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**RESOLVED** (Mulholland / Cadwallader) That the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation receive and note the attached draft minutes from the General Managers Advisory Committee meeting held on 14 April 2025.

<b>General Managers Advisory Committee - meeting update (Resolution)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

## 10.2 Executive Officers Report

**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader / Kreig) That the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation;

1. Receive and note the information contained in this report,
2. Writes to the relevant NSW Government Minister to request an extension of the JONZA project for a further 3-5 years.

<b>Executive Officers Report (Resolution)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

## 10.3 Financial Report – April 2025

**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader / Mulholland) That the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation receive and note the financial report ending 30 April 2025 as presented.

<b>Financial Report - April 2025 (Resolution)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

## 10.4 Associate Member – Office of Local Government

**RESOLVED** (Kreig / Mustow) That the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation receive and note the information contained in this report.

<b>Associate member - Office of Local Government (Resolution)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

#### 10.5 Associate Member – Destination North Coast

**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader / Mulholland) That the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation receive and note the information contained in this report.

<b>Associate Member - Destination North Coast (Resolution)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

#### 10.6 Associate Member – Scenic Rim Council

**RESOLVED** (Mustow / Ndiaye) That the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation receive and note the information contained in this report.

<b>Associate Member - Scenic Rim Regional Council (Resolution)</b>		
For	Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Chris Cherry, Cr Steve Krieg, Cr Danielle Mulholland, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Ray Smith	1
<b>Carried</b>		

### 11 **Confidential reports**

Nil.

### 12 **Close of business**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.17 pm.