



Agenda for the Northern Rivers

Joint Organisation

Ordinary Board Meeting

Date: 25 September 2020

Location: via Zoom

Time: 11.00am

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from Cr Derek Swanborough, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Anita Gambhir, Office of Local Government, Shelley Oldham, Lismore City 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 21 AUGUST 2020

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Friday 21 August 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 21 AUGUST 2020

ATTENDANCE

Crs Danielle Mulholland (Chair), Katie Milne; David Wright, Simon Richardson, Robert Mustow, Darlene Cook

Anita Gambhir (Office of Local Government); Louise McMeeking (Regional NSW)

General Managers Troy Green, Vaughan MacDonald, Graham Kennett, Mark Arnold, Shelly Oldham

Michael Thurston (Destination North Coast), Tim Williamson (RDA Northern Rivers), Phil Rudd (Rous County Council), Cr Derek Swanborough (Scenic Rim Regional 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. The Chair welcomed incoming Executive Officer Nicole Reeve and thanked the Selection Panel of Crs Milne, Mustow and Smith

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from Cr Isaac Smith and Paul Hickey

21082020/1 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Mustow/ Cr Milne

THAT the apologies be noted

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations made

4. ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITORS

A presentation on the Northern Rivers NSW Brand was provided by Simon Stahl, Chair of the Branding Committee

21082020/2 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Wright/ Cr Mustow

THAT the NRJO enter into a formal Memorandum of Understanding with Northern Rivers Together in relation to the Northern Rivers Brand

THAT the Chair be authorised to sign the MOU on behalf of the NRJO

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES and BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION HELD 26 JUNE 2020

21082020/3 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Milne/Cr Wright

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held Friday 26 June 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – Cr Mulholland, Milne, Mustow, Richardson, Wright.

Cr Cook abstained from voting

5.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION HELD 7 AUGUST 2020

21082020/4 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Mustow/Cr Wright

THAT the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held Friday 7 August 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of that meeting

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – Cr Mulholland, Milne, Mustow, Richardson, Wright.

Cr Cook abstained from voting

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

NIL received

7. REPORTS

7.1 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT - DESTINATION NORTH COAST

21082020/5 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Wright/ Cr Mustow

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.2 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – RDA NORTHERN RIVERS

21082020/6 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Wright/ Cr Richardson

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.3 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL

21082020/7 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Milne, Cr Richardson

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.4 NCLLS PROPOSED BUSHFIRE STIMULUS PROJECTS - PEST AND WEED MANAGEMENT

21082020/8 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Mustow/ Cr Mulholland

THAT the report from the Joint Pest and Weed Management Committee be noted be noted and that the Executive Officer be authorised to endorse the project plan once finalised.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.5 CHAIR'S REPORT

21082020/9 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Wright/ Cr Milne

THAT the Board receive and note the Chair's report

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

21082020/10 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Mustow/ Cr Wright

- *THAT the Board receive and note the Executive Officer's report*
- *THAT the Board recognise and thank Kyogle General Manager Graham Kennett for his contribution in the role of Acting Executive Officer*

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.7 BANKING

21082020/11 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Richardson/ Cr Cook

- *That the Board nominates Executive Officer Nicole Reeve as a "Beneficial Owner" of the Joint Organisation bank accounts.*
- *That two of following three signatories be required to sign and approve payments: The Chair, the Executive Officer and the General Manager of the Council to which the Chair belongs*
- *That the Board approve a Visa debit card to be issued to Nicole Reeve. This card will be attached to an individual Everyday account under the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation main account. This account will be 'one to sign' only. A limit of \$2000 will apply to this card.*

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.8 2020-2021 BUDGET

21082020/12 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Mulholland/ Cr Wright

THAT THE Board adopt the 2020-2021 budget as tabled

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.9 FINANCIAL REPORTS

21082020/13 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Milne/ Cr Wright

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

21082020/14 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Mulholland/ Cr Milne

That the matter of the ongoing NSW/QLD border restrictions and its impact on the region be considered as urgent business.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

The Chair declared the matter as urgent business to allow the Board to discuss potential courses of action by the NRJO in relation to the on-going border restrictions.

Wayne Jones, Chief Executive of the Northern NSW Local Health District joined the meeting at 12.08pm and provided an update on the impacts of the border closure on the health sector.

21082020/15 RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Mulholland/ Cr Richardson

That the NRJO join member Council lobbying efforts to have the border bubble model reviewed, and develop a position paper outlining the concerns of member Councils in the NRJO regarding Queensland border restrictions, the border bubble, and identifying possible solutions to provide an advocacy platform.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

9. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

10. CORRESPONDENCE

21082020/15 RESOLVED

MOVED : Cr Richardson/ Cr Milne

THAT the correspondence report be received and noted.

CARRIED
FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

MEETING CLOSED 12.39pm

Next meeting
25 September 2020
Byron Shire Council
Mullumbimby

RECOMMENDATION:

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.

6 NOTICES OF MOTION

7 REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL ELECTIONS

In September 2020 elections for the position of Mayor were held at Tweed Shire Council and Kyogle Council and a ballot held for the position of Deputy Mayor at Lismore City Council

RECOMMENDATION:

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 Burley 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



Crisis Management

Anecdotal feedback indicates the trading environment continues to be quite dynamic with differing results and trends throughout the region. Most destinations are advising of continued strong load factors at the bulk of accommodation, although a little down on the previous month. Forward booking positions remain strong with booking windows continuing to be shorter than traditional averages. Most regions anticipate they will be at capacity for the coming school holidays.

Increased bookings by NSW residents have countered the bulk of the bookings lost when the Queensland border reclosed. The Tweed Shire is unfortunately the exception in this case with multiple prominent operators reporting lower than anticipated load factors for the upcoming holiday period. Feedback from multiple LGA's indicate that destinations are experiencing increased visitation from non-traditional source markets creating unexpected opportunities to broaden the appeal of their products and locations.

Experience operators in general appear to still be struggling, not receiving the level of activity and bookings that the accommodation and food and beverage sectors are. As a result, DNC continue to work with Resilience NSW to push for the experience and attractions voucher system for this sector.

Business Events

DNC have continued to release the 'Cheers to Recovery' videos that feature operators and council staff on location welcoming visitors and event planners back to our region once the time is right. Cheers to Recovery videos have been released for the Tweed and Ballina regions and a similar video for Byron and surrounds is due to be launched by the week commencing 21 September. Below are links to the videos launched thus far;

[Ballina: Cheers to Recovery](#)

[Tweed: Cheers to Recovery](#)

In addition, the team have been working with operators to create 'virtual site inspection' videos that DNC is funding professional video editing services for. The videos will be used in future tender documents and for general marketing purposes. Over 50 videos of North Coast product will be produced and promoted through the initiative. Below is a sample of Northern Rivers product:

[Cape Byron Distillery: Virtual Site Inspection](#)

[Southern Cross University](#)

DNC attended Executive PA – Summit, Brisbane on the 8th September. The event was held at The Emporium Hotel South Bank but due to border closures attendance was via Zoom. Results from the event were encouraging, producing leads valued at more than \$700K from a total of 13 clients with events ranging from 10-12 senior executives through to conferences for up to 160 delegates. Buyers were primarily interested in venues within driving distance of Brisbane CBD. The results

are highly encouraging for the business events sector and demonstrate the latent demand that has developed

Nature Based Tourism

Through DNC's Nature Based Tourism Investment Project, DNC and Earthcheck have recommenced work on a prospectus document that will be used to discuss and promote the opportunities for the development of commercial accommodation supporting the Tweed to Byron Hinterland Trail currently under construction by NPWS. In addition, we are reviewing with Clarence Valley Council how to develop product and experiences for the Clarence Valley White Water Trail.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from Destination North Coast be noted

7.3 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – RDA NORTHERN RIVERS



NORTHERN RIVERS NSW

- RDA Northern Rivers 2021 Regional Recovery Plan has been sent to Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development, Cities and Communication for approval. A key Action from the plan is to work collaboratively and assist all Local Government Economic Recovery Plans.
- RDA NR is working with a number of investors across various sectors to establish operations in the region including:
 - Film Studio,
 - Medicinal Cannabis,
 - Algae for food,
 - Waste to energy, and
 - Major commercial in confidence projects with significant regional benefits
- A number of youth employment pathway projects are expected to come to proposal stage due to recent release of various funding opportunities in the last few weeks.
- Attending many cross-border meetings, workshops etc. Just prior to the QLD Border shutdown RDA NR hosted a meeting with all Cross Border RDAs (including QLD) and James McTavish, NSW Cross Border Commissioner.
- North Coast Employment Strategy is moving to the implementation stage: Four “Working Parties” are being assembled which will implement key actions of the North Coast Employment Strategy. WPs can take many forms as long as there are outcomes relating to employment, employability, employment infrastructure etc and can be either; issues-based (broadband connectivity or access to transport), industry-based (agri co-ops, new industries) or “other” (eg. Construction training, youth or indigenous focussed).
- My Future Workforce Platform will be highly activated by the recent engagement of a Pathways Officer to build awareness, increase uptake and look for employment and business opportunities across sectors.
- In October RDA NR will host a presentation for all LG Economic Development Staff to receive an update from AusIndustry. AusIndustry will present a briefing on a range of relevant new programs and brief all regional EDMs on recent updates to new programs.
- The 2020 RDA-NR AGM will be held end of September. The current Board has been appointed by the Federal Minister for Infrastructure until Dec 31 2020, when funding for the current 3 year contract term ceases.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from RDA Northern Rivers be noted

7.4 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL

Council adopted its Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) at its August 2020 monthly meeting. The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act states that the LSPS must include or identify the planning priorities for the area that are consistent with the North Coast Regional Plan and (subject to the regional plan) the Community Strategy Plan and other strategic plans. Analysis of Council's IP & R framework, Community Strategic Plan - *The Clarence 2027* and all relevant plans and strategies across Council has informed the preparation of the LSPS. There are a wide range of Actions that link with Council's other strategic plans, including our Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), Biodiversity Strategy, Clarence River Way Masterplan and many others. The structure of the LSPS follows the 5 themes of Council's Community Strategic Plan which are:

- Society
- Infrastructure
- Economy
- Environment
- Leadership

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROGRAMME

As a result of preparing the LSPS, revising the draft Actions, considering existing Council strategies and plans and reviewing the submissions, particularly from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, a summary programme of work has evolved. With the adoption of the LSPS by Council our efforts for strategic planning will now focus on, but not be limited to, the following:

***Timing** Immediate: 0-2yrs; Short term: 3-5yrs; Medium term: 5-10yrs; Long term: 10+yrs

Projects	Timing*	Notes
Contribute to a Resilience Strategy for the Clarence Valley Support the development of a strategy to help identify projects and actions for community resilience, to better inform land use and infrastructure planning.	Immediate	Council's new Recovery and Resilience Team will lead preparation of a strategy and actions across Council, with land use planning one key consideration.
Improve relationships and opportunities for First Nations People Involve our three nations in strategic planning and managing land use in the Clarence. Work across Council and with DPIE and LALC's on development opportunities.	Short term	Council is developing a Reconciliation Action Plan by June 2021.
Audit of Employment (Industrial) land and progress rezoning as required Although the supply of zoned land appears to meet expected demand for the foreseeable future, this is not always available due to various constraints or land ownership. Taking a more proactive approach to understand industry potential and job creation opportunities, and to progress investigations, planning and zoning for land around the Airport, (including revisit the Airport Masterplan), Koolkhan, South Grafton, and across the lower Clarence as needed.	Immediate	To support jobs growth and a growing population we need to ensure land is available for development to continue to attract industry and manufacturing and other employment generating activity where this fits with our drivers for growth and ecologically sustainable development.

Projects	Timing*	Notes
Support the Grafton CBD and other centres Develop a Precinct Plan and Car Parking & Transport Study for Grafton, focussed on Prince Street and links to the waterfront and other place making initiatives. Ensure Grafton, Maclean and Yamba enable appropriate urban development sympathetic to existing character, support jobs growth and community needs.	Immediate	Work on these investigations will commence in 2020/2021.
Promote Ecologically Sustainable Development Implement Biodiversity Strategy, promote more sustainable housing design, update DCP's and mapping layers, ensure future strategic land use decisions and DA's consider cumulative impacts on the environment.	Immediate	Submissions on the LSPS & the Biodiversity Strategy highlighted that various actions are needed to better protect our stunning environment and the natural places that we love, areas important for ecology, managing risk, health and wellbeing.
Prepare a Local Growth Management Strategy (LGMS) A range of studies, strategic planning and community engagement is needed to update where and how urban development should occur, particularly in response to Council priorities to promote population growth, growing pressure for affordable housing, need to provide job opportunities and ensure infrastructure is provided efficiently and effectively. A housing demand and supply assessment; employment land analysis; natural hazard and environmental considerations; sustainability, and other critical inputs will inform the LGMS.	Short term	There is a need to update the 1999 Clarence Valley Settlement Strategy to respond to contemporary pressures and opportunities, particularly the new Pacific Motorway, growing the population in an ecologically sustainable way, dealing with natural hazards and maintaining the unique character and amenity of the Clarence Valley.
Revise the CVC Development Contributions Plan Update the CVC Contributions Plan, in line with expected guidance from DPIE.	Immediate	State Government are updating the approach to Development Contributions and our Plans need to be updated to reflect ongoing demands.
Prepare an Integrated Freight Transport Strategy Work with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and others to map and protect corridors, support freight and logistics, investigate freight hubs and distribution, and inform future planning decisions.	Short term	Freight and logistics are integral to our economy, food security and other aspects of the Clarence, with links via the M1, Summerland Way and Gwydir Highway. Growing this industry appropriately is important for jobs and resilience.
Prepare an Active Transport Strategy Review Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans (PAMPs) with TfNSW and other stakeholders to integrate 'placemaking' and transport strategies, including identifying funding opportunities.	Short term	Reducing car dependency will have benefits for our health and wellbeing, addressing obesity and other issues, our sustainability, attractiveness of town centres and other aspects. TfNSW, Dept of Health and other submitters strongly support this approach.
Work with emergency management and relevant agencies (SES, RFS etc.) to update our natural hazard management approach, particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuation planning for Grafton. • Review bush fire management plans and update mapping of bush fire prone land. • Ensure decision making reflects exposure to risks (flooding, bushfire, coastal erosion etc.). 	Immediate	SES and other stakeholders have commenced work towards addressing flood risk across the Clarence, and Council are working with RFS and others to update bushfire mapping, along with recovery efforts.

Projects	Timing*	Notes
1.		
Support and grow the agricultural sector Protect important agricultural land and facilitate improvements in the supply chain to support economic growth, food security primary producers and the agri-food sector.	Short term	Appointment of NSW's first Agriculture Commissioner 5/8/20 to review the 'Right to Farm Policy' and focus on resolving land use conflict and identifying growth opportunities for industry, together with the importance of Agriculture to the Clarence economy, means Council need to focus on this issue.
Develop Local Character Statements/narratives for smaller settlements, particularly coastal villages Complete Heritage / Character studies and community engagement for coastal villages, in order of priority and make subsequent changes to LEP/DCP's.	Short term	Development pressure in our coastal areas needs to be managed, particularly places like Angourie.
Reinstate Grafton as a Regional City Work with DPIE to recognise Grafton as a Regional City as part of the review of the North Coast Regional Plan.	Immediate	State Government departments are guided by the North Coast Regional Plan and there are risks of services and effort being concentrated on regional cities of Coffs Harbour and Lismore at the expense of Grafton.
Other ongoing tasks LEP 'health check' to follow LGMS process. Rezoning proposals, DAs and other priorities informed by LSPS.	Short term	A range of other decision making will be informed by the LSPS.

REGIONAL ROAD CLASSIFICATION AND TRANSFER REVIEW

In February 2019, the NSW Government announced the initiation of a Road Classification Review to ensure the road classification framework is still fit for purpose and that roads across NSW are appropriately classified. Future Transport 2056 identifies the NSW Road Classification Review (Classification Review) as a key initiative to make adjustments to the classification policy framework and update the road network to align with the 'Hub and Spoke' Transport Network Model and the 'Movement and Place' Framework.

Also in February 2019, the Government announced that up to 15,000 kilometres of council-owned roads would be returned to State management as part of a broader package of support for local councils to better manage and maintain the rural road network.

The total length of the Regional Road network within the Clarence Valley LGA is 378 km, or approximately 15% of the Council road network.

At Council's August 2020 monthly meeting Council adopted the following:

That Council:

1. Nominate the following Regional Roads for transfer to State Road classification:
 - a. Big River Way and Ulugundahi View
 - b. Armidale Road (MR74)
 - c. Tyringham Road (MR119)
 - d. Orara Way (MR151)
 - e. Eight Mile Lane and Wooli Road (RR7738)

- f. Clarence Way (MR150)
 - g. Grafton to Yamba Road (MR152)
 - h. Iluka Road (RR7731)
 - i. Goodwood Island Road (RR7732)
2. Nominate the following priority list of 7 Regional Roads as required by Council's road reclassification submission:
- 1. Grafton to Yamba Road (MR152)
 - 2. Eight Mile Lane and Wooli Road (RR7738)
 - 3. Armidale Road (MR74)
 - 4. Orara Way (MR151)
 - 5. Eight Mile Lane and Wooli Road (RR7738)
 - 6. Big River Way
 - 7. Ulugundahi View
3. Nominate the following roads for transfer to Regional Road Classification:
- a. Angourie Road
 - b. Brooms Head Road
 - c. Gardiners Road, Amos Road and Palmers Channel South Bank Road
 - d. Coaldale Road
 - e. Rogans Bridge Road
 - f. Pringles Way
 - g. Ashby-Tullymorgan and Ashby-Jackybulbin Road
 - h. Old Glen Innes Road
 - i. Coldstream Road and Tucabia Road
 - j. Sherwood Creek Road

RECOMMENDATION

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

7.5 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL



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

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.
- In particular, Council adopted the guidelines for the Façade Improvement Scheme at the Ordinary meeting held on 7 September 2020.
 - 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>
- Despite the impact on tourism businesses over the past few months, the sector has rebounded strongly since the lifting of restrictions. Townships have been booming on weekends and forward bookings are looking strong for both experiences and accommodation. This is attributed to the efforts of the "*Richest Place on Earth*" destination marketing campaign.

- In amongst the negative impacts of COVID within the region, a number of local trade, retail and manufacturing businesses have experienced above average operating conditions in recent times.
- Scenic Rim Business Breakfast to be held 15 October 2020 in Beaudesert. Council has been working with the department of Employment, Small Business and Training and have been successful in securing the Queensland Commissioner of Small Business, Maree Adshead as the guest speaker for the Business Breakfast, the Commissioner is a statutory office holder, temporarily established until 31 December 2020 under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020.

Local Economic Recovery Program

- This \$36.7m program aims to support projects that contribute to local and regional economic and social recovery in areas most severely impacted by the 2019 Queensland Bushfires. The funding is jointly provided by the Australian and Queensland governments through Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).
- On 8 September 2020, Council submitted 12 projects to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority for the Expression of Interest phase of the Local Economic Recovery Program. These included:
 - Upgrades to Vonda Youngman Community Centre
 - Upgrades to Community facilities as places of refuge
 - Scenic Rim Regional Skills Investment Strategy Extension Project
 - Scenic Rim Regional Study Hub
 - Boonah Cinema Upgrade
 - Achieving Business Development - Scenic Rim Entrepreneurial Hub Online Program
 - Refurbish Tamborine Mountain Library
 - Scenic Rim Arts and Heritage Trails
 - Business and Industry Development through the Scenic Rim Supply Chain Capability Program
 - Facilitating Investment in the Scenic Rim - Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction Project
 - Boonah Industrial Estate Extension Planning and Design Project
 - Replacement of Hinchcliffe Bridge
- Notification of projects shortlisted should be in approximately four weeks.

ECO Destination Certification

- Scenic Rim is one of only six councils in Australia to be selected for potential ECO Destination Certification as part of a program to boost tourism in bushfire-affected regions.
- At the Ordinary meeting on 7 September 2020, Council endorsed a partnership with Ecotourism Australia, which is working with the World Wide Fund for Nature-Australia to assist regions in their bushfire recovery and offering \$30,000 in funding for the Scenic Rim to support a two-year process to obtain ECO Destination Certification.
- ECO Destination Certification is a goal of the Scenic Rim Regional Prosperity Strategy and will greatly enhance our region's tourism brand and credentials.

Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund

- Assistance provided to local operators for the \$25m Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund including letters of support, economic modelling, review of applications has resulted in five progressing to Stage 2 Business Case. Council Officers were confidentially advised at least three of these five projects were successful in gaining funding under this program.

Wine Tourism Recovery Officer

- The Scenic Rim's wine and beverage industry has been given a strategic boost following the Queensland Government's appointment of a Wine Tourism Recovery Officer with more than 30 years' experience.
- Industry veteran, Jan Douglas, is employed by the Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation and funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments' Bushfire Community Recovery Package for the Southern Queensland bushfires that impacted the Scenic Rim region in September last year.
- Jan's focus will benefit the 17 wineries and range of other boutique breweries and distilleries scattered across the region.
- Jan will work across both the Scenic Rim and Southern Downs to help build capacity and capability, as well as work with the industry associations to strengthen capability and linkages between the wine industry and the broader tourism industry, which would not be possible without the funding support from the Queensland and Australian Governments.
- Taking into consideration the number of breweries and distilleries across the Scenic Rim, which just like wineries have their own version of 'cellar doors' and offer tasting experiences for the visitor, Council helped to ensure these operators were included in the remit of this program.

Local Government Managers Australia Queensland 2020 Awards for Excellence

- Council's response to COVID-19 was recognised at the state-wide virtual ceremony, which recognised outstanding achievements from Queensland local governments across a variety of categories.
- Scenic Rim Regional Council took home the *Teamwork Award* at the Local Government Managers Australia Queensland 2020 Awards for Excellence.
- Council responded immediately to the pandemic. Under strong leadership from the executive team, a dedicated steering committee acted swiftly to identify the risks associated with an unknown global pandemic to ensure Council's ongoing delivery of services to the community.

RECOMMENDATION

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

7.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

NSW / QLD BORDER CLOSURE

1. NSW / QLD BORDER CLOSURE

(I) POSITION PAPER

As agreed at the Board meeting held on 21 August 2020, the Executive Officer prepared a position paper on behalf of the NRJO which reflected the issues created for the region by the border closure. All six NRJO LGAs contributed information to the paper. To give a broader social picture, statistics were included from Southern Cross University, Northern Rivers NSW Health District and Social Futures.

On September 3, the position paper was distributed to Hon. Kevin Hogan MP Member for Page, Hon. Justine Elliott MP, Member for Richmond, Ms. Janelle Saffin MP Member for Lismore, Ms. Tamara Smith MP Member for Ballina, Hon. Ben Franklin MLC and James McTavish, Cross Border Commissioner.

The Hon. Kevin Hogan MP sent the paper onto the National Cabinet and Ms. Janelle Saffin MP sent it to the Queensland Government.

NRJO Chair, Cr Mulholland, undertook interviews with the ABC.

(II) NORTHERN BORDER RECOVERY COMMITTEE

The NRJO is now 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.

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.

A summary of key talking points has been requested at the completion of each meeting which will be distributed to members of the NRJO.

2. WASTE MICROINDUSTRIES PROJECT

A meeting of the Steering Committee was held on the 11 September 2020 with project group Astrolabe. The meeting outlined timelines, scope the proposed economic framework and provided an overview of the waste transformation process all of which will be incorporated in the project plan. A final project report is planned for February 2021.

3. NRJO WEBSITE

Content is being added to the NRJO website to reflect the work undertaken by the JO during the course of 2020.

4. NORTHERN RIVERS NSW BRAND

The Northern Rivers NSW Brand continues to gain traction and now has 140 businesses and organisations signed up.

A date has been set for the MOU signing ceremony for the Northern Rivers Brand. All Mayors and General Managers have received an email identifying the date with a formal invitation to follow. The function will be held at the Stone and Wood Brewery in Byron Bay and will also involve Founding Partners. The event will be held in accordance with COVID-safe requirements.

5. FORUMS

The Executive Officer represented the NRJO on the following forums:

- Represent 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
 - Northern Border recovery Committee
 - Sustain Northern Rivers Working Group
 - Waste Micro Industries Steering Committee
 - Transition North Coast

RECOMMENDATION:

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

7.7 FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

	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	-	37,388
Power Infrastructure Upgrade Project	-	-	-
Capacity Building	-	-	150,000
State Gov't Contribution	-	-	-
Sundry Income / Recharge Workshops	-	-	6,276
Interest	5,000	424	5,090
Total	210,800	161,224	361,079
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Bank Charges	-	-	-
Conferences, Events, Travel	12,250	191	22,715
Professional Development	5,200	-	-
Exec Officer - Salary/Oncosts/Recruit	96,351	8,873	85,172
Exec Officer - Computer	3,000	-	-
Exec Officer - Vehicle Allowance	8,580	-	8,580
Exec Officer - Support (RDA)	54,000	9,000	54,600
Exec Officer - Office (Rous)	-	-	-
Chair Stipend	10,000	1,667	9,167
MyRoadInfo	29,300	-	28,031
Professional Fees – Audit	6,500	-	6,500
Media and Communications	5,200	-	-
Record Storage	-	-	-
Regional Projects	550,537	-	214,895
Vendor Panel Access	77,500	-	65,375
Sundry Expenses	3,709	468	3,541
Total	862,127	20,199	498,576
Net Cash Movement	-651,327	141,025	-137,497
Retained Earnings - 1 July	996,259	996,259	1,133,756
Retained Earnings - 30 June	344,932	1,137,284	996,259

Balance Sheet

As of August 2020

Assets			
Cash			
Summerland Community First		\$3,445.52	
Summerland Saver		\$1,107,524.61	
Debit Card - Chair		\$2,257.75	
Debit Card - Exec Officer		\$1,158.65	
Total Cash			\$1,114,386.53
Debtors			
Trade Debtors		\$48,840.00	
Total Debtors			\$48,840.00
Total Assets			\$1,163,226.53
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors			
Trade Creditors	\$4,950.00		
Sundry Creditors/Accruals	\$6,500.00		
Total Creditors		\$11,450.00	
GST Liability			
GST Collected	\$16,082.66		
GST paid	-\$1,822.27		
Total GST Liability		\$14,260.39	
Payroll Liabilities			
Provision - Staff entitlements	\$232.38		
Total Payroll Liabilities		\$232.38	
Total Liabilities			\$25,942.77
Net Assets			\$1,137,283.76
Equity			
Retained Earnings		\$996,258.74	
Current Year Earnings		\$141,024.88	
Historical Balancing		\$0.14	
Total Equity			\$1,137,283.76

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Job Profit & Loss Statement

August 2020

Account Name	Selected Period	Year To Date
A100	Operational expenses	
Income		
Membership	\$160,800.00	\$160,800.00
Interest Received	\$211.42	\$424.32
Total Income	\$161,011.42	\$161,224.32
Expense		
Computer ISP and Registrations	\$120.08	\$240.16
Phone charges	\$114.08	\$228.16
Support services - Admin contr	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
Wages	\$2,678.57	\$2,678.57
Superannuation	\$254.46	\$254.46
Provision for Staff Entitlemen	\$232.38	\$232.38
Recruitment	\$681.81	\$5,707.73
Meeting Catering	\$0.00	\$55.64
Total Expense	\$8,581.38	\$18,397.10
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$152,430.04	\$142,827.22
A102	Chair costs	
Expense		
Stationery	\$135.68	\$135.68
Allowance-Chair Stipend	\$833.33	\$1,666.66
Total Expense	\$969.01	\$1,802.34
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$969.01	-\$1,802.34

RECOMMENDATION:

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

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

8 URGENT BUSINESS

9 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence of significance – Incoming

Correspondence of significance - Outgoing

- Position paper distributed to local members of parliament

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the correspondence report be noted