



Agenda for the Northern Rivers

Joint Organisation

Ordinary Board Meeting

Date: 30 July 2021

Location: via Zoom

Time: 11am

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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

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 7 MAY 2021

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Friday 7 May 2021 are included for information and adoption by the Board.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION HELD VIA ZOOM FRIDAY 7 May 2021

ATTENDANCE

Crs Danielle Mulholland (Chair), Chris Cherry (Deputy Chair), Vanessa Ekins, David Wright, Michael Lyon, Robert Mustow

General Managers Graham Kennett, Mark Arnold, Paul Hickey, Vaughan Macdonald, Troy Green, Michael Donnelly

Jillian Fryer (Dept of Regional NSW); Ashley Lindsay, Cr Jim Simmons (CVC)

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 Tim Williamson (RDA Northern Rivers), Anita Gambhir (OLG)

07052021/01 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ D Wright

THAT the apologies for the 7 May 2021 Board meeting be noted

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

4. ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITORS

The Chair welcomed Cr Michael Lyon, Acting Mayor, Byron Shire Council to the meeting

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES and BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS
JOINT ORGANISATION HELD 12 FEBRUARY 2021**

07052021/2 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ D Wright

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held Friday 12 February 2021 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 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT - DESTINATION NORTH COAST

07052021/3 RESOLVED

MOVED: R Mustow/D Wright

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

07052021/4 RESOLVED

MOVED: D Wright/ R Mustow

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously

7.3 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

07052021/5 RESOLVED

MOVED: V Ekins/C Cherry

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE – All Councillors voted unanimously

7.4 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL

07052021/6 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ D Wright

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.5 RDA NORTHERN RIVERS SERVICE AGREEMENT

07052021/7

MOVED: R Mustow/ C Cherry

THAT the Board renew the RDA Northern Rivers Service Agreement to 31 December 2021

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

07052021/8 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/R Mustow

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

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously

7.7 REGIONAL ISSUES

Compliance Levies and Funding Review

A presentation from Vince Connell (Tweed Shire Council) and Shannon Burt (Byron Shire Council) representing the NRJO Planning Committee was made

07052021/9 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ D Wright

That the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation endorse that a submission based on this report be made to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Rob Stokes, seeking the deferral of the proposed changes to compliance levies and fees, to allow for more detailed consultation with NSW Councils, in order to provide more time to consider and plan for any resulting impacts on the funding of essential planning, certification and environmental compliance services.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

Housing Shortage

07052021/10 RESOLVED

MOVED: D Mulholland/ D Wright

The Board acknowledge the steps being undertaken and discuss any further initiatives that could be taken to alleviate this issue.

Cr Mulholland moved an amendment

MOVED: D Mulholland/ D Wright

THAT the Board acknowledge the steps being undertaken and schedule a housing workshop to discuss any further initiatives that could be taken to alleviate this issue.

07052021/11 RESOLVED

MOVED: D Mulholland/ Wright

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

The amendment became the motion

MOVED: D Mulholland/ Wright

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

A further motion was offered from Cr Cherry

MOVED: C Cherry/V Ekins

THAT the NRJO to join with MNCJO and CRJO to be part of a delegation to discuss community housing trusts with the Premier

07052021/12 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/V Ekins

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

Jillian Fryer from Regional NSW advised that a new unit within Regional NSW has been established to look at regional housing. It is headed up by Ashley Albury and will include regional representation at the Director level. Details will be sent via the Executive Officer as soon as it comes available.

The Executive Officer reported that the JO's are working collaboratively on this and that she is compiling a list of issues across the regions to create a state-wide snapshot and the proposed solutions will be compiled to create a toolbox of ideas to be roadtested with various ministers and planners to see what options may be viable

Emergency Services Levy

07052021/13 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ D Wright

THAT the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation begins local advocacy on the ESL issue and bring it to the attention of all local members of parliament. Further that it supports the broader JO network in their attempts to highlight the increases to the NSW State Government.

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

7.8 FINANCIAL REPORTS

07052021/14

MOVED: D Wright/R Mustow

THAT the financial reports for period ending 31 March 2021 be accepted

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

NIL RECEIVED

9. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

10. CORRESPONDENCE

07052021/15

MOVED : R Mustow/ D Wright

THAT the correspondence report be received and noted

CARRIED

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

Copy of letter of Support sent to Rous County Council is attached as it was omitted from Meeting Papers

MEETING CLOSED 12.18pm

Next meeting - workshop

Friday 18 June 2021

Tweed Shire Council

MINUTES APPROVED

Cr Danielle Mulholland

Chair

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation held Friday 7May 2021 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings of that meeting.

Cr Keith Williams
Chair
Rous County Council
PO Box 230
LISMORE NSW 2480

Dear Cr Williams

LETTER OF SUPPORT - NORTHERN RIVERS WATERSHED INITIATIVE

The Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation at its meeting on 12 February 2021 resolved:

THAT the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation note the update and status of actions related to nature-based flood mitigation in the Richmond and Tweed River catchments

THAT the NRJO provide a letter of support for Rous County Council's funding application

12022021/6

This proposal aligns with the following key aspects of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's Strategic Regional Priorities 2019-2022:

Thriving, healthy and biodiverse natural environments

For the biodiversity and health of our waterways, habitats and wildlife to be protected and enhanced to deliver environmental, economic and recreational benefits for current and future generations of residents and visitors

A primary project outcome for this Priority was to support the proposed Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative. Please accept this letter as formal acknowledgement of the support of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation for Rous County Council's application for an ARC Linkage Grant.

Yours sincerely



Cr Danielle Mulholland
Chair

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6 NOTICES OF MOTION

7 REPORTS



Market Conditions with current COVID Restrictions

Feedback from LGA's and industry indicate significant losses on June-July school holiday bookings. Some direct feedback from recent LGA, Local Tourism Managers and Tourism Association Meeting:

- Lots of events cancelled including NAIDOC week activities
- Five events cancelled in Byron including the Byron Writers Festival
- In the Tweed impacts of SEQ lockdown and border restrictions highly apparent. One respondent commented 'Was the busiest school holidays on books yet and now we have basically nothing.' And another '80% of our customer base is from QLD. They have cancelled in droves, it's very concerning.'

Business Accelerator & Mentoring Program

DNC in conjunction with the Sparrowly Group are in the process of launching our Business Accelerator & Mentoring Program. The program is aimed at helping up to 100 North Coast businesses with free mentoring and training from travel industry professionals. The program will offer training across a wide spectrum of subjects under the following topics - Tourism Business Development, Marketing Development & Market Diversification, Travel Technology & Digital Capacity, Tourism Marketing and Experience & Product Development or Diversification.

Each business would start the program with a robust 'business health check' review to establish what and where help was needed. A tailored mentoring program would then be developed for the business and executed through five mentoring sessions. The program has been funded by the Federal, Recovery for Regional Tourism funds.

DNC are extremely enthused by this project due to the tailored and ongoing training that will be administered by highly skilled mentors with strong industry backgrounds. Businesses can find more information and apply for the program through - [DNC Business Accelerator & Mentoring Program](#)

Business Events

The DNC Business Events program has released their performance report for the second quarter of the 2021 calendar year. The program achieved amazing results over this period securing 9 events that will deliver 1,322 delegates generating an economic impact of \$1.1M. In addition, they are working on an additional 25 events, 2,634 delegates and an economic impact of \$2.4M. Fantastic results in the current climate that demonstrate the latent demand that exists for Business Events when conditions permit their delivery.

Utilising Recovery for Regional Tourism funds, DNC have launched the 'DNC Business Events Reboot Fund'. The fund enables new business events to apply for between \$5-15k in financial support to hold their event on the North Coast. Thus far the fund has generated the following interest;

16 leads valued at \$1.1M and representing 1,730 delegates staying for an average 2.3 nights each.

DNC Tourism Symposium/Awards Gala Dinner

The 2021 DNC Tourism Symposium and Gala Awards dinner was held in Urunga on the 24th June. The event is aimed at informing, inspiring and challenging our industry stakeholders. Next years event will be held in May in Grafton, the first time the event has been held in the Northern Rivers. We anticipate that we will also be able to conduct an official awards event that provides direct entry for winners into the state awards next year. As there was no official pathway this year a Gala Awards event was held honoring local tourism heroes from all 14 LGA's across our region.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from Destination North Coast be noted

7.2 ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT – RDA NORTHERN RIVERS



SUMMARY

RDA NR Annual Business Plan: The 2021-22 Annual Business Plan has been submitted to RDA NR's funding agency, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities. Once approved it will be the guiding operational document for 2021-22.

RDA National Forum was attended by DRD and Deputy Chair Susan Vinnicombe. New and potentially important connections for the region were made with Infrastructure Project Finance Corporation and Freight Australia which is responsible for National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy. Informal and formal meetings were held with a range of agencies, federal MPs and staff.

Northern Rivers Business Leader meetings have begun with the first meeting held at Tweed Heads. Key issues include lack of industrial land supply, workforce issues and government red tape. Other LG events are planned over the next few months to engage discussion with local business and industry leaders.

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DETAILED REPORT

RDANR Planning

The 2021-22 Annual Business Plan has been submitted to RDA's funding agency, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities. Key priorities are reprinted below for NRJO members consideration:

PRIORITY ONE: BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Focus on areas of Competitive Advantage: Industries where the region has a clear competitive advantage now, and emerging:

- Visitor Economy
- Food and Beverage Manufacturing
- Creative and Digital Content Industry
- Green and circular economy (renewables, waste to energy, hydrogen, regenerative agriculture etc)

PRIORITY TWO: A LEADER IN REGIONAL COLLABORATION

An increasing number of Regional Development organisations and agencies are active across the region. RDA Northern Rivers is involved in many of the collaborative activities and this year will see a greater emphasis in coordination and facilitation.

PRIORITY THREE: SKILLING THE REGION

A work-ready workforce skilled for now and future industry requirements is critical to the region becoming an investment ready region. RDA Northern Rivers has established strong

connections with relevant agencies and training organisations from school to VET to Tertiary to create clear pathways for our regional businesses.

PRIORITY FOUR: IMPROVING LOCAL PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH IMPROVED TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

Major transport corridors need to be investigated in order to improve supply chain and local procurement opportunities. Industry requires fast and cost-effective access to national and international markets.

The 2021-2025 Regional Strategic Plan is underway with an anticipated publication in November 2021.

RDA NR facilitated a meeting between Infrastructure Australia (IA) and stakeholders interested in Regional Strengths Infrastructure Gaps. Key issues raised in our region are water security, industrial land and affordable housing. A consolidated report for all regions will be published later this year by Infrastructure Australia.

Regional Development

RDA NR has been approached by NEWaste and Business NSW to support a “Circular Economy” forum later this year. Separately, Southern Cross University has also approached RDA NR and the Northern Rivers Together Committee to support a funding application which will establish a circular economy blueprint for the region. NRJO will also be welcomed to support these activities into the future.

RDA NR sat on Lismore City Council’s “Regional City Action Plan” which completed a consultancy which considered a number of different options to revive Nimbin and Lismore CBD areas.

Industry Development

RDA NR met with Qponics, an algae production companies who have identified the region as a “goldilocks” region for climate, water (saline) ag land and infrastructure. Their proposal is investigating a southern Ballina site and could employ up to 110 people.

The North Coast creative industry was given a boost with the announcement of a \$440m proposed film studio to be located north of Coffs Harbour and very close to our southern border with Mid North Coast. This announcement will activate the industry even more and provide an opportunity to brand the North Coast as Australia’s leading regional Film and TV hub.

A Virtual Reality industry cluster group meeting was facilitated by RDA NR with assistance from NBN sponsorship. Within a few weeks the cluster has begun establishing a governance structure and are working together on projects which previously they did not have the individual capacity to successfully bid for.

RDA NR participated in a number of “inter-agency roundtable meetings” with businesses looking to invest or expand in the region. Referrals typically come through Local Government, RDA or Regional NSW channels.

Local Jobs Program Employment Taskforce

Two projects which RDA NR will auspice through the taskforce for recovery funding:

1. RDA NR continues to support the major Co-operatives and stakeholders to establish a shared labour pool project which is now being project managed by TAFE and will be pitched to the Regional Jobs Taskforce for funding. Two projects will soon be announced as the first projects approved with taskforce funding.

2. The Clarence Valley Waste to Wages Marine Industry committee received the final report from consultants GHD who developed a business case for government agencies and others to understand the economic, social and environmental benefits from a social impact, marine recycling centre.
3. Possible Kyogle workforce development and Indigenous business start-up program, details to be provided to NRJO Committee at the next meeting.

COMMITTEES

Committee	Comment
Employment Taskforce	DESE initiative to lead employment projects
COVID Health Business Committee	Provide advice and assistance to Dept of Health unit which undertakes promotion and compliance activities for local businesses
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.
NRJO Committee	Assoc Membership and continues to work closely with EO on relevant projects
NRJO GM Advisory Committee	Operational NRJO matters, projects and issues are raised in this forum prior to NRJO meeting.
RDACC	Meeting of NSW RDA Chairs and DRDs

EVENTS

Events/Workshops/Forums

- Presentation to Future Skills Conference, SCU Lismore held by Department of Education 3 June 2021. Presentation provided a glimpse of future skills needs of the region for teachers, careers advisors and other educationalists.
- Tweed Business Leaders meeting was held at Coolangatta 10 June 2021. Feedback will assist development of Regional Plan.
- VR Digital Media industry workshop 21 May, Byron Shire. This event provided a catalyst for the formation of a VR Industry cluster.
- RDA National Forum 15-17 June 2021 attended by Deputy Chair and DRD at Canberra. Opportunity to hear from departmental heads, relevant agencies and network with other regional leaders.
- DRD attended the “Screen Futures Expo” held at Lennox Cultural Centre, which presented opportunities for students and community members to experience working in film and television production.

MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

RDA NR continues to attend regular teleconference meetings with Assistant Minister Nola Marino and other RDA Directors across Australia which provides local intelligence on the impact of COVID-19, housing and workforce development, regional investment etc.

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.

THREE DAY LOCKDOWN FORCES WINTER HARVEST FESTIVAL CANCELLATION

Following the Queensland Government's announcement of a three-day lockdown for South East Queensland, Scenic Rim Eat Local Week's signature event, the Winter Harvest Festival scheduled to take place on 3 July 2021, was cancelled.

This was a major disappointment for local producers, businesses, community and visitors, however it was necessary to put everyone's health and safety first. Holding an event that is the scale of the Winter Harvest Festival requires several days to prepare the site and stalls, and with current restrictions, it was not possible.

Despite this, more than 80 of the scheduled 125 Scenic Rim Eat Local Week events were held across the region to showcase and celebrate our amazing local produce and growers. While there were cancellations during the lockdown period (Wednesday to Friday), scheduled events still went ahead over the weekend, or were postponed to a later date.

Council encouraged visitors who had planned to attend the Winter Harvest Festival, or any of the other cancelled events, to try and support local producers online, buy a Scenic Rim Farm Box or book their next holiday in the Scenic Rim to experience the wonderful produce and beverages.

BRISBANE 2032 PROPOSAL TO GO TO FULL IOC VOTE

A six year journey to bring the world's biggest sporting event to South East Queensland is a step closer with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic proposal to go to a full International Olympic Committee (IOC) vote this month.

This is a momentous step in the journey towards securing the Olympic and Paralympic Games for South East Queensland.

A significant amount of work by SEQ Council of Mayors has gone into this, with this organisation also proposing investment in infrastructure through a SEQ City Deal as part of the plan to deliver the Games. A City Deals agreement across three levels of Government will help deliver the infrastructure needed in the region, not just for the Games, but for the residents and local industries. For the Scenic Rim, this includes Bromelton-Mount Lindesay Highway connections, rail from Salisbury to Undullah, which is the first step in bringing rail to Beaudesert and other upgrades to Mount Lindesay Highway, one of the main access points to the region.

Lake Wyaralong, the homebase for Rowing Queensland, has been identified as the preferred venue for the Games' rowing and canoeing events, and this clearly demonstrates the region's ability to host world-class sporting events. Aside from showcasing the region at a global level, the potential economic and social benefits of hosting the Games in South East Queensland will benefit the Scenic Rim for the long-term.

COUNCIL SECURES FUNDING TO DELIVER NEW ACTIVE HIKING PROGRAM

Scenic Rim Regional Council received \$100,000 in funding under the ActiveKIT program administered by the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, a program which aims to get more people across the state exercising more frequently.

Council will team up with tourism operations Mount Barney Lodge, InterNATIONAL PARK Tours and O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in offering the EmpowHER Hiking program next year.

These tourism operators are well known across southeast Queensland, so when people register for the program, they know they are going to be seeing and experiencing some of the region's most stunning scenery - which cannot be found anywhere else in the world. The program is open for both locals and visitors and will be a great way for people to explore more of their own backyard, and hopefully our visitors will continue returning again and again to unearth more gems in the towns and villages throughout the Scenic Rim region.

The program will run next year from February to June 2022, taking participants on regular guided walks throughout the Scenic Rim's naturally beautiful landscapes.

This project is jointly funded by the Queensland Government, Health and Wellbeing Queensland and Scenic Rim Regional Council.

The proposed program also aligns with the Scenic Rim Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2020 and the Queensland Government's Activate! Queensland Strategy 2019-2029.

FREE AGRICULTURE TRAINING FOR SCENIC RIM LOCALS

Expressions of interest are now open for the Scenic Rim Agriculture Skills Development Program, giving locals access to free training and development. The program will deliver training programs to new and existing workers in the agricultural industry thanks to the Australian Government's commitment of \$75,000 through the Drought Communities Program (DCP) Extension.

This program will help formalise local employees' qualifications by recognising prior learning and giving them support to complete their tickets or certification.

Not only will the program assist workers in developing their career path, but it will also make them more employable should they need to find extra or alternative employment within the sector and beyond due to drought and other agricultural impacts.

Agriculture is the region's biggest industry, supporting more than 2,000 local jobs and contributing more than \$260 million to Gross Regional Product, so this investment to upskill our workforce will help further strengthen our economy.

Training programs on offer are as diverse as operation of a forklift, driving a grader or dozer, working with agricultural chemicals, horticulture, or building and construction, so there's something for everyone.

MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE FOR BROMELTON ARTERIAL CONNECTIONS

Council's ongoing advocacy for efficient road infrastructure in and out of Bromelton State Development Area is one step closer thanks to the Australian Government's Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program. This project will see a comprehensive study of the local road connections to the SCT Logistics terminal and broader Bromelton State Development Area.

Through the Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program, Scenic Rim Regional Council will work with EY Australia to explore if upgrades could improve efficiency and assist the region with safer roads, less fatalities and less carbon emission with trucks and trains working together to move freight rather than competing.

There is a place for trucks and trains in the supply chain which can only be achieved with infrastructure and policy that support this goal. Efficient logistics movements are fundamental for a thriving economy, and infrastructure that enables such efficiency is vital to attracting new businesses to the region. It is important to have high-performing arterial roads connecting Bromelton to the Mount Lindesay Highway.

Council is grateful to the Australian Government for supporting the proposal and allocating this project to EY Australia to work with Council to study the proposal in detail. Once complete we will have a well-prepared business case with proper data and research to give us a stronger platform to advocate for improvements and new arterial roads.

NEW CORPORATE PLAN SETS COUNCIL'S DIRECTION FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS

Council's new five-year Corporate Plan - *Scenic Rim 2026* - was adopted unanimously by Councillors at the Ordinary meeting on Tuesday 22 June 2021. The plan reflected the aspiration and strategic priorities of residents and local businesses as identified in the shared *Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011 - 2026*.

The seven themes are Spectacular Scenery and Healthy Environment, Sustainable and Prosperous Economy, Open and Responsive Government, Relaxed Living and Rural Lifestyle, Vibrant Towns and Villages, Accessible and Serviced Region, and Healthy, Engaged and Resourceful Communities. The new plan, there were 25 specific areas of focus that Council would prioritise over the five years, with 74 actions and 40 key indicators of success.

With the five-year Corporate Plan - *Scenic Rim 2026* - now adopted, Council will develop a one-year plan that will operationalise the first-year actions contained within the corporate plan.

A copy is available for download from

<https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/4791/scenic-rim-2026-corporate-plan>

COUNCIL BRINGS 2021-2022 EXPENDITURE BACK IN LINE WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Scenic Rim Regional Council adopted the 2021-2022 Budget at a Special Meeting on 24 June 2021 announcing a total expenditure of \$101.9 million for the coming financial year.

Council is grateful to the Queensland and Australian Governments for the generous grant funding which would support many projects throughout the year. Through co-investment from both levels of Government, grant funding will contribute \$20.1 million for both operational and capital projects in the coming year. This enables Council to deliver important projects for our community, while reducing the impact on general revenue.

Council will continue investment in grants programs with \$295,000 allocated for our Community Grants Program, and more than \$104,000 will be made available under our Environmental Grants Program.

A copy of the Scenic Rim Regional Council 2021-2022 Community Budget Report is available for download from Council's website: www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/financial-information.

COUNCIL ADOPTS 'ROAD MAP' TO IMPROVING CUSTOMER EXPERIENCES

On Tuesday 11 May 2021, Council formally adopted its first Customer Experience Strategy including a comprehensive customer experience improvements plan to be delivered by 2023.

This Strategy is Council's road map to building a contemporary and customer focused organisation, marking the beginning of a long-term journey to improve Council's delivery of services, interactions with customers, and to continue to build sound relationships and partnerships between local communities, customers and Council.

This Strategy is a direct response to the feedback received from local residents, businesses and community organisations via focus groups and a region wide customer sentiment survey. This Strategy is a direct response to that feedback.

The Scenic Rim Regional Council Customer Experience Strategy 2021-2023 is available on Council's website, <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/4752/scenic-rim-regional-council-customer-experience-strategy-2020-2023>

WASTE EDUCATION AND LANDFILL DIVERSION KEY TO NEW STRATEGY

On Tuesday 22 June 2021, Council adopted an updated *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026* and its key theme is waste reduction through enhanced resource recovery, and education.

Council aims to manage waste efficiently, cost effectively and in an environmentally responsible manner in line with the ambitious targets set by the Queensland Government to become a zero-waste society, where waste is avoided, reused and recycled to the greatest possible extent.

The Scenic Rim has an enviable environmental record in waste management, with audit results showing that our kerbside mixed recyclables collection continues to have a low contamination rate, enabling a high percentage of plastic, paper, glass and metals to be reprocessed, reused or recycled.

Council will measure the progress over the next five years towards strategic outcomes including minimising how much waste is generated by Council activities, maximising region-wide access to containers for change and discouraging disposal to landfill. Success will rely on a collaborative effort from Council, businesses and residents, and working together to keep the Scenic Rim spectacular.

A copy of the *Scenic Rim Regional Council Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026* is available for download from our website. <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/4792/scenic-rim-regional-council-waste-management-and-resource-recovery-strategy-2021-2026>

HELPING TO PREPARE FAMILIES FOR NATURAL DISASTER

Council has prepared and distributed a disaster preparedness package to Scenic Rim residents. The information has been developed by Council to assist the community in understanding the potential hazards that can occur throughout the region, the importance of getting ready early, what to do when disaster strikes, and important steps to follow in the aftermath of a natural event.

In recent years, the Scenic Rim has unfortunately felt the wrath of Mother Nature, having experienced several natural disasters including flooding from ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017, to the devastating Black Summer Bushfires in 2019. The region is also in the pathway of many severe thunderstorms that roll in over the hills, which can produce heavy rain, flash flooding, dangerous lightning strikes, large hail and gale force winds.

While these cannot be prevented, Council and the community can be better prepared in an effort to reduce damage to properties and businesses in the future.

More information can also be found on the Disaster Dashboard on Council's website. Log onto www.disasterdashboard.scenicrim.qld.gov.au.

In addition to the above, other key economic development and tourism activities being undertaken by Council include:

- **Presence at the EKKA:** Scenic Rim Regional Council will once have an activation at the Ekka from Saturday 7 - Sunday 15 August, with a stand located in the Agricultural Hall. Staffed and delivered by the Regional Prosperity team, the activation is a deliberate strategy to capitalise on the region's outstanding producer and grower reputation as well as raise awareness of the Scenic Rim destination brand, and to drive visitation.
- **Brisbane Holidays Dollars:** An initiative of Tourism and Events Queensland, the Brisbane Holiday dollars allows you to explore even more of Brisbane's city and surrounds providing \$50% off tours, attractions and accommodation across the Brisbane region (including Scenic Rim), up to the value of \$100. At least 30 Scenic Rim tourism operators have registered for inclusion in the program, with anecdotal feedback indicating an influx of bookings for these operators. A phase 2 of the program is currently in market, launched week commencing 12 July 2021. There is also a Gold Coast Holiday Dollars promotion and those tourism operators who are also members of Destination Gold Coast (as many of the region's operators are, particularly on Tamborine Mountain) are also participating in this program.
- **Agribusiness and Agritourism Industry Development Program:** Two phases of this program are currently underway. Council engaged Regionality to deliver the initial phase of this initiative, which will provide an industry development program to build capacity of farmers, food and agritourism businesses to diversify, value add and innovate, with the aim of growing their enterprise, creating local jobs and building resilience to climatic and economic change. In the stakeholder engagement and consultation phase, the second part of this initiative will be conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, delivering a long-term (10 year) strategy to guide and drive growth/innovation within the Agribusiness / Agritourism sectors.

- **Adventure and Nature-based Tourism Strategy:** Community consultation on the draft Scenic Rim Adventure and Nature-based Tourism Strategy closed on 18 June 2021 with feedback now being consolidated and reviewed by Council officers. Council successfully secured funding through the Building Better Regions Fund, Community Investments Stream, Round 3, to deliver a strategy and capability study focusing on opportunities in adventure and nature-based tourism for the Scenic Rim. At the conclusion of the study and research, a draft of the Strategy has been developed to guide the tourism industry's growth in the coming years and provide a strong foundation for the development and extension of adventure and nature-based activities and product in the Scenic Rim.
- **Tourism Grant Writing Workshop:** Council engaged Adcock Grants to conduct a tourism grant writing workshop in Boonah on 14 July 2021. With over 30 local operators and event organisers in attendance, participants learnt the relevant skills to assist them in submitting an application in the upcoming round Destination Event Funding, also hearing from the panel of experts from Tourism and Events Queensland, Scenic Rim Principal Special Regional Events and the Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular event organisers.
- **Destination Scenic Rim appoints CEO:** New industry-led, unified local tourism organisation Destination Scenic Rim has appointed Jessica Greenaway as chief executive officer. Ms Greenaway was a former director of Outback Queensland Tourism Association and has more than 10 years of experience growing regional prosperity in some of Australia's most far-flung places including Kalgoorlie, Arnhem Land, the Simpson Desert, and most recently, Winton - the Dinosaur Capital of Australia.
- **Clydesdale Spectacular:** Held on the 12-13 June 2021 at the Boonah Showgrounds, the Clydesdale Spectacular showcased the best of breed and is the richest Clydesdale Show in the Southern Hemisphere. Results are still being gathered but the event usually attracts at least 5,000 visitors and injects a significant amount to the local economy. An investment in additional public relations support this year did see a sharp increase in attendance.
- **Local Jobs Program to support skills development:** The Local Jobs Program is an Australian Government initiative to support job seekers and local communities as part of economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It specifically focuses on reskilling, upskilling and employment, and townships within the Scenic Rim have been determined to be part of both the 'Wivenhoe Employment Services Area' (in the west of our region) and the 'Gold Coast Employment Services Area', which includes the easternmost townships in our region. Council worked with the Local Jobs Program Taskforce to prepare a submission, source the funding and then put out a Request for Quotation to obtain proposals from suitably qualified training organisations to deliver the proposed program. The submission was based on the staffing needs of several local employers who have been experiencing significant issues relating to the sourcing of staff - including Australian Lawn Concepts at Boyland, Cedar Creek Lodges on Tamborine Mountain and Kalfresh in Kalbar. The program will not only meet the needs of these employers but other businesses within the same sectors. Total funding allocated is \$263,640.

RECOMMENDATION

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

7.5 LGNSW BOARD ELECTIONS

The [2021 Local Government NSW Annual Conference](#), was originally scheduled to be held from 28 - 30 November in Sydney, however with the delay of the local government elections the date will now be reset, but it must be held prior to the end of the calendar year.

2021 is also a Board election year, in which nominated council delegates vote to determine the peak body leadership team. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is currently determining whether its response to COVID-19 will require this year's Board Election to be conducted by postal ballot, rather than in-person at the Conference.

The geographically closest LGNSW Board Member to the Northern Rivers is Keith Rhoades from Coffs Harbour.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board discuss a potential nomination from the NRJO for the LGNSW Board.

7.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

1. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

CAPACITY BUILDING FUND

The Capacity Building Fund has now been redirected to cover two studies, both of which are strategic priorities for the NRJO:

Goal #13	Assessment of UNESCO Biosphere application
Goal # 8.3	Renewable Energy Prospectus

The consultant assessments for both studies have been undertaken and we will be moving to contracts phase. Projects will be completed by October 2021.

CAPACITY BUILDING FUND II

On June 24 2021 Cr Mulholland received a letter from the Minister for the Office of Local Government outlining that Round II of the Capacity Building Fund for JOs with each organisation receiving an additional \$150,000 in funding.

The outcome of the funding is to assist JO's to further build capacity and demonstrate capability to work with State agencies, while delivering their strategic plans and improve each JOs sustainability.

Plans for the funding must be submitted to OLG by Monday 30 August 2021.

[Attachment 1:](#) Letter from Minister Hancock

(ii) WATERSHED INITIATIVE

Goal: The NRWI brings a holistic approach to the management of water within the catchments that will utilize modern, best practice approaches to catchment management modelling and natural flood mitigation to target improvements in stream bank condition and river health that also contribute to reduced flood risk within the catchments.

February 26, 2021: The Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin MP, convened a meeting of community interest groups and stakeholders "to discuss the best action to gather support from the broader community to realise the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative (NRWI)". Cr Chris Cherry attended the meeting on behalf of the NRJO Chair and the EO attended by Zoom for the initial section.

Ms Saffin subsequently wrote to the NRJO Chair requesting the NRJO, with the support of by the Member for Lismore, take a leading role to drive the advocacy of the initiative.

Several meetings have now been held with the Project Officer recently appointed by the Dept. Planning, Industry and Environment to the Richmond River Review, Catchment Governance and Waterway Health. Subsequently the EO also became aware of and met with a private group "River Crystal" who are working with local farmers to help them improve their practices relating to stock watering. The NRJO then coordinated a meeting between both parties which

subsequently lead to the Project Officer attending a meeting convened by the River Crystal Project with Rous County Council, Lismore City Council, Byron Shire Council, Ozfish Unlimited.

Whilst this work is not directly addressing the intent of the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative, it supports the intent of the work in improving water quality.

The EO responded to Ms Saffin updating her on the work being undertaken by the various parties and outlining that the EO continues to liaise with these groups in order to assist with the goals of the Watershed Initiative.

[Attachment 2](#): Letter to Janelle Saffin

2. RELATIONSHIPS AND NETWORKS

- May 14: HOUSING SUMMIT HOSTED BY JANELLE SAFFIN MP, MEMBER FOR LISMORE
- May 19: NRJO INTERVIEW WITH ARDT RE. JO REVIEW
- May 20: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE
- May 24: HOUSING WORKSHOP KYOGLE COUNCIL
- May 26: NRJO CHAIR AND EO MEETING WITH ALEXIS YATES, SENIOR ADVISOR MINISTER STOKES
- May 27: NRJO CHAIR AND EO IPART – REVIEW OF RATE PEG
- May 27: JO CHAIRS FORUM, SYDNEY

- June 1: SUSTAIN ENERGY WORKING GROUP
- June 2: NRJO CHAIR AND EO MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES IF DPIE REGARDING UNESCO BIOSPHERE APPLICATION AND KOALA SEPP
- June 3: MEETING WITH MEMBER FOR BALLINA TAMARA SMITH MP.
- June 7: COORDINATED A MEETING BETWEEN Project Officer, Richmond River Review, Catchment Governance and Waterway Health AND REPRESENTATIVES OF RIVER CRYSTAL PROJECT
- June 9: TRANSITION NORTH COAST MEETING
- June 10: NORTHERN RIVERS BRAND – FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE
- June 17: RLE COMMUNITIES AND SERVICE SUB COMMITTEE

- July 14: RDA MEETING
- July 20: NORTHERN RIVERS TOGETHER STEERING COMMITTEE
- July 22: RLE ECONOMIC WORKFORCE AND DEVELOPMENT SUB COMMITTEE
- July 29: RLE COMMUNITIES AND SERVICE DELIVERY SUB COMMITTEE

3. OTHER BUSINESS

(I) Disaster Dashboards

The initial funding allocation for the NRJO's grant application through the **Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Stream 2** for the installation of Disaster Dashboard's for Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore and Richmond Valley Councils has been received. Staff at of the four Councils have now been connected with the relevant service provider to allow the project to progress.

(II) EVALUATION OF THE JOINT ORGANISATIONS FRAMEWORK

Public policy consulting firm ARDT has now finalised the JO evaluation on behalf of OLG. The review was due to be completed by June 30, however, it has not been announced when the report will be released.

(III) LINKEDIN

As a part of the NRJO's communications strategy the EO has established a LinkedIn page for the organisation. The page will feature updates on activities, advocacy issues, meetings and projects. The page will go live the week of August 2 2021. A link will be forwarded.

(IV) MEETING DATES

Increasingly briefing papers are having to be sent to GMs in advance of the GMAC meeting to allow them to be tabled with the Board. The EO requests a discussion on changing the dates of the GMAC meetings to be held a week in advance of the Board meetings.

[Attachment 6](#): Minutes of Transition North Coast (TNC) Working Group Meeting 17 June 2021

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Executive Officer's report be noted

7.7 REGIONAL ISSUES

(i) NSW COMPLIANCE LEVIES AND FUNDING REVIEW

07052021/9 RESOLVED

MOVED: C Cherry/ D Wright

That the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation endorse that a submission based on this report be made to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Rob Stokes, seeking the deferral of the proposed changes to compliance levies and fees, to allow for more detailed consultation with NSW Councils, in order to provide more time to consider and plan for any resulting impacts on the funding of essential planning, certification and environmental compliance services.

Further to this Resolution the NRJO undertook the following:

The Chair of the NRJO wrote to Ms Janelle Saffin MP, Member for Lismore, Ms Tamara Smith MP Member for Ballina, Mr Chris Gulaptis MP Member for Clarence and the Hon Ben Franklin MLC highlighting the issue.

[Attachment 7](#): Letters to local State members

On 26 May 2021, the Chair and EO met with Alexis Yates, Senior Policy Advisor to Hon Rob Stokes MP and Fiona Gibson, Senior Planner, Planning Policy, DPIE and discussed the issue further. Subsequently Ms Gibson has reached out and asked the NRJO set up a meeting with planning representatives of the NRJO for the week of 14 June 2021.

The recent concerted campaign by LG NSW, the Northern Rivers JO and affected Councils to maintain their current levies to fund important land use, building and environmental compliance services received a major setback on 16 July 2021, the NSW State Government put in place the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Compliance Fees) Regulation, with the effect of prohibiting councils from collecting compliance levies after 31 December 2021. The State Government subsequently saw the passage of new legislation which facilitates 'compliance levies' for the NSW Building Commissioner's Office. Councils will be required to collect the new compliance levies for the Building Commissioner's Office and remit the funds. Affected Councils will now be forced to revise the extent of its current compliance services and will also restrict their capacity to assist State Government compliance agencies in their investigations and enforcement in their areas. Affected Northern Rivers Councils, such as Tweed, Byron, Ballina and Lismore are in the process of seeking further support and resolutions at their upcoming meetings to take the campaign back up through the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and State and Federal Members seeking their urgent support and assistance for an immediate review and further pausing of recent State legislation to provide affected councils with additional to investigate alternative funding services to continue its current compliance services.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the NRJO continue to work with Member Councils to provide a collective response in relation to the State Government regulation on Compliance Levies.

(ii) HOUSING SHORTAGE

HOUSING TASK FORCE

On 17 June 2021 a Regional Housing Taskforce was announced by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, The Hon Rob Stokes MP, to combat supply shortage across NSW. On 16 July 2021 Gary Fielding was announced as Chair of the Taskforce. He is due to deliver his report to Govt. in September 2021. The [Terms of Reference for this Taskforce can be found here](#).

Following the NRJO Board workshop held on 18 June 2021, the NRJO Planners Group formed the Northern Rivers Housing Working Group. They have supplied the attached brief. Please note this document is not a formal submission to the taskforce and is still a working document.

[Attachment 8](#): Briefing note from NRJO Housing Working Group

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the NRJO continue to work with Member Councils to draft a regional submission to the Regional Housing Taskforce.

(iii) REGIONAL OLYMPIC STRATEGY

The announcement that Brisbane has secured the 2032 Olympic Games offers an exciting opportunity for the Northern Rivers. The 2032 Olympics will host approximately 11,000 athletes from over 200 countries who will be hosted at three main hubs in the state's south-east corner, which will host 28 sports split across them. There will be 21 venues in Brisbane, seven on the Gold Coast and four on the Sunshine Coast. The Games are expected to cost in the vicinity of \$5 billion and generate an economic benefit of \$14 billion to the national economy.

Following Brisbane's announcement of a successful bid for the 2032 Olympic Games it is proposed the NRJO lead the development of a Regional Strategy to maximise the benefits of the event to the Northern Rivers.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the NRJO develop a strategy aimed at maximising the benefits to the region from the hosting of the 2032 Olympic Games for the Board consideration.

7.8 NSW JO CORRESPONDENCE

The NSW Joint Organisations' Chairs Forum was held in Sydney on 26 May 2021. Minutes and copies of the presentations provided are attached.

[Attachment 9:](#) Minutes of JO Chairs Forum

[Attach 9.1:](#) IPART rate peg review presentation

[Attach 9.2:](#) JO wins

[Attach 9.3:](#) ARDT Review of Joint Organisations

[Attach 9.4:](#) OLG update

[Attach 9.5:](#) Town Water Risk Reduction Program Presentation

Correspondence sent on behalf of the Joint Organisation Chair's Forum are included with the meeting papers.

[Attachment 10:](#) 21 May 2021 - Letter to EPA Collaboration on 20yr Waste Strategy

[Attachment 11:](#) 8 June 2021 – Letter to Ms Steph Cook MP, Member for Cootamundra on JO representation and ongoing support

[Attachment 12:](#) 19 July 2021 – Letter to Minister Hancock regarding Mayoral representation post-elections

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the minutes of the JO Chairs meeting and related correspondence be noted

7.9 STATEMENT OF REVENUE POLICY

Introduction

This document constitutes the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Statement of Revenue Policy and is prepared in accordance with section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 (“the Act”).

The Revenue Policy includes the following statements for the year 2021-22 financial year:

- a) an estimate of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation income and expenditure;
- b) each membership and non-voting membership fee;
- c) types of fees to be charged by the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and the amounts of each such fee;
- d) amounts of external borrowings, the sources from where these are to be borrowed, and the means by which these are to be secured; and
- e) any other such matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.

The statements in the Revenue Policy with respect to membership and non-voting membership fee include, as required, the following particulars:

- a) the base amount of the membership and non-voting membership fee;
- b) the ad valorem amount (the amount in the dollar) membership and non-voting membership fee;
- c) in the case of project participant fees the estimated amount and principle behind the application of this fee; and
- d) any expectations agreed by the membership regarding the fees.

Factors Influencing Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Revenue and Pricing Policy

The following factors will influence the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation’s revenue and pricing policy.

Community service obligations

A community service obligation arises where a council provides a function or service that has general community benefits beyond those received by direct users.

Councils generally provide services that are considered to have community importance but are not viable or practical to be provided on a commercial basis.

Councils review their level of Community Service Obligations as they relate to fees and charges.

Where such a community service obligation may exist across the membership of the Councils, the Councils may consider the community service obligation as a group.

Cost recovery

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation applies the principle of full cost recovery to determine the total cost of services.

The user-pays principle

The User-Pays Principle involves pricing the provision of goods, projects, services and facilities that require the user or the consumer to pay the actual cost of the service provided.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation may apply this pricing policy for the provision of project works and activities to businesses or members of the community.

Corporate overheads

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation corporate overheads are for governance, employment, administration functions and compliance required to deliver on the Strategic Regional Plan and the annual Business Plan.

Competitive neutrality

Competitive Neutrality is one of the principles of National Competition Policy applied throughout Australia at all levels of Government, including Local Government. Competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a “level playing field” for competitors in a market, be they public or private sector competitors. All Government business organisations should operate without net competitive advantages over businesses as a result of their public ownership.

Where Northern Rivers Joint Organisation competes in the market place with other private businesses, Northern Rivers Joint Organisation will do so on the basis that it does not utilise its public position to gain an unfair advantage over private businesses that may be in competition with Northern Rivers Joint Organisation or the Councils.

Goods and services tax

The Federal Government’s Goods and Services Tax (GST) must be applied to non-exempt fees and charges. The current rate of the GST is 10% and is included in the price paid by the recipient of the service. The GST indicators (GST exempt or not) in the list of fees and charges are subject to change at any time from changes that occur in the GST Act and/or regulations.

Ordinary Membership policy

Each member council is to contribute a monetary payment or equivalent contribution based on the following methodology:

- a) an equal share of 50% of the required annual membership fees, plus
- b) a share of the remaining 50% of the required annual membership fees apportioned by population using the latest census population figures from the ABS by LGA

Member councils will be consulted about proposed contributions by:

- a) Draft budgets for each financial year are to be presented at the February meeting of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation in order for the proposed annual membership fees to be identified before each member Council commences the budget cycle for the upcoming financial year.

Fees for service

Approved fees for service

Section 608 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation may charge and recover an approved fee for any service it provides, other than a service provided, or proposed to be provided on an annual basis for which it is authorised or required to make an annual charge under Section 496 or 501 of the Act.

Section 609 of the Act provides that when determining the approved fee, the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation must take into account the following factors:

- a. the cost of the Council providing the service;
- b. the price suggested for that service by any relevant industry body or in any schedule of charges published, from time to time, by the Division of Local Government;
- c. the importance of the service to the community; and
- d. any factors specified in the regulations under the Act.

Credit card surcharge

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation imposes a Credit Card Surcharge on all payments made via credit card in accordance with Reform of Credit Card Schemes in Australia (iv) and Final Reforms and Regulation Impact Statement August 2002.

Private works

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation may carry out any kind of work that may lawfully be carried out. Private work will be carried out on the basis of a charge representing full cost recovery of the work carried out plus a margin for profit. The profit margin is dependent on and subject to market forces applying at the time.

Adopted Forward Financial Plan

The budget below was adopted at the 30 July 2021 meeting

NRJO BUDGET SUMMARY 2021/22

Income

Membership Fees	201,000
MyRoadInfo	33,725
LG Procurement Rebate	30,000
Interest	2,000

TOTAL Income

266,725

Expenses

Conferences, Events, Travel	12,250
Professional Development	14,250
Exec Officer - Salary/Oncosts/Recruit	93,318
Exec Officer - Computer	-
Exec Officer - Vehicle Allowance	8,580

Exec Officer - Support (RDA)	54,000
Committee Support	5,400
Chair Stipend	10,000
MyRoadInfo	29,300
Professional Fees – Audit	10,400
Media and Communications	5,200
Vendor Panel Access	63,250
Sundry Expenses	3,750
TOTAL Operational Expenses	309,698
Regional Projects	
Regional Projects Management	
Capacity Building # 1 (2020/21 funding)	100,200
Capacity Building # 2 (2021/22 funding)	150,000
Regional Business Power Infrastructure	265,537
Other Regional Priorities	158,200
Disaster Dashboards	52,800
TOTAL Project Expenses	726,737
NET MOVEMENT	(769,710)

Attachment 13: full working budget for financial year 2021-22 (included as separate document)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board adopt the Statement of Revenue Policy for 2021-22

7.10 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position for NoRJO as at 30 June 2021

DRAFT ONLY - UNAUDITED

	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	33,725
LG Procurement Rebate	10,600	37,386	37,388
Power Infrastructure Upgrade Project		-	-
Capacity Building	-	150,000	150,000
State Gov't Contribution	-	57,600	-
Sundry Income / Recharge Workshops		-	6,276
Interest	5,000	2,235	5,090
Total	210,800	441,746	361,079
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Bank Charges	-	40	-
Conferences, Events, Travel	12,250	2,089	22,715
Consultants (Economic Report)	-	500	
Professional Development	5,200	-	-
Exec Officer - Salary/Oncosts/Recruit	96,351	83,823	85,172
Exec Officer - Computer	3,000	-	-
Exec Officer - Vehicle Allowance	8,580	7,508	8,580
Exec Officer - Support (RDA)	54,000	54,000	54,600
Exec Officer - Office (Rous)	-	-	-
Chair Stipend	10,000	10,000	9,167
MyRoadInfo	29,300	24,072	28,031
Professional Fees – Audit	6,500	160	6,500
Media and Communications	5,200	-	-
Regional Projects - Capacity Building	-	49,800	-
Regional Projects - Other	550,537	4,800	214,895
Vendor Panel Access	77,500	58,363	65,375
Sundry Expenses	3,709	3,335	3,541
Total	862,127	298,490	498,576
		-	
Net Cash Movement	-651,327	143,256	-137,497
Retained Earnings - 1 July	996,259	996,259	1,133,756
Retained Earnings - 30 June	344,932	1,139,515	996,259
		-	

Balance Sheet

As of June 2021

Assets			
Cash			
Summerland Community First		\$118,388.86	
Summerland Saver		\$1,039,835.57	
Debit Card - Chair		\$1,543.87	
Debit Card - Exec Officer		\$2,110.82	
Total Cash			\$1,161,879.12
Debtors			
Trade Debtors		\$29,196.75	
Total Debtors			\$29,196.75
Total Assets			\$1,191,075.87
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors			
Trade Creditors	\$38,445.00		
Sundry Creditors/Accruals	\$12,230.23		
Total Creditors		\$50,675.23	
GST Liability			
GST paid	-\$4,575.24		
Total GST Liability		-\$4,575.24	
Payroll Liabilities			
PAYG	\$2,141.00		
Provision - Staff entitlements	\$3,319.56		
Total Payroll Liabilities		\$5,460.56	
Total Liabilities			\$51,560.55
Net Assets			\$1,139,515.32
Equity			
Retained Earnings		\$996,258.74	
Current Year Earnings		\$143,256.44	
Historical Balancing		\$0.14	
Total Equity			\$1,139,515.32

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Job Profit & Loss Statement

June 2021

PO Box 146
LISMORE NSW 2480

ABN: 68 587 813 167

Email: admin@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Account Name	Selected Period	Year To Date
A100	Operational expenses	
Income		
Membership	\$0.00	\$160,800.00
LG Procurement Rebate	\$0.00	\$37,386.00
Interest Received	\$165.18	\$2,235.28
Total Income	\$165.18	\$200,421.28
Expense		
Computer ISP and Registrations	\$120.08	\$1,686.78
Consultants	\$0.00	\$500.00
Phone charges	\$99.08	\$1,277.60
Stationery	\$0.00	\$43.26
Support services - Admin contr	\$4,500.00	\$54,000.00
Wages	\$7,211.53	\$66,901.02
Allowances	\$2,145.00	\$7,507.50
Superannuation	\$685.10	\$6,355.61
Provision for Staff Entitlemen	\$625.66	\$3,319.56
Recruitment	\$0.00	\$5,707.73
Travel expenses (non payroll)	\$0.00	\$901.59
Travel - Meals	\$0.00	\$7.73
Workers Comp Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,539.38
Bank charges	\$0.00	\$40.00
Audit Fees	\$0.00	\$160.00
Printing	\$0.00	\$80.00
Event Catering	\$236.36	\$394.76
Meeting Catering	\$0.00	\$338.68
Total Expense	\$15,622.81	\$150,761.20
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$15,457.63	\$49,660.08
A102	Chair costs	
Expense		
Postage	\$0.00	\$41.64
Stationery	\$0.00	\$205.86
Allowance-Chair Stipend	\$833.33	\$9,999.96
Travel expenses (non payroll)	\$0.00	\$142.82
Travel - Meals	\$0.00	\$303.88
Total Expense	\$833.33	\$10,694.16
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$833.33	-\$10,694.16
B105	Capacity Building	
Income		
Office of Local Government	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Total Income	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Job Profit & Loss Statement

June 2021

Account Name	Selected Period	Year To Date
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
B105a	Cap Bldg Waste Microindustries	
Expense		
Project Consultants	\$0.00	\$49,800.00
Total Expense	\$0.00	\$49,800.00
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$0.00	-\$49,800.00
B106	Disaster Dashboards	
Income		
State Govt Funding	\$0.00	\$57,600.00
Total Income	\$0.00	\$57,600.00
Expense		
Project Consultants	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
Total Expense	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$4,800.00	\$52,800.00
C101	Myroadinfo	
Income		
Myroadinfo	\$0.00	\$33,725.00
Total Income	\$0.00	\$33,725.00
Expense		
Myroadinfo costs	\$12,230.23	\$24,071.98
Total Expense	\$12,230.23	\$24,071.98
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$12,230.23	\$9,653.02
C102	Vendor Panel	
Expense		
Vendor Panel Licence Costs	\$25,650.00	\$58,362.50
Total Expense	\$25,650.00	\$58,362.50
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$25,650.00	-\$58,362.50

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the financial reports for period ending 30 June 2021 be accepted.

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

8 URGENT BUSINESS

9 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence of significance – Incoming

- Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government re Capacity Building Fund Stage II and contract
- James Griffin MP, parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans re review of Private Native Forest review

Correspondence of significance - Outgoing

- Letters to State members re Compliance Levy
- Letter of support – Kyogle Council application to Stronger Country Communities Fund
- Letter to Janelle Saffin re NRJO role in Watershed Initiative
- Letter of Welcome to Cr Lyon
- Letter of thanks to Auditor General for presentation to GMAC

[Attachment 14:](#) Letter from Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government re Capacity Building Fund Stage II

[Attachment 15:](#) James Griffin MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans re review of Private Native Forest review

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the correspondence report be noted

11 ATTACHMENTS

1. Correspondence from Minister Hancock re Capacity Building Program II
2. Correspondence to Janelle Saffin re Watershed Initiative
3. Minutes of RLE Meeting 20 May 2021
4. Minutes of RLE Economic and Workforce Development Subcommittee 10 June 2021
5. Minutes of RLE meeting Executive Communities & Service Delivery Subcommittee 17 June 2021
6. Minutes of Transition North Coast (TNC) Working Group Meeting 17 June 2021
7. Letters to local members re Compliance Levy
8. Briefing Paper from NRJO Housing Working Group
9. Minutes of JO Chairs Forum 26 May 2021
 - 9.1 Presentation – IPART rate peg review
 - 9.2 JO wins
 - 9.3 ARDT review
 - 9.4 OLG update
 - 9.5 Town Water Risk Reduction Program
10. 21 May 2021 - Letter to EPA Collaboration on 20yr Waste Strategy
11. 8 June 2021 – Letter to Ms Steph Cook MP, Member for Cootamundra on JO representation and ongoing support
12. 19 July 2021 – Letter to Minister Hancock regarding Mayoral representation post-elections
13. Budget working papers
14. Correspondence and contract – Capacity Building Fund Stage II
15. James Griffin MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans re review of Private Native Forest review



The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

Ref: A776217

Clr Danielle Mulholland
Chairperson
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
Email: danielle.mulholland@kyogle.nsw.gov.au
CC: execofficer@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

24 June 2021

Dear Clr Mulholland

Since becoming Minister for Local Government I have been working closely with Joint Organisations (JOs) to ensure the NSW Government best assists the network of JOs and their communities. I am committed to the ongoing success of JOs and will continue to ensure they deliver for our regions.

In 2019 the NSW Government established the *Joint Organisation Capacity Building Fund*. This fund has supported the ongoing sustainability of JOs with an initial \$1.95 million to assist each JO to build additional capacity and deliver their strategic plans.

A second round of the Fund is now available thanks to an additional \$1.95 million investment, and will provide JOs with additional financial assistance to further build capacity and demonstrate capability to work with State agencies, while delivering their strategic plans.

This means that an additional \$150,000 is now available to your JO to contribute towards a project or program designed to improve your JO's ongoing sustainability. This can be an existing or an entirely new project and must address one or more of the strategic priorities identified by the JO while delivering measurable outcomes towards its sustainability.

The New South Wales Government's Joint Organisation Capacity Building Fund combined with the initial seed funding provided to all Joint Organisations brings the total investment in our state's 13 JOs to \$8.2 million, and demonstrates our ongoing support for the program. Many Joint Organisations have secured NSW Government funds and grants in addition to this amount.

Funding guidelines and a funding agreement have been developed and are attached to this letter. The signed funding agreement is to be returned by **Friday 25 June 2021**. An action plan detailing the key delivery milestones, expected benefits and budget is required by **Monday 30 August 2021**.

I am looking forward to seeing the range of projects put forward in response to this funding and following progress. If you have any questions about the funding, please don't hesitate to contact your OLG Council Engagement Manager.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government



Ms Janelle Saffin, MP

Member for Lismore

Via email: lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au

22 June 2021

Dear Ms Saffin,

Further to your letter of March 18 relating to the potential role the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation could play in progressing the Watershed Initiative for the region.

The Watershed Initiative is a priority of the NRJO and we continue to be actively engaged in this space.

We have made representations to both the Deputy Premier, The Hon. John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Energy and the Environment, The Hon. Matt Kean MP on the project.

In May the Project Officer appointed by the Dept. Planning, Industry and Environment to the Richmond River Review, Catchment Governance and Waterway Health briefed the General Manager's Advisory Committee meeting on their new role.

Additionally, through our work within the Northern Rivers community, we met with the "River Crystal" project – a new group funded by businesses and local government entities to help farmers alter their practices to reduce their impact on the local river system.

The NRJO then coordinated a meeting between both parties which subsequently lead to the DPIE Project Officer attending a meeting convened by the River Crystal Project with Rous County Council, Lismore City Council, Byron Shire Council and Ozfish Unlimited. It is anticipated that this group will meet more regularly and could be expanded to include other relevant bodies.

Whilst this work is not directly addressing the intent of the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative, it supports the intent of the work in improving water quality.

The NRJO proposes that we continue to coordinate with these groups and relate their work back to the Watershed Initiative to seek both governmental support and identify potential funding streams.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Danielle", written over a white background.

Cr Danielle Mulholland
Chair

Cc: Cr Chris Cherry



NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION

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North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation Transition

North Coast Working Group

Meeting 6 - Wednesday, 9 June 2021 – Minutes

Details

Meeting: Transition North Coast (TNC)
Working Group Meeting 6

Location: Online (via Microsoft Teams) [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Date/time: Wednesday, 9 June 2021, 11:00pm – 12:30pm

Chairperson: Gabrielle Pietrini - Director North Coast B & C, DPIE

Minutes: John de Bruyn – Climate Preparedness CRANZE, DPIE

Attendees

Gabrielle Pietrini (Chair) - North Coast B & C, DPIE
 Carlie Boyd - Local Regional Planning DPIE
 Darren Boulet - Resilience NSW and Mid North Coast JO
 Graeme Moss - North Coast Local Land Services
 Kristy Swain - Dep of Regional NSW DRNSW
 Nicole Reeve - Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
 Zacc Bowen - Aboriginal Affairs
 Zarak Khan - Energy Consumer Programs DPIE
 John de Bruyn (Secretariat) - CRANZE DPIE

Apologies:

Nerida Buckley - CRANZE DPIE
 Craig Diss - Planning and Assessment DPIE
 Bob Putnam - EES DPIE
 Selena Stillman - Dep of Primary Industries
 Rik Whitehead - Dep of Regional NSW (DRNSW)
 Claude McDermott - Aboriginal Affairs
 Henry Fenner - Dep of Regional NSW (DRNSW)
 Melissa Watkins - Port Macquarie Hasting Council
 Catherine Kerr - CRANZE DPIE

Minutes

No.	Item	Chair Notes
1	Acknowledgement of country Agenda & Apologies	Gabrielle Pietrini opened meeting with an Acknowledgement of country. Agenda as circulated prior to meeting.
2	Previous Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of actions & approval of previous minutes 	<p>John de Bruyn confirmed actions on track and chair noted that previous minutes are approved for the record.</p> <p>Actions from previous minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mal to prepare a report back to the group discussing the community of practice for the North Coast and the Professional Officers Group (LGNSW). Mal to work with Darren regarding a preparedness LG CoP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mal Robertson met with Darren to discuss the proposed Preparedness CoP for councils in the Mid North Coast. It was decided this would be separate to the TNC group. CRANZE have partnered with LGNSW to set up a Climate Action Professional Officers Group. This group has representatives from councils from the North Coast region. Based on the above there is already a lot of support for Councils through CoP's and the POG support climate change adaptation and preparedness and therefore setting up another CoP for this region maybe duplicating efforts. Henry to send RLE subcommittee structure to the group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information circulated to working group on 25 May –Henry requested that this be an internal document only and not for public distribution. Henry to send Nicole the Renewable Energy Blueprint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete

North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation Transition North Coast Working Group

Meeting 6 - Wednesday, 9 June 2021 – Minutes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mal to send the Transition Hunter Central Coast Terms of reference to the group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Circulated by Mal R with minutes</i> • Working group to discuss Terms of Reference at the next meeting on preferred direction for the group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To be discussed at this meeting</i>
3	Transition North Coast project status updates	<p>Project contacts provided updates as required prior to meeting. Notes below are compiled prior to meeting for general information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross dependency risk analysis of critical infrastructure” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ XDI NSW project is being managed by CRANZE DPIE and remains on track ○ For agency engagement with project contact Chris Weston: Christopher.Weston@environment.nsw.gov.au • Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darren Boulet provided notes further to previous project updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disaster Dashboards – Funded and available to 26 councils in the RDPO regions. Currently 16 publicly launched. Other Councils outside the regions such as Armidale have recently launched with Byron Bay and Hawkesbury Councils releasing similar initiatives using a different developer. 2. Community Hazard Profiles - templates are available, still awaiting SES approval for storm data. 3. Get Ready Program - All councils in the RDPO program are registered with Get Ready 4. The Local Government Emergency Management Enhancement Group (LEMEG) – No update 5. Emergency Management Training - calendar available at https://emtraining.nsw.gov.au/courses-all/ post June Calendar coming soon. 6. Community Emergency Planning Tool – Red Cross RediCommunities: Community-Led Resilience for Emergencies A guide & toolkit for communities to be promoted • One Map: Hazard Data & Resilience Planning for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NOTE: Sally Anderson was wrongly nominated as the project contact in the previous project updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigations of similar work by DPIE Resilience Planning team have not led to any progress and it is unlikely that they will pursue, as they are focused on regional plan reviews and Design and place SEPP legislation. ○ Project appears to have stalled after some initial scoping by Rebecca Carpenter. • Northern Rivers 100% renewable energy transition to 2050 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A scope for the development of the “Northern Rivers Renewable Energy Investment Prospectus” has been drafted with the assistance of each NRJO Council and is currently being put to market. A deadline of September 30 has been set for the completion of the project. • Climate Resilient energy infrastructure and pricing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NA • Resilient business management skills in a changing climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NA

North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation Transition North Coast Working Group

Meeting 6 - Wednesday, 9 June 2021 – Minutes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing the capacity of Richmond and Clarence floodplain farmers to deal with climate risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NA • My Place: Promoting an environmental and sustainable community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NA • The North Coast – a Sustainable Events Destination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NA <p>Darren Boulet also provided a verbal update on the recent successful grant applications from Mid North Coast, Hunter and Canberra region JOs about sourcing and running a community Simtable program where communities can undertake Flood or Fire simulation exercises to assist with planning and awareness. BCRR funding for portable simtable to run fire and flood simulations. Sharing arrangement to be determined but will lead to good training and risk awareness for natural hazards. Group noted recruitment for project officer level roles with Resilience NSW agency will lead to increased agency presence in the regions.</p>
4	<p>Transition Hunter Central Coast Working Group model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation outlining objectives and process 	<p>John de Bruyn presented an overview of the Transition Hunter & Central Coast (THCC) Working Group and the brief adaptation strategy being developed for reporting to the Hunter and Central Coast (HCC) RLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HCC ERA project was completed one full year after the North Coast ERA following the same format, and producing 9 transition systems • Along with the endorsement of the HCC ERA report, a Transition HCC working group was set up following the example of the Transition NC working group. • Endorsement of the THCC WG by the HCC RLE included a proposal to identify existing initiatives, gaps and opportunities to prioritise transition in the region • The THCC working group agreed to develop a “Brief Adaptation Strategy” for presentation to the RLE in 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey of current of initiatives has been completed • The gaps analysis his in DRAFT, and • 2 workshops are to be held in June. <p>NOTE: The slides of the presentation will be included with the minutes for group information and reference.</p>
5	<p>2021/22 work program and strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection – group purpose and operating environment • Discussion – 2021/22 work program 	<p>Gabrielle Pietrini introduced the opportunity for group to reflect on group purpose and operating environment, and if there is a need to change the group operation or priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current group has a NERA project focus being to “... <i>to drive coordination, collaboration and implementation of North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation projects</i> ...” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Terms of Reference do have broader agenda for region: “<i>To ensure a collaborative and complementary approach to minimising impacts of climate change on local communities in the North Coast.</i>” • The existing operating environment currently has secretariat support from a CRANZE Project Officer. Malcolm Robertson’s role will be replaced but may not be located in the North Coast again, and John de Bruyn (Newcastle based) will remain acting secretariat for the time being. • There is no sunset clause in the TNC ToR but CRANZE ends the currently funded programs at the end of the next financial year, and this has raised question of if/how the group will continue after that date.

North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation Transition North Coast Working Group



Meeting 6 - Wednesday, 9 June 2021 – Minutes

- Reporting to the RLE has changed from being through the Environment and Economy Subcommittee to the newly formed Regional Recovery and Resilience (RRR) Subcommittee.

Group agreed that the TNC group is the champion for the climate adaptation work in the region and awareness of work is still important. It was noted that attendance at previous TNC meeting has not been good, and that the new reporting through the RRR Subcommittee provides new opportunities to elevate the issues withing government. Chair noted that we should be seeking the best governance for transition planning in the North Coast.

Group noted that there is a requirement to report to the RLE “every 6 months” in the group Terms of Reference.

Group agreed that a mapping exercise similar to the HCC region would be useful, but that resourcing the work is a challenge.

Chair proposed to determine a recommendation to the RRR subcommittee that the TNC group are the champions of the work and that works (such as a mapping exercise or strategy) is needed to progress resilience to climate change in the region.

North Coast RRR Terms of Reference were tabled for discussion, and the Group noted that there is no mention of climate change throughout. The RRR is established “*to bring together key local stakeholders to oversee recovery activities on the North Coast, related to disasters including Bushfire and COVID-19.*”

Group agreed to report to the RRR (and then the RLE) that resourcing to TNC WG has changed and for the coming year we will operate as a community of practice and to report on projects as they progress.

Group noted that the ability to influence RRR ToR is limited, but there are opportunities to use the language of resilience to embed adaptation and transition in the mandate.

Group noted that the equivalent RRR subcommittees are focused on “recovery” to a perceived business-as-usual rather that climate change needs and that is different to the ERA conclusions.

Chair proposed that individuals look at potential actions ahead of next meeting and continue the discussion to determine way forward.

6	Other business	None
9	Meeting Close	Chair closed meeting at 2:12 pm Next meeting: Wednesday 25 th August TBC

Actions Arising	Raised	Due	Status
All members to consider group role ahead of next meeting to continue the discussion to determine way forward.	9 Jun	Next Meeting	
Darren to send to information on Simtables to the NRJO	9 Jun		
John to send ACV model to Zacc	9 Jun		complete
John to brief Carlie on ERA as able	9 Jun		

allow Clare some time to settle into the CEO position and will progress in a supportive manner.

6. **Other Business**

Nil

7. **Next meeting** - 29 July 2021



Mr Chris Gulaptis, MP

Member for Clarence

Via email: clarence@parliament.nsw.gov.au

19 May 2021

Dear Mr Gulaptis,

On behalf of the Councils of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) I am writing to raise an important matter for your consideration.

In recent years, most Northern Rivers Councils have experienced a major increase in the demands and expectations of its communities to carry out comprehensive compliance and enforcement services among its diverse planning, construction and environmental regulatory functions. The demand for such services is likely to increase further as a result of the State Government's new emerging planning legislation and policy.

On 29 March 2021 the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPI&E) updated their website with a notice that the NSW Government was undertaking a review of compliance levies. The notice and subsequent discussion with the Department has revealed 3 main effects of the review:

1. From 1 July 2021 Council's will not be able to charge compliance levies;
2. From 1 July 2021 the EP&A Regulation will include a new levy structure to recoup some costs of Councils having to undertake compliance investigation on Complying Development breaches where Council was not the certifying authority; and
3. The Department will review compliance cost notices which are currently set at \$1000 for any costs and expenses relating to investigating an Order and \$500 for preparing and serving the notice to give an Order.

For such changes to have effect from 1 July 2021 it has major implications for Council draft budgets and fees and charges which are currently being advanced for public exhibition prior to adoption to commence for the 2021/2022 financial year.

The NRJO recently met and resolved to seek your support to request the deferral of the proposed changes to compliance levies and fees, to allow for more detailed consultation with NSW Councils, in order to provide more time to consider and plan for any resulting impacts on the funding of essential planning, certification and environmental compliance services.

"On 13 May 2021, directly affected Councils received further advice from the DPI&E stating that:

As at 1 July 2021

- *Regulation changes to prohibit compliance levies on DAs for all councils.*



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- *A six-month transition period will be provided to allow councils that already charge compliance levies on DAs to continue doing so until 31 December 2021.*

As at 1 September 2021

- *The new compliance cost notice provisions come into effect for all councils.*
- *The new complying development levy will come into effect for all councils.*

As at 1 January 2022

- *Compliance levies on DAs are no longer able to be charged by any council.*

*This means that as a council that has been charging a compliance levy on DAs, your council can continue to charge a levy on DAs **until the end of 2021.***

Whilst the six month extension for Councils to retain existing compliance levies is of some benefit, it does not address the broader resourcing gap of Councils undertaking significant compliance investigations of unauthorized development, building and land use activities outside of the very narrow band of activities of the Department's new compliance cost notice and complying development levy applies to. Given the longstanding, historical State Government policies of capping Council application fees and rates, I call upon your support to seek an urgent review by IPART of the real costs recovery mechanisms that should be made available to NSW Councils to continue their important roles in development assessment and compliance in an effective, and financially responsible manner.

Yours sincerely



Danielle Mulholland

Chair

NSW Compliance Levies & Funding Review

This submission has been prepared with the joint input of the Northern Rivers Council's Planners Group.

On 29 March 2021 the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment updated their website with a notice that the NSW Government was undertaking a review of compliance levies. The notice and subsequent discussion with the Department has revealed 3 main effects of the review:

1. From 1 July 2021 Council's will not be able to charge compliance levies;
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3. The Department will review compliance cost notices which are currently set at \$1000 for any costs and expenses relating to investigating an Order and \$500 for preparing and serving the notice to give an Order.

The website and the associated frequently asked questions paper intertwine references to Development Applications, Complying Development Certificates and a new Compliance Cost Notice. To further clarify the intent of the notice, Tweed Shire Council staff contacted the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment and obtained the following additional verbal information:

- Q. What are you proposing to end on 1 July 2021 and why? And what changes will that mean for the Local Government Act, especially section 608?
- A. *The Minister is proposing to stop any ability that Councils have to impose compliance levies on DA's. This will be achieved by the Minister setting a \$0 fee for DA Compliance under the EP&A Act 1979 and therefore s608 of the Local Government Act can only be used if no other fee exists in another Act. There will be a new \$0 fee under EP&A Regulation and therefore Council's **may** no longer be able to attach an environmental enforcement levy to DA's and **possibly** no longer able to attach an Information and Technology State Portal Service Charge Service to DA's .*
- Q. How do you propose to levy CDC Compliance? For example charging the complainant or the landowner? Who gets charged when?
- A. *For CDC's there will be a new compliance levy under the EP&A Regulation. How this is intended to be charged is yet to be determined.*

In addition for legitimate DA complaints that result in a Notice there will be a Compliance Cost Regime where Councils can try to recoup some of the costs associated with the issuing of the Notice. Who gets charged when has yet to be worked out and the Departments Team will be looking at that in the coming weeks. It will never be full cost recovery and that is not the intent.

For compliance matters that don't result in a Notice there is no cost recovery option.

Following historical legal advice, Tweed Shire Council introduced a miscellaneous fee called the Environmental Enforcement Levy (EEL) under Section 608 of the Local Government Act 1993. The charge has

NSW Compliance Levies & Funding Review

consistently been set at 0.1% of the total cost of a DA. This has generated sufficient income to permanently fund two of the current 4 Compliance officers for over 10 years.

Name	Year 19/20 Fee (incl. GST)	Year 20/21 Fee (excl. GST)	Year 20/21 GST	Year 20/21 Fee (incl. GST)
Planning & Regulation Services				
Development Application Fees				
Environmental Enforcement Levy				0.1% of the contract price of a development up to \$2M. The charge does not increase for development over \$2M. i.e. Maximum charge \$2,000 (s608 LGA 1993)

If the Minister introduces a \$0 fee for DA Compliance under the EP&A Regulation this may switch off the ability to use Section 608 of the Local Government Act and could affect Council's ability to handle the large volume of compliance matters if Tweed Shire Council cannot find funding for two existing permanent employees.

With an inability to increase ordinary rates or levy a charge, it is probable that those two positions will be made redundant and Council will need to scale back its response to compliance by up to 50%. This in turn is likely to result in more referrals of matters to State Agencies such as DPIE, EPA, Crown Land, DPI (Ag), Fisheries, LLS, or the local State Members of Parliament.

Byron Shire Council introduced an Environmental Enforcement Levy (EEL) under Section 608 of the Local Government Act 1993 in 2009/10. The charge has consistently been set at 0.1% of the total cost of a DA.

This has generated sufficient income to fund

- two full time permanent staff (and the occasional specialist consultant/s),
- assist with legal fees associated with enforcement, and
- services related to the management of holiday letting related land-use complaints.

In 2020 Council received approximately 1,000 complaints related to building and development works. If the Minister introduces a \$0 fee for DA Compliance under the EP&A Regulation this may switch off the ability to use Section 608 of the Local Government Act and will affect Council's ability to handle the large volume of compliance matters with a reduced team of enforcement officers. Add to this the introduction of regulations relating to short-term holiday accommodation, Council's ability to manage enforcement in the Byron Shire will be drastically compromised

Through consultation with colleagues, it is evident that various Northern Rivers Councils, and other Councils throughout the State, also rely on a similar levy or charge to assist the funding of their compliance services.

The Northern Rivers Council's Planners Group are extremely disappointed that such an announcement has been made with only targeted consultation and little notice, with limited rationale as evidence for the changes.

NSW Compliance Levies & Funding Review

For such changes to have effect from 1 July 2021 it has major implications for Council draft budgets and fees and charges which are currently being advanced for public exhibition prior to adoption to commence for the 2021/2022 financial year.

In recent years, most Northern Rivers Councils have experienced a major increase in the demands and expectations of its communities to carry out comprehensive compliance and enforcement services among its diverse planning, construction and environmental regulatory functions.

The demand for such services is likely to increase further as a result of the State Government's new emerging planning legislation and policy, relating to Short Term Rental Accommodation, Agritourism and increased Exempt and Complying Development provisions for Commercial and Industrial Development. New building certification legislation will also generate increased community expectations for Council oversight.

The Northern Rivers Council's Planners Group therefore seeks the support of the General Managers Group and the Board of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation to advocate to the NSW State Government to withdraw the proposed changes until proper consultation and sufficient notice is given to enable Councils to be better fund essential environmental compliance matters.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation endorse that a submission based on this report be made to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Rob Stokes, seeking the deferral of the proposed changes to compliance levies and fees, to allow for more detailed consultation with NSW Councils, in order to provide more time to consider and plan for any resulting impacts on the funding of essential planning, certification and environmental compliance services.

UPDATED INFORMATION FOLLOWING NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2021

Following the 7 May 2021 Meeting, on 13 May 2021, directly affected Councils received further advice from the DPI&E stating that:

"As at 1 July 2021

- *Regulation changes to prohibit compliance levies on DAs for all councils.*
- *A six-month transition period will be provided to allow councils that already charge compliance levies on DAs to continue doing so until 31 December 2021.*

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The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC
Parliamentary Secretary for Energy and the Arts
Via email: ben.franklin@parliament.nsw.gov.au

19 May 2021

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Yours sincerely



Danielle Mulholland

Chair

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The demand for such services is likely to increase further as a result of the State Government's new emerging planning legislation and policy, relating to Short Term Rental Accommodation, Agritourism and increased Exempt and Complying Development provisions for Commercial and Industrial Development. New building certification legislation will also generate increased community expectations for Council oversight.

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Ms Janelle Saffin, MP

Member for Lismore

Via email: lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au

19 May 2021

Dear Ms Saffin,

On behalf of the Councils of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) I am writing to raise an important matter for your consideration.

In recent years, most Northern Rivers Councils have experienced a major increase in the demands and expectations of its communities to carry out comprehensive compliance and enforcement services among its diverse planning, construction and environmental regulatory functions. The demand for such services is likely to increase further as a result of the State Government's new emerging planning legislation and policy.

On 29 March 2021 the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPI&E) updated their website with a notice that the NSW Government was undertaking a review of compliance levies. The notice and subsequent discussion with the Department has revealed 3 main effects of the review:

1. From 1 July 2021 Council's will not be able to charge compliance levies;
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Ms Tamara Smith, MP

Member for Ballina

Via email: ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au

19 May 2021

Dear Ms Smith,

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Briefing Note: Northern Rivers JO Board

25 July 2021

Background

The Northern Rivers Housing Working Group (HWG) held a workshop on 21 July 2021.

Attendees:

Name	Council/Organisation
Natalie Hancock	Byron Shire Council
Shannon Burt	Byron Shire Council
Sam Tarrant	Byron Shire Council
Tara McGready	Ballina Shire Council
Simon Scott	Ballina Shire Council
Eber Butron	Lismore City Council
Stuart Russell	Tweed Shire Council
Chris White	Kyogle Shire Council apologies
Nicole Reeve	NRJO executive
Tony McAteer	Richmond Valley Council

Relevant to the NRJO the HWG discussed:

- Crisis housing submissions - the Committee on Community Services inquiry into options to improve access to existing and alternate accommodation to address the social housing shortage. [The terms of reference for the inquiry can be found [here](#) / information about the inquiry can be found on the Committee's [website](#).]
- Possible priorities/ solutions actions to raise in a joint submission to the Regional Housing Taskforce.

Key dates:

- Crisis housing submission due 13 August.
- Regional Housing Taskforce submission due Friday 27 August 2021

‘Crisis housing’ submissions

Ballina and Byron SC are intending to lodge a submission.

The HWG noted that the provision of crisis housing and social housing are the responsibility of the State and Federal Governments. Notwithstanding, in the current housing crisis LGAs are becoming increasingly involved due to the lack of concrete action by State and Federal Governments.

The key issues relating to crisis accommodation include:

- increased demands for homelessness services and community members unable to find appropriate housing,
- the temporary nature of crisis accommodation support (typically 30 days) irrespective of ongoing need,
- lack of supply of appropriate crisis accommodation
- lack of adequate transitional housing
- lack of long-term appropriate affordable rental housing (particularly accessible, two-bedroom units)
- lack of unconstrained and serviceable land for additional temporary housing
- lack of funding support for LGAs who are attempting to respond to the issue.

Councils need to be careful expanding services to areas traditionally undertaken by State and/or Federal Governments. The financial capacity of local government to deliver extra services is extremely limited, especially when State and/or Federal Governments are unable or unwilling to deliver these services effectively with their greater financial resources.

Some councils are exploring the potential to provide additional temporary housing through ‘tiny home’ villages/relocatable home parks and caravan parks, however:

- appropriate unconstrained and well-serviced sites are inherently in short supply
- current planning system definitions and permissibility are often ill-suited leading to delays and planning impediments
- difficulties in ensuring such facilities are temporary in nature and do not become a long-term (sub-optimal) “solution”
- the provision of such housing solutions needs to be provided with appropriate support services, which State and Federal Government appear reluctant to provide
- private sector (profit driven) models have the potential to further reinforce social disadvantage and lead to exploitation of residents for regulatory arbitrage (to gain planning outcomes).

Consequently, an alternative temporary housing model that would be facilitated and managed by local government and funded and supported by State Government should be investigated.

Regional Housing Taskforce

Scope:

The Taskforce will investigate planning barriers and develop recommendations to address regional housing issues with a focus on:

- *The planning system and other government levers to stimulate housing supply and address housing needs*
- *Removing impediments within the planning system to the delivery of affordable housing types and housing generally*
- *Identifying mechanisms within the planning system to facilitate and drive the delivery of housing matched to community needs*

The terms of reference NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment publication (amazonaws.com)

Submission messages

1. The factors contributing to the Northern Rivers, and essentially Australian wide housing crisis extends well outside issues with the planning system and local government. To continue with an approach targeted at peripherally tweaking the planning system will NOT resolve the housing crisis.
2. Despite the common rhetorical explanation of high house prices being a simple function of lack of housing supply, the drivers of the current housing situation are more complex and reach far beyond the sphere of local government.

Taking a deeper view, research undertaken by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) points to changes in the 'institutional framework' for housing in Australia, which has entrenched a policy framework that appears unable to address housing affordability concerns in a significant way.

These 'institutional factors' include:

- Labour market deregulation has resulted in increases in insecure work through casualisation and wage stagnation making home purchase out of reach of some workers
- Increased workforce participation has increased the purchasing power of two income households, thus raising the minimum income required to compete in the housing market
- Financial sector deregulation that has led to housing sector "financialisation" whereby society has increasingly come to see 'housing more as investment vehicle than shelter
- The emergence of a policy environment that is not conducive to broad based home ownership, with the development of powerful lobby groups representing vested interests which work to protect policies that advantage housing investment over home ownership (such as the significant tax advantages provided for housing investors over homeowners).

These institutional factors need to be addressed to realistically respond to the affordable housing crisis. Focusing on planning system changes alone risks further reinforcing the fundamental problems.

3. Importantly, the financialisation of housing markets combined with a social and economic architecture that encourages property speculation as the pathway to personal wealth (supported through taxation settings, bank lending standards and Government programs) is the key driving factor that needs to be redressed by Government.
4. Recent (and foreshadowed) changes to the developer contribution system are exacerbating rather than helping the situation. Whilst these changes support the development sector (which arguably does not need this support given strong profitability), they undermine the financial capacity of local government to deliver necessary infrastructure and thereby run the risk of compromising efficient and timely development.

Arguments that developer contributions somehow push up house prices bear no relationship to reality and need to be strongly repudiated.

5. The current process for enabling an Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme is onerous on local government and lacks a clear commitment to achieving affordable housing outcomes.

A case in example is Byron SC progression with an AHCS through the state government. Council has pursued its suite of housing initiatives against the backdrop of State planning legislation, the North Coast Regional Plan, and published DPIE guidelines for preparation of an AHCS. In general, the requirements of Council and the corresponding DPIE assessment pathways are clearly articulated in published documents. Departing from this framework the Northern Regional Office has refused Gateway assessment of the AHCS until after the Byron Residential Strategy has been finalised.

6. The core responsibility for providing affordable and social housing is with the State and Federal government and not individual local councils.
7. The Northern Rivers, whilst regional is on the perimeter of SEQ urban area. The QLD Pacific Motorway is expanding to be 3 lanes all the way to Tweed Heads. This will likely mean increased demand for people to live, work and travel to the Northern Rivers Region. The Taskforce should meet with the Border Commissioner to better align housing and infrastructure deliver outcomes between states.
8. Respecting that the Taskforce is limited to 'planning barriers' the HWG puts forward 'in draft' key recommendations within the context of the planning system.

Note: Actions referenced below are as identified in the NSW Housing Strategy Action Plan 2021 -22. [NSW-Housing-2021-22-Action-Plan-mayv2-2021.pdf](#)

Recommendation 1: Pause NR implementation of STRA SEPP - High priority & immediate

The NSW Government should pause the introduction of the SEPP for the NR until a social impact assessment of Short-Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) has been undertaken, particularly in high tourism coastal regions.

A regional pilot process is recommended to establish a bespoke planning STRA response for the NR prior to the introduction of the SEPP. Government should work with the HWG to set a framework that establishes a sustainable and healthy (economic and social) balance between facilitating some NR housing stock to be used for STRA (non- hosted) and ensuring that there is available and secure long term private rental, particularly affordable rental housing.

It is noted that Action set 2.3 is seeking to review occupancy laws – this information would also be of assistance to this action as it may identify where the occupancy laws could be strengthened to better protect tenants seeking a long term tenancy.

Recommendation 2: Utilise govt land, surplus buildings and modernise govt housing stock - High Priority over next 6 -12 months

The NSW Government should commit to the delivery of additional affordable housing on State Government and Crown Land. As part of delivery the NSW Housing Strategy Actions 1.3.2, 3.1.1 & 3.13 regarding the Land and Housing Corporation (LHC) portfolio review.

Step 1: Prioritise the register of NSW govt land in the NR and include Land & Housing Corp land that could be redeveloped

Step 2: Engage with HWG to assess this register to determine the best fit housing type and ways to expedited suitable NR govt land into social, affordable or community housing

Step 3: Ensure if LHC land is suitable for redevelopment that a priority pilot project occurs in the NRs

Step 4: Support and encourage the Federal Government's prompt introduction of the CHP funding mechanism for affordable housing projects outlined in the paper titled 'Delivering More Affordable Housing: An Innovative Solution' dated May 2021.

Recommendation 3: NR Homelessness and Crisis Housing Action Plan

3 a) Provide NR Councils and CHP with information on NSW homelessness program & how it will be implemented in the NR - High to Medium Priority in next 6 months

The NSW Housing Strategy Action Plan 2021-22 Action 2.6.2 is to partner with LG to trial way to facilitate temporary supportive accommodation options for people experiencing homelessness. Action 3.3.2 seeks to reduce homelessness in the state by 50% by 2025. What does this mean for the NR? – Byron Shire recording 198 rough sleepers, is second only to the City of Sydney council area with 272 in terms of problem areas.

3b) Identify and fund utilisation of other private buildings - High Priority in next 6 months

This could involve tapping into the private market by assisting the HWG/CHP in an EOI to identify & register private market land/dwellings/other buildings where NSW govt /CHP could take a head lease to provide temporary & social housing including as a stop gap housing whilst LHC sites are being redeveloped.

As a case in example Tweed Shire Council is considering motels - however the Council would not have the funds to purchase or take a long- term lease on these properties. However, a deliver program and funds could be provided by the NSW government.

Would be helpful to have a fast-track affordable housing pathway for councils and community housing providers.

Point of note: anecdotal employers making their own homes available to workers – need to ensure that this does not culminate in fringe benefit tax issues for such employers/ees.

Recommendation 4: Support current LGA housing initiatives - High Priority & Immediate

As part of delivery as part of NSW Housing Strategy Action 5.1.3 supporting the use of under-utilised operational land by assisting in the progression of:

- Byron SC Lot 22 planning proposal
- Byron SC Tiny house planning proposal

This includes fast tracking assessment process and where appropriate infrastructure delivery funding.

Recommendation 5: Review the AHCS template appropriateness for regions - High to Medium Priority in next 12 months

Undertake a review in consultation with the HWG of the appropriateness of the current SEPP 70 AHCS template (including means to seek a contribution) in relation to the NR to support delivery of Action 5.2.2 on AHCSs. Furthermore, support progression of the Byron SC Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme as a pilot case for other regional councils.

Recommendation 6: A program to deliver the full spectrum of housing in the Northern Rivers as part of NCRP review - High to Medium Priority in next 12 months

The North Coast Regional Plan 2036 is under review. The world has moved on since the adoption of this plan – including growth of STRA, increasing use of homes as investment rather than shelter and covid changing work patterns and access to housing etc. The next RP needs to deliver a more detailed analysis, projection, and range of housing target scenarios. Need to ensure the review entails funding and work to unify Northern Rivers data and analysis information on housing including:

The work, to be undertaken in unison with the HWG and local stakeholders who provide and manage residential land and housing, should include the following:

- Quantify the pattern of dwelling use in the NR.
- Quantify the profile of current and project housing requirements across the NR using the NSW HS spectrum.
- Relate these aspects to identify where there are:
 - Shortfalls
 - Oversupply
 - Mismatch of residents to housing types
- Within the subsets of the housing spectrum determine options for a housing mix (detached/multi-dwelling etc) etc to set targets by location – short term – long term.
- Based on the issues/drivers/ emerging solutions determine the best mechanism to deliver the NSW Housing Strategy' spectrum of housing'. This not to be limited to planning system solutions.

The NSW Housing Strategy spectrum of housing is articulated at the end of this briefing note:

Recommendation 7: Appraise the impact of land banking and identify options to address - High to Medium Priority in next 12 months

Not an action identified in the NSW HS Action plan however a significant issue for private land supply in the NR – particularly Tweed and Ballina Shire.

Preliminary suggested measures to address by the HWG include:

- If development delays are due to lack of infrastructure funding, the NSW Government could provide the upfront capital to deliver the infrastructure with the return on their investment being the provision of affordable housing. HWG suggests (subject to viability) the application of 20% of development yield to be allocated to affordable housing in such circumstances.
- Where land banking is not caused by infrastructure funding or planning delays, Government should enable Councils to apply higher Council rate charges on vacant residential land. This would discourage land banking and the additional funds raised could be directed to helping fund affordable housing projects.
- Alternatively, Government could establish a sunset clause on vacant land requiring development to proceed in a timely manner. Where the land development does not meet the set timeframe; the land would revert to rural zoning. This would encourage developers to bring residential lots to the market. Typically, however, strategic urban development sites are limited due to environmental and infrastructure constraints. Therefore, where the private sector is inhibiting the timely development of land, Government could strengthen compulsory acquisition powers to enable local government or Landcom to purchase such sites and proceed with development. As the main risks associated with greenfield development are regulatory and finance-related, these could be readily managed by Government. Potential conflict of interest issues could be adequately addressed by the establishment of appropriate governance arrangements.

Currently, market-based incentives are counterproductive to delivering affordable housing outcomes in greenfield development areas. These perverse market incentives are further exacerbated as land prices rise. The fact that local housing supply is a functional oligopoly supports the argument for increased government intervention to address such market failure.

Recommendation 8: Local involvement in housing design guides and delivery of case studies - Longer term

As part of the delivery of NSW Housing Strategy Action set 2.5. – Adaptable housing and developing a unified housing design guide are to be developed. Action 4.4.1 entails developing & release case studies to promote diverse housing that needs the needs of all cohorts.

The NSW Government should work with HWG to include a subtropical and NR design response and case studies for reasons including:

- Increase the acceptance of medium density development, as some community sectors remain resistant to housing other than the detached house and raising issue with character, density, building height and parking.
- The climate changes in this region may warrant a different design response

- Need to engage with the insurance sector (insurance is a growing housing cost)
- Opportunity to look a new means of infrastructure provision to reduce on-going household costs
- Improve acceptance of medium density development by industry – the local housing development sector tends towards the low-risk approach of providing what the market traditionally has demanded (single detached housing) rather than catering to growing demands for smaller dwelling options. Regionally appropriate exemplars are needed to encourage industry to shift towards providing a more diverse housing stock.

Recommendation 9: Develop a tenant right to buy model and terms - Longer term

Delivery as part of NSW Housing Strategy Action 3.2.1 & 3.6.4 support a model to enable expand outside the LH Corp. sale to tenant policy to other assisted renters to buy in NR LGA led projects. Such a model should include finance and delivery mechanisms and be supported by the ongoing development of affordable housing projects to secure a growing supply of affordable rental housing.

Recommendation 10: Review of the balance between Significant farmland and urban requirements - Medium term

The presence of State and Regional Farmland on the North Coast is currently presented as an absolute constraint to urban development, by virtue of a Section 9.2 Ministerial Direction on plan making. Due to the presence of other environmental constraints such as flooding, steep slopes, ecology and bushfire future housing development opportunities within the region will become significantly limited into the future.

The Department of Primary Industries and Department of Planning should be encouraged, therefore, to develop a clear and balanced approach on the transition of Significant Farmland to urban purposes, at a regional level, to support economic development and housing opportunities into the future. Such transition should only be accommodated where justified by employment and/or social needs.

Table 1: NSW housing Strategy 2041 – Action Plan 2021 -22 Housing spectrum in relation to the planning system

Housing types by resident need	Explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relationship to the ‘planning system’ - Key responsibility to deliver and or support
Crisis housing	Emergency temporary accommodation factors such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * domestic or family violence situation * has custody of children & homeless * natural disasters ¹. 	<p>Delivery largely outside the planning system</p> <p>NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)</p>
Social housing	Social housing is secure and affordable rental housing for people on <u>low incomes</u> with housing assistance needs. It includes public, community and Aboriginal housing. ¹ .	<p>Delivery largely outside the planning system</p> <p>Fed: National rental assistance</p> <p>State: NSW Govt FACs</p>
Affordable rental housing	Affordable housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households and priced so that these households are also able to meet other basic living costs such as food, clothing, transport, medical care and education. ¹ .	<p>Fed: National rental assistance</p> <p>State: NSW Govt FACs</p> <p>Private rental where the tenant’s rent is subsidised</p>
Private rental	<p>Rental accommodation in the private market even if this rent is subsidised or partly refunded.</p> <p>Historical role as a transitional housing sector for households moving into home ownership or social housing to a long-term housing sector for a significant number of Australian households</p>	<p>Delivery effected by planning system – SEPP enabling STRA</p> <p>Private rental market - in the NSW, most private sector tenancies are regulated by the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 (NSW).</p>
Supported home ownership	A type of home ownership that can take a variety of forms and largely requires innovative financing arrangements to support the buyer to enter the market. Includes (but are not limited to) shared equity arrangements, rent-to-buy models, and co-living arrangements.	<p>Delivery largely outside the planning system</p>

Housing types by resident need	Explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relationship to the ‘planning system’ - Key responsibility to deliver and or support
		The equity partner assists by sharing ownership, usually up to 30% of the property.
Homeownership	Households who own the property in which they usually reside and have either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - owner with mortgage - owner without mortgage 	Delivery effected by planning system
Specialist housing	Accommodation designed for unique needs such as housing for people with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disability (including group homes) - older people (such as residential care units) 	Delivery effected by planning system under SEPP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vanlife (emerging new form not listed but suggest could fit this category) 	Delivery effected by planning system under SEPP

Notes:

1. [SAHF Frequently Asked Questions | Family & Community Services \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-community-services)

How is affordable housing different to social housing?

Affordable housing is not the same as social housing. Affordable housing is open to a broader range of household incomes than social housing. Households do not have to be eligible for social housing to apply for affordable housing, though people who are eligible for social housing may also be eligible for affordable housing properties. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and State Environmental Planning Policy No 70—Affordable Housing (Revised Schemes): sets

- very low – 50% of median income
- low – 50%–80% of median income
- moderate – 80%–120% median income.

NSW-Housing-2021-22-Action-Plan-mayv2-2021.pdf

NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

CHAIRS MEETING

AGENDA

THURSDAY 27 May 2021

1.00p.m.- 3.30p.m.

To [Join the using Webex go to page 2 for link:](#)



AGENDA

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Link to Webex

Join from the meeting link

<https://nswph.webex.com/nswph/j.php?MTID=m4ac8b64c4b43dbfc57488352717d6bd3>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 165 089 1025

Meeting password: eYwntrfv259 (39968738 from phones)

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

[+61-2-9338-2221](tel:+61293382221), [1650891025#39968738#](tel:+612933822211650891025#39968738) Australia Toll

Some mobile devices may ask attendees to enter a numeric meeting password.

Join by phone

[+61-2-9338-2221](tel:+61293382221) Australia Toll

[Global call-in numbers](#)

Join from a video system or application

Dial [1650891025@nswph.webex.com](tel:1650891025@nswph.webex.com)

You can also dial 210.4.202.4 and enter your meeting number.

Meeting Time Table

Working Lunch is provided on arrival.

1.00p.m.	Welcome and Apologies
1.10 p.m.	Matters Arising, Correspondence and Two Wins
1.20p.m.	Troy Wilkie, Senior Advisor, Minister for Local Government
1.30p.m.	Sheridan Rapmund, Director IPART
2.00p.m.	Erin Cini, Director Town Water Risk Reduction Program, DPIE
2.20p.m.	Ms Melissa Gibbs, Director of Policy and Sector Development, OLG
2.30p.m.	Cr Linda Scott, President of LGNSW
2.45p.m.	Ms Emily Verstege, Director, ARTD Consultants
3.30p.m.	Close

1. Opening and Welcome

Chair to welcome attendees to the meeting

2. Attendance and Apologies

List of attendees and apologies (**Attachment One**)

Recommendation: that the Joint Chairs receive the apologies for the meeting

Apologies:

Hon Shelly Hancock MP	Minister for Local Government
Ms Steph Cooke MP	Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier and Member for Cootamundra
Far North West JO	Cr Greg Hollman
Far South West JO	Cr Darriea Turley AM Louise Schipanski
Hunter JO	Cr Bob Pynsent Joe James
Orana JO	Brad Cam
Riverina and Murray JO	Cr Kevin Mack Bridget Leopold

Moved: Clr Metcalf

Seconded: Clr Chaffey

Declarations of Interest

Attendees declare any interests in relation to matters on the agenda.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Joint Chairs confirm the minutes of the 4 March 2021 meeting. (**Attachment Two**)

Recommendation: that the minutes of the 4 March 2021 meeting be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Clr Metcalf

Seconded: Clr Mullholland

4. Matters in Progress from Previous Meetings

The Joint Chairs note the progress on the matters listed (**Attachment Three**).

5. Correspondence

Correspondence received and sent is listed (**Attachment Four**).

Recommendation: that the JO Chairs receive and note the correspondence.

Moved: Clr Firman

Seconded: Clr Pearce

6. Two Wins

Each JO provides information on wins that have been achieved in relation to outcomes for member councils and collaboration with State Government (**Attachment Five**).

Recommendation: that the JO Chairs receive and note the achievements of the JOs.

Moved:

Seconded:

Namoi wins to be circulated w the minutes inc: Namoi just announced as a regional jobs precinct

Presentation to be made at the next meeting of Chairs

7. Update from Minister for Local Government Representative

Troy Wilkie, Senior Policy Advisor, Minister of Local Government will provide an overview of the Local Government Act Amendments and its implementation.

There are a number of changes that are to be implemented following the passage of the Amendment Bill, including superannuation for councillors, the removal of the ESL from the rate peg, other changes to the levying of rates and the change in terms for County Council chairs to bring them in line with Mayors.

Recommendations:

- **Note the update**
- **JO EOs collaborate with LGNSW to present a paper on ESL inc concerns, financial impacts and implications of how ESL methodology is calculated and highlighting key issues related to the FESL**
- **JOs meet with local members to inform them about same**

Moved: Clr Abbey

Seconded: Clr Bradbery

Notes:

- *2nd time an amendment to the bill has been made – demonstrated responsiveness to the sector*
- *Noted the difficulty in making changes to legislation and noted LGNSW and OLG to get the changes through*
- *Changes*

- *Alignment of terms of chairs for JOs, Council and County Councils*
- *Greater flexibility for harmonisation of rates – with option to spread over 8 years*
- *Min LG has asked IPART to review rate peg and population growth – to give effect July 1 2022*
- *Changes to electoral items incl super annuation payments to Councillors, count backs etc*
- *No change to 5 year term for council to sell properties who haven't paid rates*
- *ESL – no change for the requirement for Councils to pay ESL from annual rate cap – **There is NO change to ESL Levy or ESL ACT***
- *FESL Act – continues to be in place but with no fees to be charged*
- *ESL – contained in the Emergency Services Act and has not changed – will continue to be included in Rate Peg and will be funded from General Revenue*
- *Linda Scott notes this outcomes is not what was sought and is inconsistent with needs of the sector*
- *ESL will continued to be considered as an issue and investigated by Govt – some discussion about how the methodology is applied and calculated*
- *Note that next financial year – 3% increase on ESL*
- *Clr Bradbery – notes Councils are also levied by insurance and so paying twice*
- *Noted only 11% of total ESL is levied to councils*

8. IPART Presentation on ESL

Sheridan Rapmund, Director with IPART will address the JO Chairs on the issues relating to the building the ESL into the rate peg.

The JO Chairs have expressed concern about the rising costs of the ESL and the inability of the rate peg to adequately cover those costs.

The JO EOs have been gathering information together to provide a state-wide picture of the rising costs, of particular concern has been the increasing costs of the RFS. The RFS component of the ESL makes up on average approximately 80% of the total cost of the ESL for country councils.

The JOs have opened a conversation with IPART about how the rate peg might better accommodate the rising costs. The challenge for IPART is that the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), upon which the rate peg is based, works on average increases across all councils, whereas the ESL varies significantly between metropolitan and rural councils. Finding an average, or an Index that can be “plugged” into the LGCI is difficult.

The passage of the Local Government Act Amendment Bill on 13 May, will hopefully make this issue redundant moving forward. One of the amendments passed is the ability of councils to levy the ESL outside the rate peg, that it can be listed on the rates notice as a separate charge in much the same way as sewerage and waste charges are. However, as we move into the new Financial Year, the mechanisms by which this new approach will be

implemented have not been resolved by the OLG. There is also concern that IT software providers have insufficient time to build the new billing regime into rates software.

It is therefore unclear when or how councils will implement the amendment. Therefore the status quo will remain until an implementation regime is put into place by the OLG and agreed to by the Minister.

Data collected on the cost of the ESL and RFS on the rate peg provided by JOs has been collated at **Attachment Six**.

Recommendations:

- *Noted presentation from IPART – but without a focus on ESL*

Moved: Clr Bradbery

Seconded: Clr Metcalf

9. DPIE Presentation on Towns Water Risk Reduction Program

Erin Cini, Director Town Water Risk Reduction Program, DPIE will provide an overview of the program and the work that is being undertaken with JOs.

Work on the Program has been underway for several months, JOs are collaborating with the NSW Government and the wider water sector to identify long-term solutions to the challenges and risks to providing water supply and sewerage services in regional towns.

The program is based on a new partnership approach, which recognises and leverages the wealth of expertise within Councils and Local Water Utilities and provides opportunities for these stakeholders to design and refine better solutions in collaboration with DPIE.

Recommendations:

- *Note the presentation*

Moved: Clr Metcalf

Seconded: Clr Bradbery

Julie B has copy of slides for inclusion on minutes

10. Update from OLG

Ms Melissa Gibbs, Director of Policy and Sector Development at OLG, will provide an update on issues that impact on the operation of JOs.

As Member Councils enter Caretaker mode in the lead-up to the elections, JOs will need to plan their governance requirements to accommodate this. Melissa will provide an update on issues that will impact on the operation of JOs.

Recommendations:

- *Note Mayoral terms for new term will be 1yr and 2yrs to cover 3 year term of upcoming Council*

Moved: Clr Chaffey

Seconded: Clr Firman

Julie B has copy of the presentation

11. Update from LGNSW

Cr Linda Scott, President of LGNSW will provide an update on LGNSW activities. Cr Scott's report is presented at Attachment Seven.

Recommendations:

- *Noted the presentation*

Moved: Clr Pearce

Seconded: Clr Firman

12. ARDT Presentation on JO Evaluation

Ms Emily Verstege, Director, ARDT Consultants will address the JO Board about ARDT's work on the JO Evaluation.

ARTD has been contracted by OLG to undertake the JO Evaluation project. Over the last month ARTD has conducted a survey of General Managers. They have also conducted interviews with the JO Chairs and Executive Officers as well as other stakeholders.

ARTD will be seeking to have a conversation with the JO Chairs generally to further their research and obtain additional data to incorporate in the evaluation findings.

Recommendations:

- *Noted early findings and presentation. Draft report due at end June with final to be approved shortly thereafter.*

Moved: Clr Metcalf

Seconded: Clr Firman

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 5th August

ATTACHMENT ONE: LIST OF ATTENDEES

Attendees	
Canberra Region Joint Organisation	Mayor Rowena Abbey – Chair Ms Kalina Koloff
Central NSW Joint Organisation	Mayor John Medcalf OAM Ms Jenny Bennett
Far North West Joint Organisation	Mr Greg Lamont
Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils	Mr Steve Wilson
Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation	Cr Gordon Bradbery OAM Ms Melinda Liberato
Mid North Coast Joint Organisation	Mayor Liz Campbell Ms Liz Jeremy
Namoi Unlimited	Mayor Jamie Chaffey Ms Rebel Thomson
New England Joint Organisation	Mayor Michael Pearce Ms Kate Jessep
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation	Mayor Danielle Mulholland Ms Nicole Reeve
Riverina Joint Organisation	Mayor Rick Firman OAM – Deputy Chair Ms Julie Briggs

Invited Guests	
Office of Minister for Local Government	Mr Troy Wilkie, Senior Policy Advisor
Local Government NSW	Cr Linda Scott, President Mr Scott Phillips, Chief Executive
Office of Local Government (NSW)	Ms Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development Ms Karen Purser, Manager Council Engagement Virginia Errington, Council Engagement Manager

Apologies	
Hon Shelly Hancock MP	Minister for Local Government
Ms Steph Cooke MP	Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier and Member for Cootamundra
Far North West JO	Cr Greg Hollman
Far South West JO	Cr Darriea Turley AM Louise Schipanski
Hunter JO	Cr Bob Pynsent Joe James
Orana JO	Brad Cam
Riverina and Murray JO	Cr Kevin Mack Bridget Leopold

ATTACHMENT TWO: MEETING MINUTES NSW JO CHAIRS FORUM – 4 MARCH 2021

Invited JO Members	
Canberra Region Joint Organisation	Mayor Rowena Abbey – Chair Ms Kalina Koloff
Central NSW Joint Organisation	Mayor John Medcalf OAM Ms Jenny Bennett
Far North West Joint Organisation	Mr Greg Lamont
Far South West Joint Organisation	Mayor Darriea Turley AM
Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils	Mayor Bob Pynsent Mr Joe James
Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation	Ms Melinda Liberato
Mid North Coast Joint Organisation	Mayor Liz Campbell Ms Liz Jeremy
Namoi Unlimited	Mayor Jamie Chaffey Ms Rebel Thomson
New England Joint Organisation	Mayor Michael Pearce Ms Kate Jessep (GM Uralla)
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation	Mayor Danielle Mulholland Ms Nicole Reeve
Orana Joint Organisation of Councils	Mayor Craig Davies
Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation	Mayor Kevin Mack Ms Bridgett Leopold
Riverina Joint Organisation	Mayor Rick Firman OAM – Deputy Chair Ms Julie Briggs
Invited Guests	
Office of Minister for Local Government	Mr Troy Wilkie, Senior Policy Advisor
Local Government NSW	Cr Linda Scott, President Mr Scott Phillips, Chief Executive
Office of Local Government (NSW)	Ms Karen Purser, Manager Council Engagement Ms Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development
Department of Regional NSW	Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary
Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier	Ms Steph Cooke, MP, Member for Cootamundra

1. Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 1.10pm

The Chairperson acknowledged Aboriginal Elders past, present and emerging of the many council areas the NSW Joint Organisation Chairs' Forum.

2. Apologies

RESOLVED

That the apologies of the below be accepted.

- *The Hon. Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government*
- *The Hon. John Barilaro, MP, Deputy Premier*
- *Mayor Ian Woodcock, Acting Chair, Far North West JO*
- *Mr Brad Cam, Acting EO, Orana JO*
- *Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery AM, Chair, Illawarra Shoalhaven JO*

Moved: Mayor Danielle Mulholland

Carried: Mayor Rick Firman OAM

3. Disclosure of Interest

Nil

4. Vale Lilliane Brady OAM

RESOLVED

That the condolence motion be passed.

Moved: Mayor Jamie Chaffey

Carried: Mayor Michael Pearce

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the minutes from the NSW Joint Organisations' Chairs Forum of 5 November 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Mayor Jamie Chaffey

Carried: Mayor Michael Pearce

6. Matters in Progress.

RESOLVED

That the matters in progress be noted.

Moved: Mayor John Metcalfe

Carried: Mayor Kevin Mack

7. Correspondence

RESOLVED

That, the correspondence be received and distributed be noted.

Moved: Mayor Rick Firman OAM

Carried: Mayor Danielle Mulholland

8. JO Recent Wins Across the State

RESOLVED

That, the report from the Executive Officers be received and noted.

Moved: Mayor Jamie Chaffey

Carried: Mayor Michael Pearce

9. Chair's Reports

9.1. Joint Organisations Monitoring and Evaluation Project

RESOLVED

That, the JO Chairs meeting acknowledge the confirmation from the OLG that all matters relating to financial sustainability will be captured in the Terms of Reference with each Joint Organisation.

Moved: Mayor Jamie Chaffey

Carried: Mayor Michael Pearce

9.2. Emergency Services Levy Increases

RESOLVED

- (i) That, the report from the Canberra Joint Organisation be received and noted;*
and
- (ii) Advocacy on the issue is coordinated through the NSW Joint Organisation Network*

Moved: Mayor Danielle Mulholland

Carried: Mayor Rick Firman OAM

9.3. Election of the Chair and Deputy Chair

RESOLVED

That, elections for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the NSW Joint Organisation group are deferred until October 2021.

Moved: Mayor Danielle Mulholland

Carried: Mayor Kevin Mack

9.4. Meeting of the Ministers Joint Organisation Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee met on the morning of 4 March. The discussion was focused on the JO Review and the inclusion of the financial sustainability issue. The issue should be captured by the existing Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED

That, the verbal report of Cr Mulholland from the meeting of the Advisory committee held on 4 March 2021 be received and noted.

Moved: Mayor Danielle Mulholland

Carried: Mayor Jamie Chaffey

10. Executive Officers' Reports

10.1. 20 Year Waste Strategy and Opportunities for JOs

RESOLVED

- (i) That, the Chairs endorse the agreed opportunities for communication by JO representatives on the EPA Local Government Advisory Group relating to development of the NSW 20 Year Waste Strategy; and*
- (ii) The JO Chairs Forum write to the NSW EPA requesting that it engage collectively with the full JO network at key points in development and/or delivery of the Waste Strategy, to ensure it reflects the differences and challenges in respect to waste management that exist in regional NSW.*

Moved: Mayor Kevin Mack

Carried: Mayor Michael Pearce

10.2. Support for Local Water Utilities

RESOLVED

That, the positions, and approaches to DPIE are endorsed.

Moved: Mayor Jamie Chaffey

Carried: Mayor Danielle Mulholland

10.3. Community Land Trust Investigation Proposal

RESOLVED

That, the JO Chair of Chairs and a delegation meet with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Housing to discuss the ongoing problems with housing in regional NSW and also seek appropriate funding to assess the proof of concept of establishing a pilot Community Land Trust.

Moved: Mayor Liz Campbell

Carried: Mayor Kevin Mack

10.4. Application of NSW EPA & Act s7.12 Fixed Development Consent Levies of State Significant Developments

RESOLVED

That, the Joint Chairs write to the Minister for Planning supporting the proposed amendment to s7.12 (1) of the NSW EPA & A Act from ‘may impose’ to “must impose”.

Moved: Mayor Rick Firman OAM

Carried: Mayor Jamie Chaffey

10.5. Cross-agency Workshop between Executive Officers and NSW Government

RESOLVED

- (i) That, the agenda is endorsed; and*
- (ii) Executive officers provide a report back to the Chairs on the outcomes from the workshop after the meeting.*

Moved: Mayor Jamie Chaffey

Carried: Mayor John Metcalfe

11. Other Stakeholders

11.1. LG NSW

- Cr Scott advised that she had received numerous complaints from councils and councillors in relation to the Minister’s remarks telling councillors “to take a good look at themselves”. Cr Scott said that such remarks were unhelpful and asked OLG and Ministerial staff that they not be made in the future.
- *Housing and Affordable Housing in the Regions* – Cr Scott warned that the State is looking to shift some blame onto councils, particularly in relation to having land zoned for residential development. She requested that councils identify barriers and advise LGNSW.
- *Federal Initiative to Standardise Kerbside Waste Bins* – the Environment Minister is strongly advocating for standardisation which will have significant repercussions for local government, particularly those in long-term contracts for waste collection.

RESOLVED

The report from LGNSW be noted.

Moved: Mayor Danielle Mulholland

Carried: Mayor Kevin Mack

11.2. Office of Local Government

- *Local Government Elections* – Melissa Gibbs advised:
 - OLG is preparing to make changes to the Regulations so that the Electoral Commission and election providers can provide COVID safe elections.
 - Ivote technology will be extended for LG elections.
 - A package of information is being prepared for councils advising about caretaker provisions.
 - Councils are being encouraged to provide candidate information in pre-election sessions. Local Government Women's Association has been given funding to run workshops around the State, which aim to support more women to stand for election. OLG are also looking at aboriginal councillors' workshops to increase representation.
 - OLG are producing guidelines and a webinar for councillors after the election.
 - Post-election, councils will be able to fill vacancies using count-back. Each council must resolve to do this at its first meeting after the election.
- *Internal Audit Framework* – OLG has taken comments on-board and are now looking at a scaled approach with reduced complexity based on the size of the council. The Framework will apply to JOs. The Framework will come in 6 months after the September election.
- *JO Review* – the engagement framework for the Review has not been finalised and consultants are still to be appointed. It will evaluate whether the JO structure is working and delivering on what it was intended to achieve. The Review will not be an evaluation of individual JOs. OLG are looking to engage with key stakeholders as well as JOs. The Review is to be completed by July 2021.

RESOLVED

The report from LGNSW be noted.

Moved: Mayor Kevin Mack

Carried: Mayor Danielle Mulholland

12. General Business

JO Review

The consultant will soon be appointed and will be completed by July. Cr Chaffey encouraged the JOs to speak to their successes. There is a lot of frustration around membership. JOs should get the message to the consultants that we are all very encouraged by what JOs can deliver. Cr Chaffey encouraged all members and EOs to start preparing for the consultation.

Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Country Bridges Funding

It was noted that JOs are in competition with their member councils for grants. JOs need funding set aside to achieve strategic outcomes, this could be facilitated by ring-fencing funding for JOs exclusively.

Department of Regional NSW

Gary Barnes spoke about opportunities for JOs to work with the Department to achieve common goals for regional communities.

Orana Joint Organisation

Cr Craig Davies advised that Orana JO Members have unanimously voted to resign. They were once a ROC of 12 councils now they are a JO of 6 councils. Dubbo is not part of it which removed half the population. Cr Davies advised that they have done this because within 12 months they will be trading insolvently and they are best off to continue to work collaboratively outside of the JO framework. Bitterly disappointed in OLG receive a response to a letter sent in September last year to the Executive Director received today. They believe in the JO operation but cannot operate in the way they have been. Wish everyone the best for the future.

Thank You

Cr Abbey thanked Ms Steph Cooke, MP, and Mr Gary Barnes for attending the meeting.

13. Next Meeting

Thursday 27 May 2021. This will be a face-to-face meeting.

14. Close

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 3.25pm

ATTACHMENT THREE: MATTERS ARISING

Meeting	Matter	Purpose	Action	Response
Feb 2021	20 Year Waste Strategy	JOs to be consulted in relation to the final draft	Letter sent to Tracy Mackey, EPA CEO asking for closer consultation	No response received
Feb 2021	Section 7.12 Contributions	Request that s7.12 Contributions be applied to State Significant Developments	Letter sent to Hon Rob Stokes, Minister for Planning	No response received
Feb 2021	Delegation to meet with Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Housing and Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier to discuss Regional Housing issues	Meeting to be arranged to discuss housing shortages and affordable housing issues including the Community Land Trust proposal	Minister unavailable prior to 22 May. A background paper is being prepared with all JOs who are experiencing housing problems to contribute a profile of housing in their Region.	
Nov 2020	Local Water Utilities	Support for Local Water Utilities and meeting between Joint Organisations and representatives from DPIE, the following recommendations are proposed to assist DPIE with delivering on the Auditor-General's recommendations.	JOs working collaboratively with DPIE	Refer to Agenda Item 10
Nov 2021	Bushfire Inquiry Recommendations	NSW Bushfire Inquiry Report recommendation that Resilience NSW engage with Joint Organisations as a mechanism to identify the design of programs and resourcing to support local government implement the recommendations from the Inquiry.	The Hon. David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 19 Feb	No Response
Nov 2020	Regional Waste Co-ordination	Continuity of Regional Waste Coordination Funding programs and initiatives with JOs.	Letter sent to Tracy Mackey, CEO of EPA requesting consultation with JOs on 20 Year Waste Strategy	No Response
August 2020	Roster for EOs to prepare Agenda	Work to be shared across JO EOs	Namoi Unlimited (Mar) Riverina JO (May)	On-going

	etc for JO Chairs Meeting		Canberra JO (Oct)	
June 2020	Funding for JOs	Develop a case for funding of the broader value proposition of the JOs. Through the Chair, develop an approach to advocate for changes in the funding framework.	On-going action being taken by JOs	On-going

ATTACHMENT FOUR: CORRESPONDENCE

Inwards		
Nil		

Outwards		
Date	Recipient	Content
28 April 2021	Tracy Mackey, CEO, EPA	Requesting Consultation with JOs on the 20 Year Waste Strategy
28 April 2021	Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning	Application of s7.12 Contributions to State Significant Developments

ATTACHMENT FIVE: TWO WINS

Canberra Region JO

The CRJO continues to collaborate across the region and bring together impactful project focusing on recovery and resilience. We have been granted funding from stream 2 of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF) and through the NSW Government's Increasing Resilience to Climate Change (IRCC) program to develop tools for homeowners, councils, and industry to improve their climate resilience. Together, these projects aim to ensure future disaster preparedness and resilience in our region.

BCRRF Project 1: Simtable

The Simtable Project will deliver a state-of-the-art digital tool that can be used to engage communities in localised place-based emergency information sessions. These sessions will raise the awareness of existing and future natural hazards, identify vulnerable populations and assets, and improve community's capacity and capability to plan for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Communities will then be able to better articulate their own and collective recovery needs, develop informed plans and identify any capability or capacity gaps. The project activities will strengthen community social cohesiveness and relationships with local agencies by providing emergency scenarios the community can explore together with guidance and potential solutions provided by a qualified facilitator.

BCRRF Project 2: Contaminated Lands Database/Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS)

Development of a Spatial Data Mapping Tool to assist Councils identify land parcels and sites containing unknown underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) and other contamination substances of a combustible or accelerant nature that pose a hazard risk. The Mapping Tool we will develop will allow Councils to identify all business activity history for all land parcels dating back to the mid 1940's. This information is crucial in the risk ranking of hazardous land parcels and the future management and remediation of these volatile areas within our communities.

BCRRF Project 3: A Resilience Blueprint for the South East

This project will seek to link to other resilience projects and provide a regional framework within which to gather data, analyse, share lessons, and report progress. Other projects led by the Canberra Region Joint Organisation like the Simtable project (mentioned above) will have direct added benefits to the engagement and training aspects of the Resilience Blueprint; local resilience strategies like that being undertaken by Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council will provide finer grained information that can dovetail into the Blueprint as well as ensuring that community consultation for the two projects value add to each

other; and community-led initiatives like the Cobargo and Region Energy Transition project and the Bega Cheese circular economy initiative provide inspirational case studies that can be learnt from across the wider region.

IRCC Project: Climate Resilient Housing Toolkit

The Canberra Region Climate Resilient Housing Toolkit will consist of guidance for officials and community members to protect community housing and assets in the case of future climate events. This project is being delivered in collaboration with the Insurance Council of Australia, the Minderoo Foundation, and the NSW Government.

Central NSW JO

Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program

The CNSWJO Board were successful in an application for the Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program (II Program) – Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP) joint with RDACW. The project is fully funded by the Federal Government and will develop better access for Small to Medium Enterprise in the Central West leveraging Inland Rail.

Energy Project

With each member council currently participating in varying energy projects with the consulting support being funded by DPIE, there appears to be a much stronger focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy now than there was 2 years ago. As such, GMAC in April agreed to increasing the minimum percentage of total load allocated to renewable energy sources to 50%.

Far North West JO

Western Airlines Services

Fly Pelican are now flying Cobar/Sydney/ Cobar four flights a week as a trial, where it was initially for three days to capture the tourism market demand, visitors to relatives, professionals, and FIFO workers in the mines markets on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays and results have exceeded expectation to the extent that the subsidy is minimal and where five flights are now a possibility. Locals are now complaining they cannot get on flights!!!

Air Link are flying three days a week Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on a variable basis from Dubbo to Bourke return and flying Dubbo to Walgett, tag to Lightning Ridge return. So far it is going quite well under the COVID pressures and with a little help of some subsidies from the Federal Government during COVID.

The airline service operators have asked the three LGA's involved to reflect their services in the council newsletters, media releases, web pages etc which they are doing. Destination NSW Outback & Inland Tourism have promoted the services in their newsletters as well. These services are heavily subsidised by the State Government in order to re-instate the services, over four years with the hope that the airlines will be able to continue the services

with minimal subsidy after this period. They have been in operation since late 2019 and are constantly under review by the Board and our lawyers Hickson's with flexible fares, reduced fuel costs and subsequent daily flight costs being improved to suit the needs of customers, the Board of FNWJO and the airlines.

Tourism Marketing Strategy

The OLG provided FNWJO with a Capability and Capacity grant of \$150,000 to develop a Tourism Marketing Strategy for the Far North West to compliment the airlines service and to stimulate the far north western region post drought and COVID. Urban Enterprise were engaged to write the Tourism Marketing Strategy with Bourke Shire Council staff leading the project and involving all three LGA Tourism staff in the content and direction that it will take. This is a good example of the three FNWJO councils and their tourism staff working together in order to maximise the spend of the grant provided by the OLG on strategies and actions. Challenge now is getting the funds to implement the strategies.

EPA Contaminated Land Management Project

Melting Pot Planning and Cavanagh Consulting were engaged to undertake this project, which is going extremely well, with EPA now funding the final period. The consultants are working closely with other CLMO's in the Joint Organisation Network to the satisfaction of the EPA in the development of policies, procedures, delegations, checklists, training, etc. Training for CLO's from JO's and council staff was conducted at Cobar in 2021 with the involvement of SafeWork NSW, EPA, LGNSW, JO councils, etc. We have turned a three-year project into two by engaging a contractor in the short term in lieu of trying to get highly qualified staff to meet the Position Description EPA put out initially. This is assisting our three councils and the network in dealing with contaminated land issues in the Far North West and in increasing in house knowledge, systems, policies, and procedures so they have the capability and capacity to manage the issues through the planning process.

Far West JO

Regional Freight Transport Plan

The FWJO has made significant progress in the development of a regional freight transport plan, with key milestones being completed in recent months. The next step is a workshop to be held in Wentworth in June and the completion of the document will follow in the coming months. This plan will provide a strategic approach to roads funding and an ability to prioritise projects of regional significance.

Destination Management Plan

The funding provided via the OLG Capacity Building Program aims to deliver on an analysis of regional tourism programs, strategies and projects and identify both gaps and opportunities. Following this, an action plan identifying opportunities to enable these tourism plans and increase visitor economy numbers will be developed, including key areas for Local Government, including the

Illawara JO

Kerbside Clean up Pilot

Practical solutions to kerbside cleanup waste was the focus of the first quarter of 2021 for the ISJO waste team. With support from Wollongong Council and Green Connect as a partner social enterprise, the first pass collection pilot was undertaken.

Over 4 weeks during February and March, staff went out the afternoon prior to the Remondis truck and visited each booked property on the list for the following day's kerbside cleanup collection.

Items that were deemed to have a reuse value were taken from the kerb, cleaned, refurbished and stored until the sale weekend on 27 -28th March. The sale event was held at a commercial shopfront on Crown Street, next door to spotlight.

Of the 394 items reclaimed from kerbside collections, 84% were sold and 8% of the remaining smaller items were donated to Green Connect for sale in their op shop. 2% of items could not be repaired in time or budget, and the remaining items have been sold through online marketplaces.

Outcomes

- **500+** people passed through the doors over the weekend sale
- **89** feedback messages asking for it to be on again
- **331** items sold over the sale weekend
- **72m³** of kerbside cleanup waste was diverted from landfill over 4 weeks
- Reduction of **10,272kg CO²** emissions
- **\$6413** was raised from the sale of goods that were destined for landfill and donated to Green Connect for their work with young people and former refugees

This project was piloted in the Wollongong LGA due to the volume of booked services and the use of a compactor truck. A business case will now be created to determine the longer term viability of this initiative.

Enabling Water Sensitive Urban Communities

Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven Councils recently completed a Water Sensitive Urban Communities benchmarking and transition strategy for the region. The process is based on the benchmarking framework developed by the national Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. The benchmarking is a key component of the first and second stages of the regional project generating an understanding of where are positioned in comparison with other regions; sharing regional case studies; and regional capacity building.

Mid-North Coast JO

Simtables

Resilience NSW has approved funding of \$225,635 to the MNCJO under Phase 2 of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Program. The funding will be used to purchase a 'Simtable' and engage a Project Officer to manage its use in the three Member Council

LGAs (Bellingen, Kempsey, and Port Macquarie), as well as Coffs Harbour, Nambucca and Clarence Valley LGAs.

A Simtable is a 'state of the art' tool that can be used to engage communities in localised place-based emergency information sessions that will enhance emergency planning and support recovery utilising 3D images of local landscapes. The following brief video demonstrates the power of the tool which has been used by Ku-ring-ai Council as part of fire education workshops held with local communities.

https://youtu.be/H_L5KyGUb5o

The Simtable relies on local data and GIS information to accurately reflect the real environment to ensure a realistic simulation of the impact of natural disasters on local communities. Residents, for example, are able to visualise the movement of a fire in relation to where they live.

The MNCJO is collaborating with the Hunter and Canberra JOs (who also received funding to purchase Simtables) on the establishment of Simtables in their respective areas including in relation to sharing knowledge, expertise and trouble shooting.

Koala Recovery Project

The MNCJO has been able to extend its existing contract with the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) to deliver the Hastings-Macleay Koala Recovery Project. The contract extension is from June 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022. This extension aligns with the existing contract the JO has with a Koala Ecologist who has been working on this project since April 2019.

The Koala Recovery project seeks to improve conservation across the Hastings-Macleay area by engaging with landholders, the community, research groups and the government sector to achieve better on-ground outcomes and the on-going viability of this important Australian species. Key partners involved in this project, apart from DPIE councils, are the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, The Koala Hospital based in Port Macquarie and Land Care Services based in Port Macquarie and Kempsey.

Extension of the contract with DPIE will enable significantly more work to be done in relation to habitat creation and conservation and a follow-up koala monitoring program aimed at assessing seasonal habitat variations.

Northern Rivers JO

Disaster Dashboards

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's (NRJO) grant application through the **Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Stream 2** for funding for the installation of Disaster Dashboard's for Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore and Richmond Valley Councils was

successful. This will mean all six LGAs within the NRJO boundaries will have Disaster Dashboards in place accessible from the Council websites.

Renewable Energy Prospectus

One of the NRJO's key goals is to strengthen the region's emerging position as a NSW leader in renewable energy generation, storage, and use, in accordance with widespread community support for reduced emissions and action on climate change. To this end the NRJO is moving forward with the development of the renewable energy prospectus which will deliver sustainable energy, high value jobs in key employment areas, new research and innovation opportunities and capital raising connections where none currently exist. The prospectus is due to be complete by October 2021.

Riverina and Murray JO

Digital Connectivity

By working together with various telecommunications providers, RAMJO assisted in developing the submissions under the Commonwealth Government's Regional Connectivity Programme. Three of the four projects submitted for the RAMJO region were funded, resulting in a future level of increased telecommunications infrastructure across the member councils. The three projects include the areas of: Leeton – Narrandera, Jerilderie - Coleambally and the cross border communities of Swan Hill to Tooleybuc.

Priority Mapping

RAMJO have completed the priority mapping of regional infrastructure projects across member councils, particularly as they relate to key priority areas including: energy, roads, bridges, cultural and recreational, tourism, water and wastewater projects. This mapping will remain contemporary and will be used as a basis for advocacy and an approach to regional funding applications where possible. The mapping is currently available on RAMJO's website in various formats, including "Projects By Council" and an interactive map.

Riverina JO

Behind the Career

Behind the Career (BTC) is an initiative of Training Services NSW. In essence, it is a video library showcasing an increasing number of careers. The [BTC web pages](#) already feature Construction and Aged Care, and Engineering is being finalised. Each video has the same format: approx. 19 – 22 mins long, a virtual tour highlighting each career, downloadable documents aligned to the high school curriculum, and links to further resources.

Through the work we were doing with Training Services arranging mentor and supervisor training for our Skills Shortages project we were approached to support the development of the Careers in Local Government video. Our Project Officer, Paul Worsfold went into production mode, doing the groundwork for the video. While we had wanted to showcase a

number of councils, the reality of the production schedule meant that only one council could be used. Greater Hume Shire, which has made a significant commitment to employing trainees and to engaging with its local high schools on careers in local government was the chosen location.

LGNSW is now negotiating with Training Services for shorter versions of the video to be included in its Careers at Local Government site.

The completed video can be seen at <https://www.behindthecareer.com/localgovernment>

Housing Shortages Project

There is a chronic shortage of all types of housing in the Region. The JO has joined with REROC to address the issue, undertaking research, and engaging with Member Councils, State agencies, the RDA and local industry.

The goal for this project is to develop a Housing Strategy for the Region, for completion by mid-year. To date 3 workshops of the issue have been held which have been attended by Member Councils, representatives from NSW Planning, NSW DPI, NSW Environment and Regional NSW as well as RDA-Riverina and industry representatives and stakeholders. Information gained through the workshops is informing the development of the State's Regional Housing Strategy.

We are also assisting RDA-Riverina and RDA-Orana on the delivery of a Regional Housing Summit which will be held in Wagga Wagga on 13 August which will be attended by the Hon Nola Marino MP, the Federal Government's Assistant Minister Regional Development.

ATTACHMENT SIX: SUMMARIES OF ESL AND RFS IMPACTS ON RATE PEG INCOME INCREASES

RIVERINA JOINT ORGANISATION

Member Councils	Total ESL Contribution 2018/19	RFS Component of ESL 2018/19	Increase in RFS Contributions	Total ESL Contribution 2019/20	RFS Component of ESL 2019/20	Increase in RFS Contributions	Total ESL Contribution 2020/21	RFS Component of ESL 2020/21	Increase in RFS Contributions
Bland	\$ 375,955.00	\$ 346,689.00	-\$ 34,461.00	\$ 468,474.00	\$ 436,031.00	\$ 89,342.00	\$ 659,820.00	\$ 622,420.00	\$ 186,389.00
Coolamon	\$ 188,124.00	\$ 165,271.50	-\$ 4,891.94	\$ 233,210.00	\$ 207,826.28	\$ 42,554.78	\$ 325,839.36	\$ 296,716.72	\$ 88,890.44
Cootamundra-Gundagai	\$ 410,357.00	\$ 339,536.00	-\$ 10,011.00	\$ 505,419.00	\$ 426,988.00	\$ 87,452.00	\$ 699,327.00	\$ 609,511.00	\$ 182,523.00
Greater Hume	\$ 412,379.00	\$ 353,651.00	-\$ 2,436.00	\$ 510,069.00	\$ 444,787.00	\$ 91,136.00	\$ 710,056.00	\$ 634,919.00	\$ 190,132.00
Junee	\$ 194,464.00	\$ 165,268.00		\$ 240,404.00	\$ 207,860.00	\$ 42,592.00	\$ 334,560.00	\$ 296,716.00	\$ 88,856.00
Lockhart	\$ 178,187.00	\$ 156,573.00	-\$ 4,634.00	\$ 220,933.00	\$ 196,920.00	\$ 40,347.00	\$ 308,658.00	\$ 281,100.00	\$ 84,180.00
Temora	\$ 283,518.96	\$ 240,919.00	\$ 17,069.00	\$ 350,158.60	\$ 303,004.00	\$ 62,085.00	\$ 486,480.59	\$ 432,529.00	\$ 129,525.00
Wagga Wagga	\$ 929,464.36	\$ 382,734.00	-\$ 11,328.64	\$ 1,085,764.44	\$ 481,365.28	\$ 98,631.28	\$ 1,375,709.72	\$ 687,133.48	\$ 205,768.20
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$ 2,042,984.96	\$ 2,150,641.50	-\$ 50,693.58	\$ 2,528,667.60	\$ 2,704,781.56	\$ 554,140.06	\$ 4,900,450.67	\$ 3,861,045.20	\$ 1,156,263.64

Member Councils	Rate Pegged income Increase 2018/19	Rate Pegged income Increase 2019/20	Rate Pegged income Increase 2020/21
Bland	\$ 146,515.00	\$ 175,951.00	\$ 185,000.00
Coolamon	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 64,000.00
Cootamundra-Gundagai	-\$ 105,488.00	\$ 193,079.00	\$ 196,020.00
Greater Hume	\$ 177,016.00	\$ 229,660.00	\$ 229,071.00
Junee	\$ 87,055.00	\$ 105,516.00	\$ 104,962.00
Lockhart	\$ 54,308.00	\$ 65,200.00	\$ 64,400.00
Temora	\$ 86,342.00	\$ 103,950.00	\$ 103,116.00
Wagga Wagga	\$ 980,287.00	\$ 1,189,935.00	\$ 1,189,421.00
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$ 1,480,035.00	\$ 2,127,291.00	\$ 2,135,990.00
	* Net of exp SRV		

CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

Member Councils	Total ESL Contribution 2018/19	RFS Component of ESL 2018/19	Total Contribution 2019/20	RFS Component of ESL 2019/20	Total Cost of ESL 2020/21	Cost of RFS Component of ESL 2020/21
Bathurst	\$842,746.00	\$ 381,340.00	\$989,272.00	\$ 479,611.00	\$1,262,954.00	\$ 684,629.00
Blayney	\$285,892.27	\$ 256,422.91	\$339,251.92	\$ 306,537.97	\$468,684.13	\$ 430,716.86
Cabonne	\$56,751.00		\$63,099.12		\$73,272.12	
Cowra	\$286,591.00	\$ 238,072.00	\$302,481.00	\$ 248,366.00	\$374,832.00	\$319,364.00
Forbes	\$302,243.00		\$375,298.52	\$ 321,216.02	\$525,704.00	\$ 480,361.00
Lachlan	\$366,171.00	\$ 312,339.00	\$438,742.14	\$ 293,829.00	\$613,097.14	\$ 560,750.00
Oberon	\$267,965	\$ 243,705.00	\$333,461	\$ 306,508.00	\$468,732.26	\$ 437,530.00
Orange	\$605,871.10	\$ 198,186.34	\$616,727.40	\$ 209,042.64	\$699,439.46	\$ 249,259.29
Parkes	\$363,486.16	\$ 303,897.00	\$448,421.04	\$382,212.00	\$622,426.50	\$545,595.00
Weddin	\$211,512.12	\$ 181,678.00	\$261,395.25	\$ 228,496.00	\$363,612.46	\$ 326,171.00
Total for region	\$3,589,228.73		\$4,168,149.09		\$4,850,327.57	

Member Councils	Rate Pegged income Increase 2018/19	Rate Pegged income Increase 2019/20	Rate Pegged income Increase 2020/21	Rate Pegged income Increase 2021/22
Bathurst	\$ 585,751.00	\$ 717,434.00	\$ 719,811.00	\$ 573,462.00
Blayney	\$ 147,831.00	\$ 178,092.00	\$ 175,946.00	\$ 137,549.00
Cabonne	\$ 227,865.00	\$ 273,505.00	\$ 271,162.00	\$ 214,304.00
Cowra	\$ 152,000.00	\$ 183,000.00	\$ 182,000.00	\$ 143,000.00
Forbes	\$ 164,970.00	\$ 196,848.00	\$ 217,094.00	\$ 182,944.00
Lachlan	\$ 135,489.00	\$ 188,877.00	\$ 195,452.00	\$ 159,567.00
Oberon	\$ 261,659.00	\$ 263,826.00	\$ 105,617.00	\$ 191,322.00
Orange	\$ 724,000.00	\$ 881,750.00	\$ 876,500.00	\$ 697,900.00
Parkes	\$ 321,682.26	\$ 385,530.05	\$ 208,015.24	\$ 424,158.48
Weddin	\$ 181,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 74,000.00	\$ 58,000.00
Total for region	\$ 2,902,247.26	\$ 3,343,862.05	\$ 3,025,597.24	\$ 2,782,206.48

NORTHERN RIVERS

Member Councils	Total ESL Contribution 2018/19	RFS Component of ESL 2018/19	Total Contribution 2019/20	RFS Component of ESL 2019/20	Total Cost of ESL 2020/21	Cost of RFS Component of ESL 2020/21
Ballina Shire Council	\$ 209,344.00	\$ 154,151.00	\$ 216,600.00	\$ 156,077.00	\$ 344,366.00	\$ 276,751.00
Clarence Valley Council	\$ 951,718.20	\$ 769,652.00	\$ 1,171,502.72	\$ 967,992.00	\$ 1,619,292.92	\$ 1,381,779.00
Kyogle	\$ 287,105.00	\$ 249,289.00	\$ 361,544.00	\$ 313,201.00	\$ 488,771.00	\$ 447,084.00
Tweed	\$ 756,871.00	\$ 236,731.00	\$ 876,471.68	\$ 297,737.00	\$ 1,092,682.16	\$ 425,012.00
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$ 2,205,038.20	\$ 1,409,823.00	\$ 2,626,118.40	\$ 1,735,007.00	\$ 3,545,112.08	\$ 2,530,626.00

Member Councils	Rate Pegged income Increase 2018/19	Rate Pegged income Increase 2019/20	Rate Pegged income Increase 2020/21	Rate Pegged income Increase 2021/22
Ballina Shire Council	\$ 482,426.00	\$ 623,921.00	\$ 649,181.00	\$ 517,922.00
Clarence Valley Council	\$ 660,532.40	\$ 839,681.25	\$ 880,325.44	\$ 731,926.33
Kyogle		\$ 181,838.90	\$ 185,873.04	\$ 146,946.54
Tweed	\$ 1,391,000.00	\$ 1,676,000.00	\$ 1,664,000.00	\$ 1,313,000.00
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$ 2,533,958.40	\$ 3,321,441.15	\$ 3,379,379.48	\$ 2,709,794.87

MID NORTH COAST JOINT

Member Councils	Total ESL Contribution 2018/19	RFS Component of ESL 2018/19	Total Contribution 2019/20	RFS Component of ESL 2019/20	Total Cost of ESL 2020/21	Cost of RFS Component of ESL 2020/21
Bellingen Shire Council	\$ 387,517.00	\$ 320,780.00	\$ 477,606.00	\$ 403,446.00	\$ 661,295.00	\$ 575,906.00
Kempsey Shire Council	\$ 425,132.72	\$ 298,025.00	\$ 516,378.64	\$ 374,826.00	\$ 532,646.20	\$ 402,352.00
Port Macquarie Hastings Council	\$ 909,593.16	\$ 458,415.00	\$ 953,758.04	\$ 576,549.00	\$ 1,079,230.03	\$ 823,005.00
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$ 1,722,242.88	\$ 1,077,220.00	\$ 1,947,742.68	\$ 1,354,821.00	\$ 2,273,171.23	\$ 1,801,263.00

Member Councils	Rate Pegged income Increase 2018/19	Rate Pegged income Increase 2019/20	Rate Pegged income Increase 2020/21	Rate Pegged income Increase 2021/22
Bellingen Shire Council	\$ 168,969.00	\$ 211,128.00	\$ 216,142.00	\$ 170,996.00
Kempsey Shire Council	\$ 457,000.00	\$ 544,000.00	\$ 541,000.00	\$ 430,000.00
Port Macquarie Hastings Council	\$ 1,099,615.95	\$ 1,355,430.95	\$ 1,353,514.31	\$ 1,077,671.72
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$ 1,725,584.95	\$ 2,110,558.95	\$ 2,110,656.31	\$ 1,678,667.72

CANBERRA REGION JOINT

Member Councils	Rate Pegged income 2018/19 ('000)	Rate Peg increase	% total income spent on ESL	Rate Pegged income 2019/20 ('000)	Rate Peg increase	% total income spent on ESL	Rate Pegged income 2020/21 ('000)	Rate Peg increase	% total income spent on ESL
Snowy Valleys	\$8,939	2.7%	4.9%	\$9,172	2.6%	5.9%	\$9,026	2.0%	8.3%
Snowy Monaro	\$15,631	2.7%	5.5%	\$16,210	2.6%	6.6%	\$16,447	2.0%	9.1%
Bega Valley	\$22,933	2.3%	2.7%	\$23,574	2.7%	3.2%	\$25,144	2.6%	3.1%
Eurobodalla	\$29,933	2.30%	2.60%	\$30,845	2.70%	3.20%	\$31,722	2.60%	4.20%
Queanbeyan-Palerang	\$36,339	2.30%	2.80%	\$37,543	2.70%	2.80%	\$39,288	2.60%	3.10%
Wingecarribbe**	\$44,857	2.30%	1.60%	\$49,196	2.70%	1.80%	\$50,920	2.60%	2.30%
Goulburn-Mulwarree	\$19,928	2.3%	2.3%	\$20,667	2.7%	2.6%	\$21,460	2.6%	3.4%
Yass Valley	\$9,997	2.7%	4.8%	\$10,933	2.6%	5.4%	\$11,305	2.0%	7.3%
Upper Lachlan	\$7,085	2.3%	6.3%	\$7,582	2.7%	7.3%	\$7,771	2.6%	10.0%
Hilltops									
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$195,642			\$205,722			\$213,083		
**rate pegged income per 2021 Operational Plan									

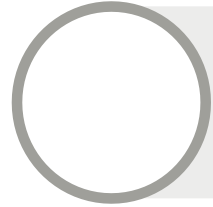


THE REVIEW OF THE RATE PEG TO INCLUDE POPULATION GROWTH WORKSHOP

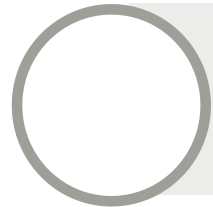
Agenda



Welcome



Session 1: *How do regional and rural council costs and revenues increase with population?*



Session 2: *What are the impacts of our implementation options on regional and rural councils?*



Wrap up and what's next?

Welcome and acknowledgement of country



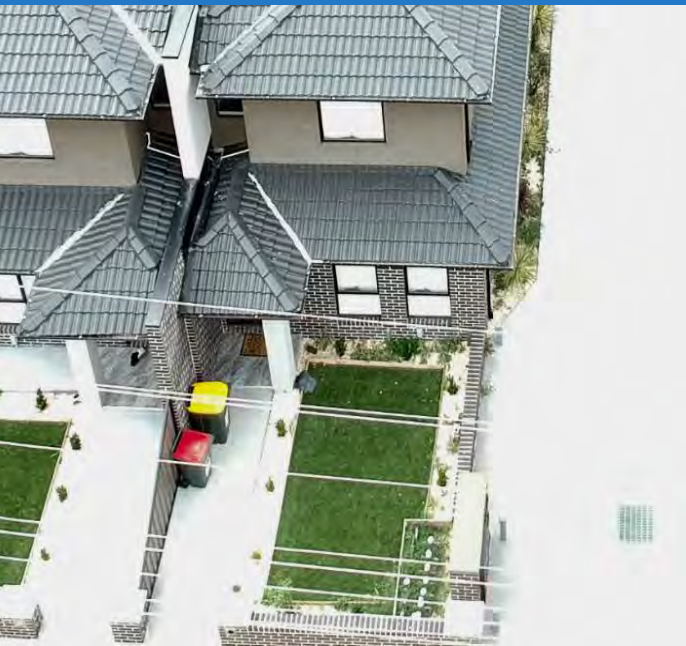
Ms Deborah Cope
B Econ(Hons)
Tribunal Member from 3 February 2017.

Ms Deborah Cope
Acting Chair





Timeline

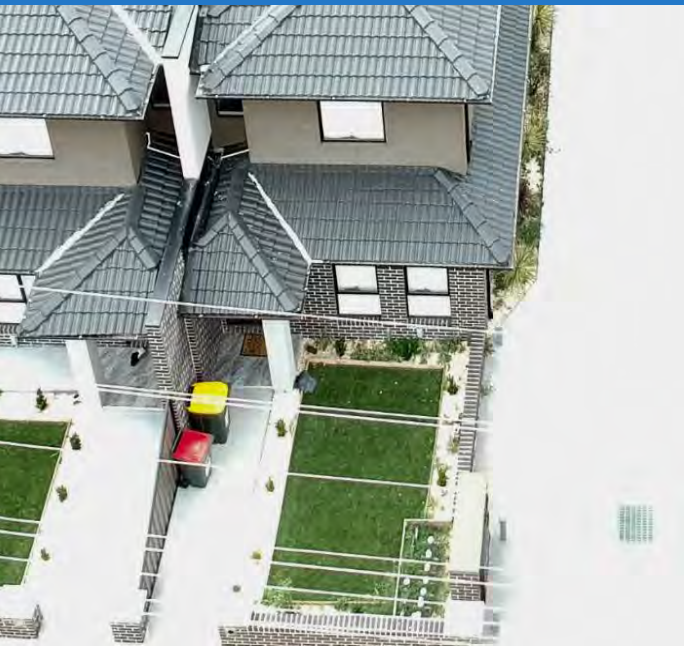




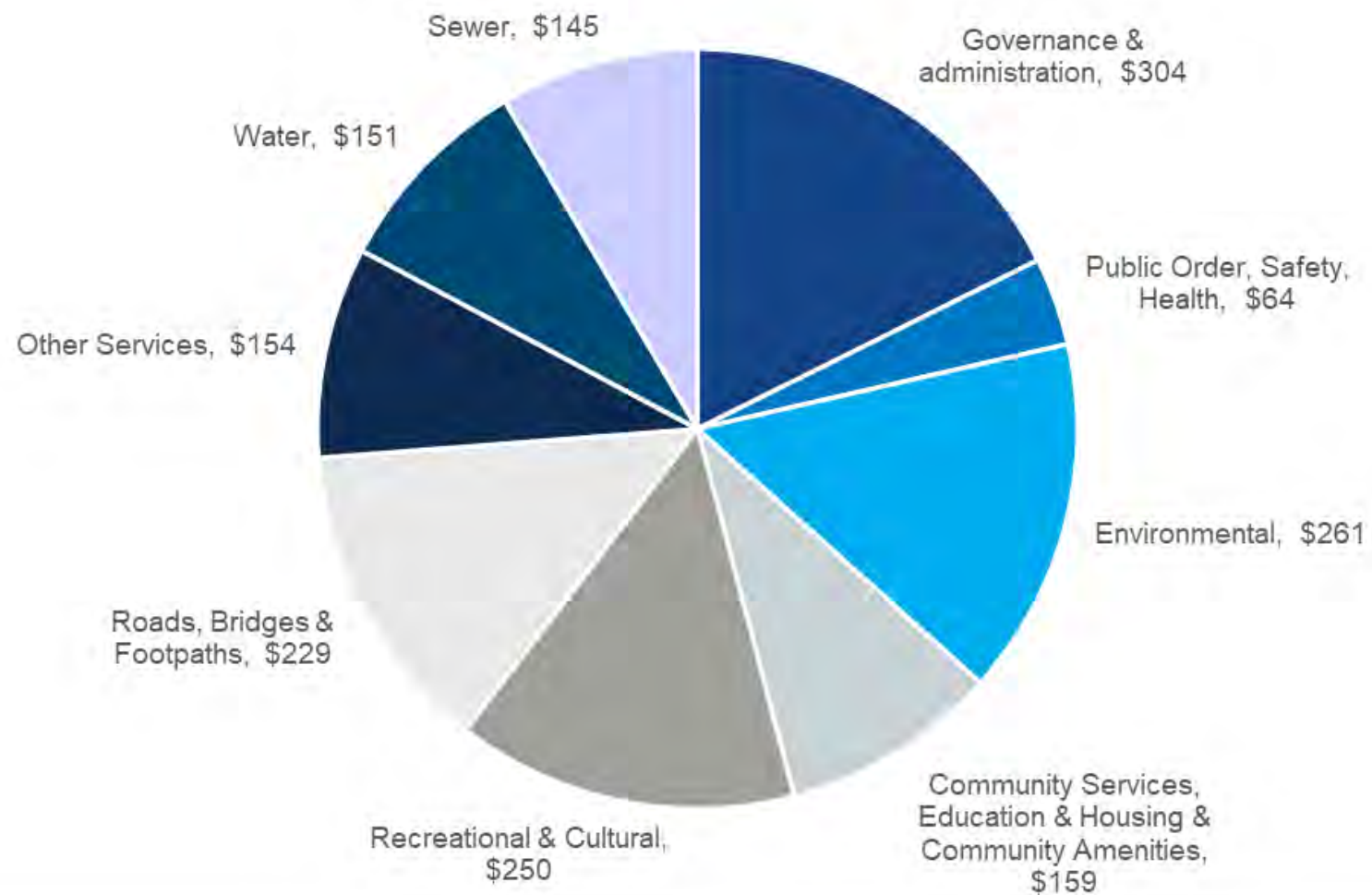
Session 1: the impact of population growth on regional and rural council costs and revenue



Council costs



Council costs per annum per person across different activities
for all councils (2018-19)





Council costs (2018-19)

- per person per annum
- metro, regional and rural

Council costs

	Metropolitan \$/person	Metropolitan Fringe \$/person	Regional Town/City \$/person	Large Rural \$/person	Rural \$/person	All Councils \$/person
Governance & administration	\$267	\$340	\$292	\$499	\$1,018	\$304
Public Order, Safety, Health	\$64	\$49	\$63	\$100	\$217	\$64
Environmental	\$228	\$249	\$321	\$290	\$290	\$261
Community Services, Education & Housing & Community Amenities	\$152	\$141	\$155	\$254	\$548	\$159
Recreational & Cultural	\$239	\$206	\$273	\$337	\$457	\$250
Roads, Bridges & Footpaths	\$111	\$193	\$318	\$804	\$1,407	\$229
Other Services	\$79	\$97	\$241	\$452	\$1,081	\$154
Water	n/a	\$63	\$165	\$319	\$396	\$151
Sewer	n/a	\$70	\$177	\$208	\$191	\$145



Council costs

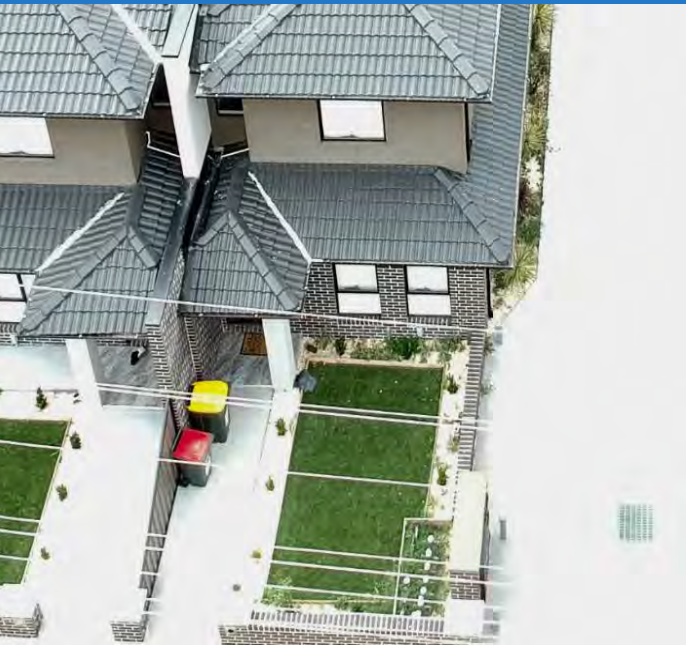


What we have learnt:

- ▼ Council costs increase with population growth driven by
 - extra people
 - extra rateable (and non-rateable) properties
 - increasing community expectations
- ▼ The relationship between cost increases and population growth is linear, but there do appear to be some economies of scale
- ▼ Upfront capital expenditure, increasing operating expenditure, the need to renew old assets and the depreciation expense from new assets all add to council costs

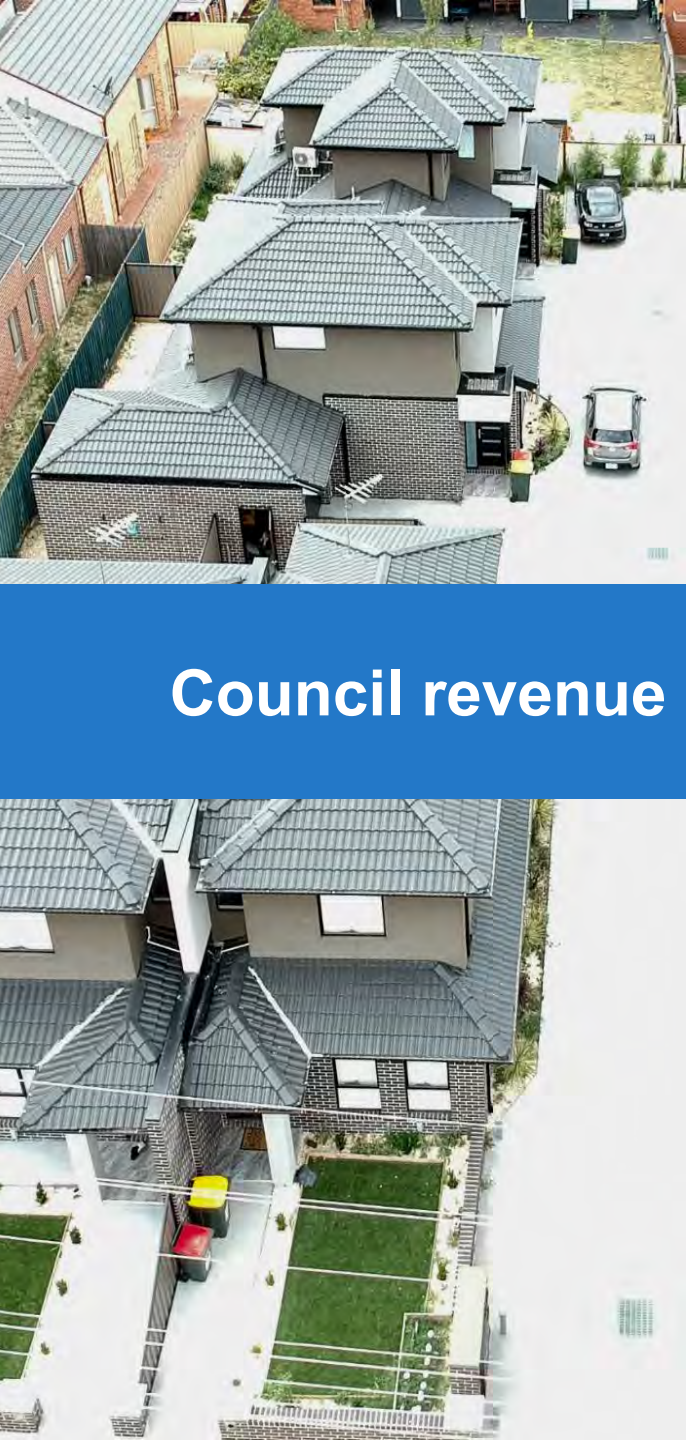


Council costs

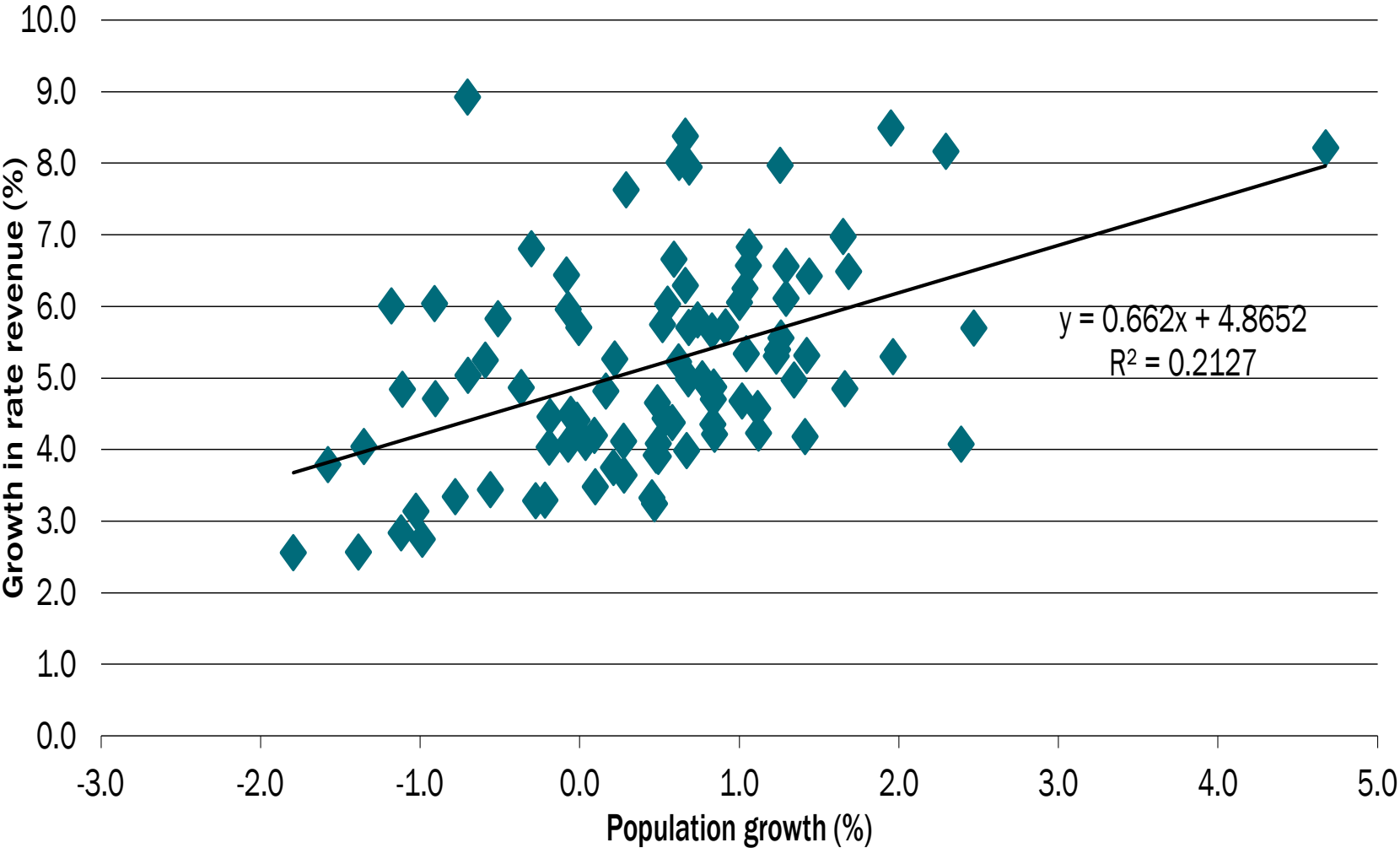


What we have learnt (cont...):

- ▼ There are outliers – greenfield development is more expensive than infill development
- ▼ Existing service levels are the best indication of the costs of population growth – supports an approach that varies per capita rates by the percentage change in population

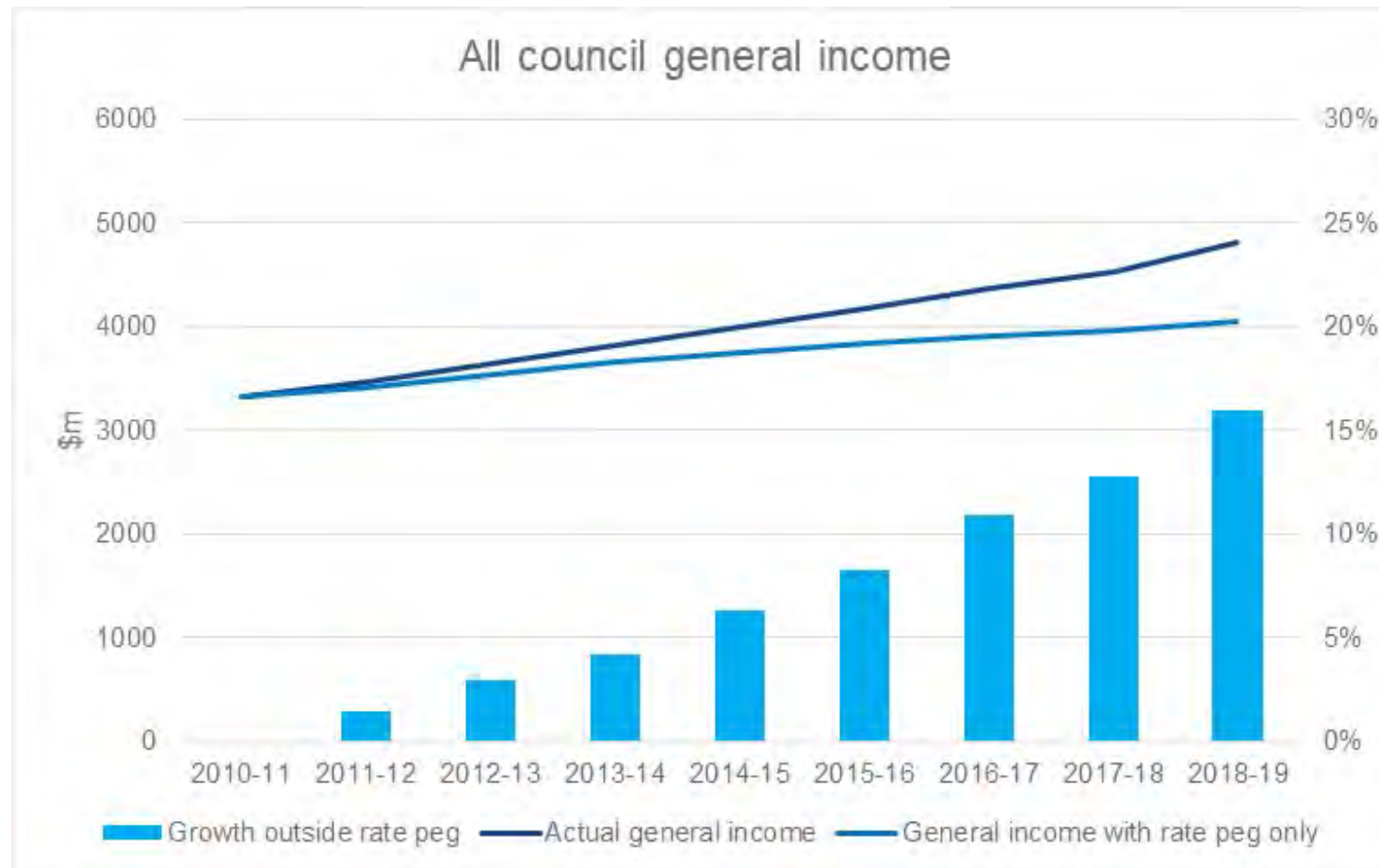


Annual rate revenue and population growth 1999 to 2019



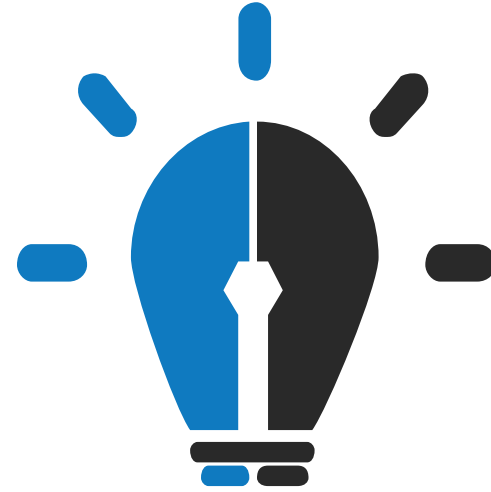


Council revenue





Discussion



- ▼ What have we got right?
- ▼ What have we missed?



Session 2: What are the impacts of our implementation options on regional and rural councils?



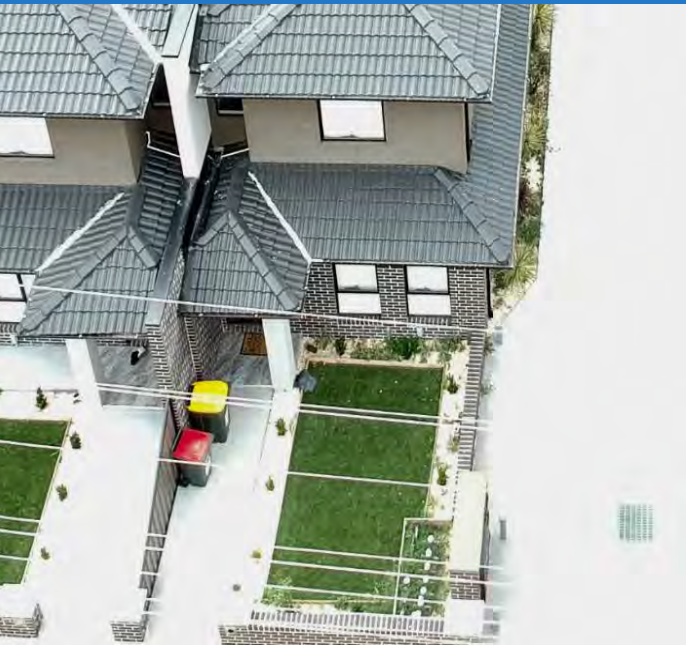
Terms of Reference:

- ▼ That no council is worse off
- ▼ Ratepayers protected from sudden or excessive rate rises.
- ▼ Considers taxation and pricing principles:
 - Simplicity, efficiency, equity, sustainability
 - Impactor pays
 - ▶ can our methodology ensure only new residents pay for growth?
- ▼ Easy to implement and administer

Principles



Options we considered



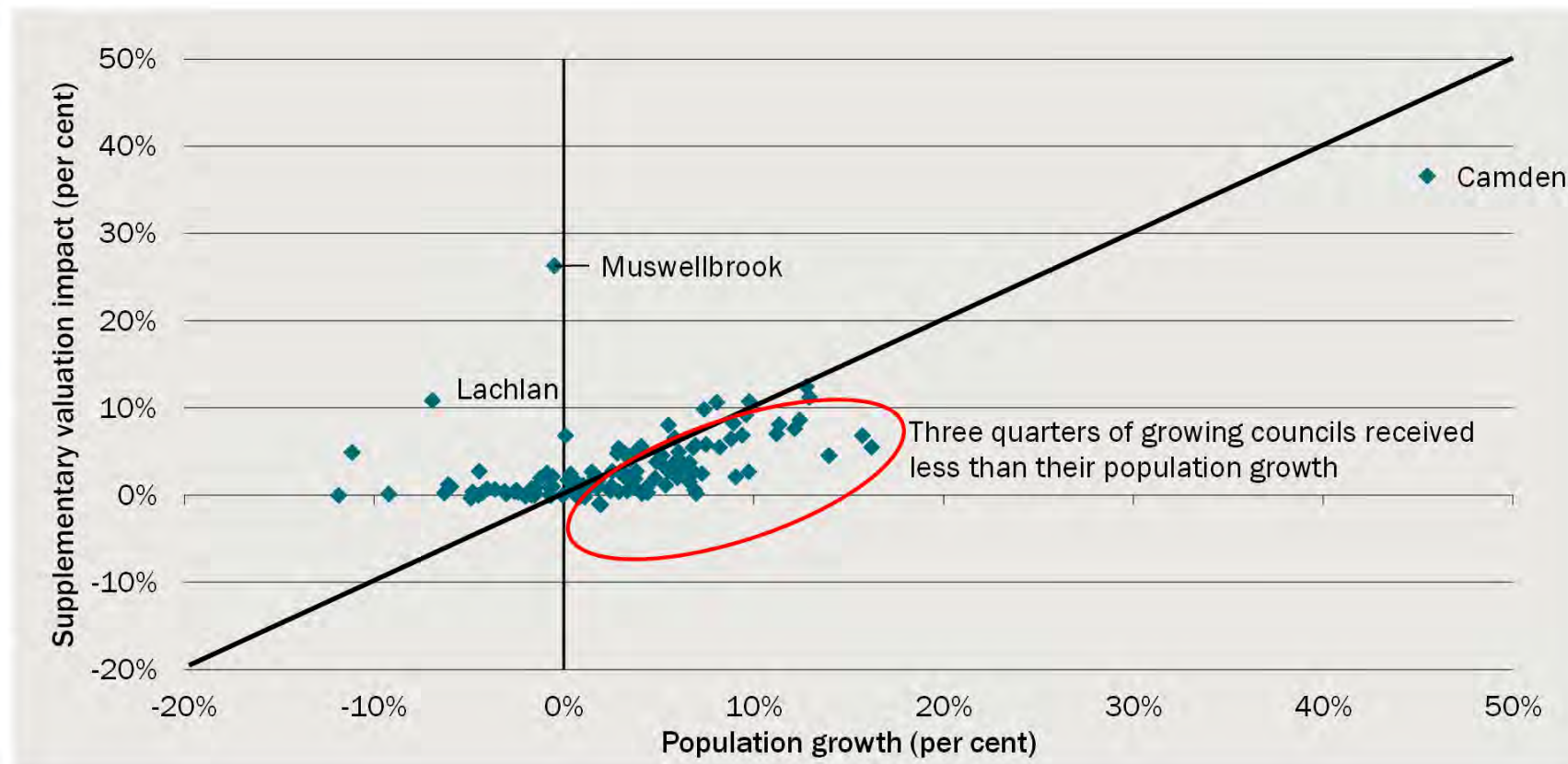
$$\text{Rate peg} = \Delta \text{LGCI} - \text{productivity factor} + \text{other adjustments}$$

$$\text{Rate peg} = \Delta \text{LGCI} - \text{productivity factor} + \text{other adjustments} + \textbf{growth factor}$$

Option 1 (a & b)	Option 2 (a & b)
<p>The growth factor would be equal to:</p> <p>Option 1a:</p> $= \% \Delta \text{ population (by council)}$ <p>Option 1b:</p> $= \% \Delta \text{ rateable properties (by council)}$	<p>The growth factor would be equal to:</p> <p>Option 2a:</p> $= \frac{\Delta \text{population} \times \text{cost variable}}{\text{general income (year 0)}}$ <p>Option 2b:</p> $= \frac{\Delta \text{rate.prop.} \times \text{cost variable}}{\text{general income (year 0)}}$

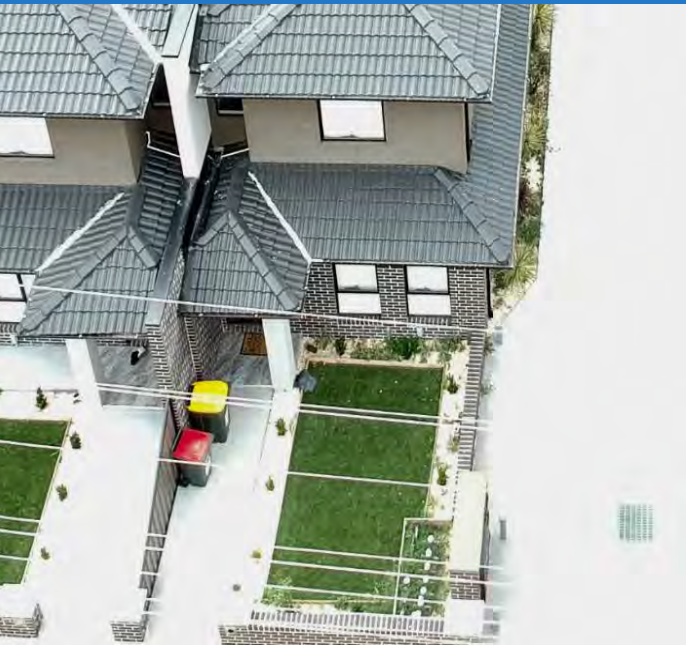


Supplementary Valuations





Implementation

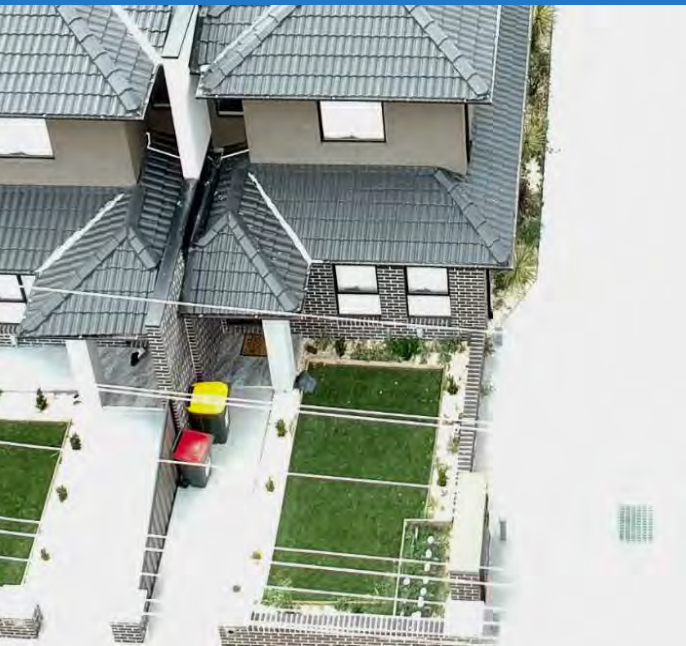


Questions we have:

1. What is it in particular about regional and rural councils that we should take into account?
2. Supplementary valuations are making some adjustments for population but not enough. How do we handle this?
3. Is per person vs rateable properties basis better to measure population?
4. What is better for measuring population in regional and rural councils - forward projections of population (DPIE or ABS - ERP) or historical data (ABS)?



Timeline



ATTACHMENT FIVE: TWO WINS

Canberra Region JO

The CRJO continues to collaborate across the region and bring together impactful project focusing on recovery and resilience. We have been granted funding from stream 2 of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF) and through the NSW Government's Increasing Resilience to Climate Change (IRCC) program to develop tools for homeowners, councils, and industry to improve their climate resilience. Together, these projects aim to ensure future disaster preparedness and resilience in our region.

BCRRF Project 1: Simtable

The Simtable Project will deliver a state-of-the-art digital tool that can be used to engage communities in localised place-based emergency information sessions. These sessions will raise the awareness of existing and future natural hazards, identify vulnerable populations and assets, and improve community's capacity and capability to plan for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Communities will then be able to better articulate their own and collective recovery needs, develop informed plans and identify any capability or capacity gaps. The project activities will strengthen community social cohesiveness and relationships with local agencies by providing emergency scenarios the community can explore together with guidance and potential solutions provided by a qualified facilitator.

BCRRF Project 2: Contaminated Lands Database/Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS)

Development of a Spatial Data Mapping Tool to assist Councils identify land parcels and sites containing unknown underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) and other contamination substances of a combustible or accelerant nature that pose a hazard risk. The Mapping Tool we will develop will allow Councils to identify all business activity history for all land parcels dating back to the mid 1940's. This information is crucial in the risk ranking of hazardous land parcels and the future management and remediation of these volatile areas within our communities.

BCRRF Project 3: A Resilience Blueprint for the South East

This project will seek to link to other resilience projects and provide a regional framework within which to gather data, analyse, share lessons, and report progress. Other projects led by the Canberra Region Joint Organisation like the Simtable project (mentioned above) will have direct added benefits to the engagement and training aspects of the Resilience Blueprint; local resilience strategies like that being undertaken by Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council will provide finer grained information that can dovetail into the Blueprint as well as ensuring that community consultation for the two projects value add to each other; and community-led initiatives like the Cobargo and Region Energy Transition project

and the Bega Cheese circular economy initiative provide inspirational case studies that can be learnt from across the wider region.

IRCC Project: Climate Resilient Housing Toolkit

The Canberra Region Climate Resilient Housing Toolkit will consist of guidance for officials and community members to protect community housing and assets in the case of future climate events. This project is being delivered in collaboration with the Insurance Council of Australia, the Minderoo Foundation, and the NSW Government.

Central NSW JO

Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program

The CNSWJO Board were successful in an application for the Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program (II Program) – Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP) joint with RDACW. The project is fully funded by the Federal Government and will develop better access for Small to Medium Enterprise in the Central West leveraging Inland Rail.

Energy Project

With each member council currently participating in varying energy projects with the consulting support being funded by DPIE, there appears to be a much stronger focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy now than there was 2 years ago. As such, GMAC in April agreed to increasing the minimum percentage of total load allocated to renewable energy sources to 50%.

Far North West JO

Western Airlines Services

Fly Pelican are now flying Cobar/Sydney/ Cobar four flights a week as a trial, where it was initially for three days to capture the tourism market demand, visitors to relatives, professionals, and FIFO workers in the mines markets on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays and results have exceeded expectation to the extent that the subsidy is minimal and where five flights are now a possibility. Locals are now complaining they cannot get on flights!!!

Air Link are flying three days a week Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on a variable basis from Dubbo to Bourke return and flying Dubbo to Walgett, tag to Lightning Ridge return. So far it is going quite well under the COVID pressures and with a little help of some subsidies from the Federal Government during COVID.

The airline service operators have asked the three LGA's involved to reflect their services in the council newsletters, media releases, web pages etc which they are doing. Destination NSW Outback & Inland Tourism have promoted the services in their newsletters as well. These services are heavily subsidised by the State Government in order to re-instate the services, over four years with the hope that the airlines will be able to continue the services

with minimal subsidy after this period. They have been in operation since late 2019 and are constantly under review by the Board and our lawyers Hickson's with flexible fares, reduced fuel costs and subsequent daily flight costs being improved to suit the needs of customers, the Board of FNWJO and the airlines.

Tourism Marketing Strategy

The OLG provided FNWJO with a Capability and Capacity grant of \$150,000 to develop a Tourism Marketing Strategy for the Far North West to compliment the airlines service and to stimulate the far north western region post drought and COVID. Urban Enterprise were engaged to write the Tourism Marketing Strategy with Bourke Shire Council staff leading the project and involving all three LGA Tourism staff in the content and direction that it will take. This is a good example of the three FNWJO councils and their tourism staff working together in order to maximise the spend of the grant provided by the OLG on strategies and actions. Challenge now is getting the funds to implement the strategies.

EPA Contaminated Land Management Project

Melting Pot Planning and Cavanagh Consulting were engaged to undertake this project, which is going extremely well, with EPA now funding the final period. The consultants are working closely with other CLMO's in the Joint Organisation Network to the satisfaction of the EPA in the development of policies, procedures, delegations, checklists, training, etc. Training for CLO's from JO's and council staff was conducted at Cobar in 2021 with the involvement of SafeWork NSW, EPA, LGNSW, JO councils, etc. We have turned a three-year project into two by engaging a contractor in the short term in lieu of trying to get highly qualified staff to meet the Position Description EPA put out initially. This is assisting our three councils and the network in dealing with contaminated land issues in the Far North West and in increasing in house knowledge, systems, policies, and procedures so they have the capability and capacity to manage the issues through the planning process.

Far West JO

Regional Freight Transport Plan

The FWJO has made significant progress in the development of a regional freight transport plan, with key milestones being completed in recent months. The next step is a workshop to be held in Wentworth in June and the completion of the document will follow in the coming months. This plan will provide a strategic approach to roads funding and an ability to prioritise projects of regional significance.

Destination Management Plan

The funding provided via the OLG Capacity Building Program aims to deliver on an analysis of regional tourism programs, strategies and projects and identify both gaps and opportunities. Following this, an action plan identifying opportunities to enable these tourism plans and increase visitor economy numbers will be developed, including key areas

for Local Government, including the JO, to deliver. It will also place FWJO in a collaborative position, working with other regional tourism organisations to continue to develop a significant economic driver to the Far West.

Illawara JO

Kerbside Clean up Pilot

Practical solutions to kerbside cleanup waste was the focus of the first quarter of 2021 for the ISJO waste team. With support from Wollongong Council and Green Connect as a partner social enterprise, the first pass collection pilot was undertaken.

Over 4 weeks during February and March, staff went out the afternoon prior to the Remondis truck and visited each booked property on the list for the following day's kerbside cleanup collection.

Items that were deemed to have a reuse value were taken from the kerb, cleaned, refurbished and stored until the sale weekend on 27 -28th March. The sale event was held at a commercial shopfront on Crown Street, next door to spotlight.

Of the 394 items reclaimed from kerbside collections, 84% were sold and 8% of the remaining smaller items were donated to Green Connect for sale in their op shop. 2% of items could not be repaired in time or budget, and the remaining items have been sold through online marketplaces.

Outcomes

- **500+** people passed through the doors over the weekend sale
- **89** feedback messages asking for it to be on again
- **331** items sold over the sale weekend
- **72m³** of kerbside cleanup waste was diverted from landfill over 4 weeks
- Reduction of **10,272kg CO²** emissions
- **\$6413** was raised from the sale of goods that were destined for landfill and donated to Green Connect for their work with young people and former refugees

This project was piloted in the Wollongong LGA due to the volume of booked services and the use of a compactor truck. A business case will now be created to determine the longer term viability of this initiative.

Enabling Water Sensitive Urban Communities

Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven Councils recently completed a Water Sensitive Urban Communities benchmarking and transition strategy for the region. The process is based on the benchmarking framework developed by the national Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. The benchmarking is a key component of the first and second stages of the regional project generating an understanding of where are positioned in comparison with other regions; sharing regional case studies; and regional capacity building.

Mid-North Coast JO

Simtables

Resilience NSW has approved funding of \$225,635 to the MNCJO under Phase 2 of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Program. The funding will be used to purchase a 'Simtable' and engage a Project Officer to manage its use in the three Member Council LGAs (Bellingen, Kempsey, and Port Macquarie), as well as Coffs Harbour, Nambucca and Clarence Valley LGAs.

A Simtable is a 'state of the art' tool that can be used to engage communities in localised place-based emergency information sessions that will enhance emergency planning and support recovery utilising 3D images of local landscapes. The following brief video demonstrates the power of the tool which has been used by Ku-ring-ai Council as part of fire education workshops held with local communities.

https://youtu.be/H_L5KyGUb5o

The Simtable relies on local data and GIS information to accurately reflect the real environment to ensure a realistic simulation of the impact of natural disasters on local communities. Residents, for example, are able to visualise the movement of a fire in relation to where they live.

The MNCJO is collaborating with the Hunter and Canberra JOs (who also received funding to purchase Simtables) on the establishment of Simtables in their respective areas including in relation to sharing knowledge, expertise and trouble shooting.

Koala Recovery Project

The MNCJO has been able to extend its existing contract with the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) to deliver the Hastings-Macleay Koala Recovery Project. The contract extension is from June 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022. This extension aligns with the existing contract the JO has with a Koala Ecologist who has been working on this project since April 2019.

The Koala Recovery project seeks to improve conservation across the Hastings-Macleay area by engaging with landholders, the community, research groups and the government sector to achieve better on-ground outcomes and the on-going viability of this important Australian species. Key partners involved in this project, apart from DPIE councils, are the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, The Koala Hospital based in Port Macquarie and Land Care Services based in Port Macquarie and Kempsey.

Extension of the contract with DPIE will enable significantly more work to be done in relation to habitat creation and conservation and a follow-up koala monitoring program aimed at assessing seasonal habitat variations.

Namoi Unlimited

Regional Job Precinct

In April the Namoi region was announced as the fourth Regional Job Precinct (RJP) in regional NSW. Regional Job Precincts is an initiative of the NSW under the Special Activation Program and is intended to deliver faster planning approvals to provide local councils, regional communities, industry and businesses with greater confidence around future investment and development. The Namoi region is one of the largest producers of poultry, lamb and beef in NSW, the Namoi Region, comprising of Tamworth, Gwydir, Gunnedah, Liverpool Plains and Walcha local government areas, is set to benefit further from opportunities to support the growth of the intensive agriculture sector and livestock production. The NSW Government will also work with the Agricultural Commissioner, Namoi Unlimited, local businesses and communities to determine the boundary for the Regional Job Precinct investigation area. Councils will also investigate a shared service around planning and attracting investment in agriculture.

Training for Councillors, General Managers and Senior Staff

Councils involved with Namoi Unlimited have also agreed to conduct a 1 ½ day training session for elected Councillors, General Managers and senior staff early November. The intent of the program is to deliver specific areas of interest relative to the Namoi as well as the sector training.

Northern Rivers JO

Disaster Dashboards

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation's (NRJO) grant application through the **Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Stream 2** for funding for the installation of Disaster Dashboard's for Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore and Richmond Valley Councils was successful. This will mean all six LGAs within the NRJO boundaries will have Disaster Dashboards in place accessible from the Council websites.

Renewable Energy Prospectus

One of the NRJO's key goals is to strengthen the region's emerging position as a NSW leader in renewable energy generation, storage, and use, in accordance with widespread community support for reduced emissions and action on climate change. To this end the NRJO is moving forward with the development of the renewable energy prospectus which will deliver sustainable energy, high value jobs in key employment areas, new research and innovation opportunities and capital raising connections where none currently exist. The prospectus is due to be complete by October 2021.

Riverina and Murray JO

Digital Connectivity

By working together with various telecommunications providers, RAMJO assisted in developing the submissions under the Commonwealth Government's Regional Connectivity Programme. Three of the four projects submitted for the RAMJO region were funded,

resulting in a future level of increased telecommunications infrastructure across the member councils. The three projects include the areas of: Leeton – Narrandera, Jerilderie - Coleambally and the cross border communities of Swan Hill to Tooleybuc.

Priority Mapping

RAMJO have completed the priority mapping of regional infrastructure projects across member councils, particularly as they relate to key priority areas including: energy, roads, bridges, cultural and recreational, tourism, water and wastewater projects. This mapping will remain contemporary and will be used as a basis for advocacy and an approach to regional funding applications where possible. The mapping is currently available on RAMJO's website in various formats, including "Projects By Council" and an interactive map.

Riverina JO

Behind the Career

Behind the Career (BTC) is an initiative of Training Services NSW. In essence, it is a video library showcasing an increasing number of careers. The [BTC web pages](#) already feature Construction and Aged Care, and Engineering is being finalised. Each video has the same format: approx. 19 – 22 mins long, a virtual tour highlighting each career, downloadable documents aligned to the high school curriculum, and links to further resources.

Through the work we were doing with Training Services arranging mentor and supervisor training for our Skills Shortages project we were approached to support the development of the Careers in Local Government video. Our Project Officer, Paul Worsfold went into production mode, doing the groundwork for the video. While we had wanted to showcase a number of councils, the reality of the production schedule meant that only one council could be used. Greater Hume Shire, which has made a significant commitment to employing trainees and to engaging with its local high schools on careers in local government was the chosen location.

LGNSW is now negotiating with Training Services for shorter versions of the video to be included in its Careers at Local Government site.

The completed video can be seen at <https://www.behindthecareer.com/localgovernment>

Housing Shortages Project

There is a chronic shortage of all types of housing in the Region. The JO has joined with REROC to address the issue, undertaking research, and engaging with Member Councils, State agencies, the RDA and local industry.

The goal for this project is to develop a Housing Strategy for the Region, for completion by mid-year. To date 3 workshops of the issue have been held which have been attended by Member Councils, representatives from NSW Planning, NSW DPI, NSW Environment and Regional NSW as well as RDA-Riverina and industry representatives and stakeholders. Information gained through the workshops is informing the development of the State's Regional Housing Strategy.

We are also assisting RDA-Riverina and RDA-Orana on the delivery of a Regional Housing Summit which will be held in Wagga Wagga on 13 August which will be attended by the Hon Nola Marino MP, the Federal Government's Assistant Minister Regional Development.



Joint Organisations Review

Summary of progress, JO Chairs Forum, 27 May 2021



Progress report

Joint Organisations Review
May 2021



Project overview and progress to date



Data collection and consultation



Emergent themes from the data



Facilitated discussion



What's next for the Review

Our team



Dr Emily Verstege
Director at ARTD

Project oversight and review of Namoi, New England, Northern Rivers and Mid-North Coast JOs



Dr Laurel Johnson
Spatial, Regional and Social Planner

Expert project advice and review of Illawarra Shoalhaven, Canberra, Riverina and Riverina and Murray JOs



Paula Shaw
Senior Consultant at ARTD

Project coordination and review of Hunter, Central, Orana, Far North West and Far West JOs



Natalie Martino
Analyst at ARTD

Project support and research and data coordination

Purpose of the Review

The **overall objective** of this Review is to ensure the JO model is effective and supports JOs to deliver their core functions of advocacy, strategic leadership, and better outcomes for regional communities.

It is an **assessment of effectiveness** of the JO operational model in facilitating the delivery of core functions and statutory obligations and increasing collaboration with external partners.

It seeks to understand specific contextual factors for each JO and broader insights about the JO model.

It will deliver a final report (July 2021) that identifies the strengths and challenges of the model, and actionable and timely opportunities to improve sustainability.

Review methods

- Literature scan to identify good practice features and predictive factors for effective regional governance
- Desktop review of JO documentation
- Survey of General Managers
- Interviews with:
 - All JO Chairs
 - All JO Executive Officers
 - A sample of other JO member mayors
 - A sample of General Managers of member councils
 - A sample of JO associate members
 - A sample of State agencies
- Data analysis to identify key themes and assess in terms of JO purpose and predictive factors for good regional governance.

Review progress

Activity	Progress
Interviews with EOs, JO Chairs, selected member council Mayors	Complete
General manager's survey	Closed, 72% response rate (very high)
Interviews with Associate members, external stakeholders and NSW state officers	In progress

Emerging findings



Photo credit: Jasper Odgers

- Potential for collective planning and focussed action
- Comparative standing with the State
- A powerful voice for change
- A supportive JO network

Emerging findings



Photo credit: Jasper Odgers

- Ensuring sustainability
- Resourcing compliance
- Configuring JOs to local context
- Identifying regional priorities

Facilitated discussion: What do you think?

- To what extent do these themes capture your views?
- What is needed to strengthen the JO model?

What's next

- **Develop emergent themes** to reflect stakeholder feedback, and survey data analysis.
- **Developing in-depth JO profiles** (contextual features, projects, priorities, successes and challenges) to ensure general recommendations can be tailored to specific contexts.
- **Develop recommendations** for the JO model into the future.
- **Draft report** (end of June 2021) and **final report** (14 July 2021).

Contact us



EORA

SYDNEY OFFICE

L4 352 Kent Street
Sydney

NARRM

MELBOURNE OFFICE

L9 401 Collins Street
Melbourne

MEANJIN

BRISBANE OFFICE

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0417 619 662



Office of Local Government Update

May 2021

The Local Government Amendment Bill 2021 has passed Parliament



The Local Government Amendment Bill 2021 implements the Government's response to IPART's review of the rating system

- Greater flexibility in rating
- Helps councils deal with population growth
- Allows merged councils more time to harmonise rates

Other measures include

- Measures for JO and county council chairs
- Minor amendments relating to elections
- Councils have the option to make superannuation payments to councillors

A number of important governance initiatives are on the way



The new internal audit framework will be finalised shortly

- Extensive consultation received
- OLG has updated the framework to incorporate feedback
- Further consultation on the updated framework
- To be finalised by September 2021
- Councils need to comply by March 2022

Governance changes to support women in local government

- Proposals for changes to the model Code of Meeting Practice and Expenses and facilities policies are underway

Reviewing tendering regulations and Ministerial Investment Order

- OLG is preparing a consultation paper on the review of the tendering regulations to issue halfway through the year
- The Ministerial Investment Order is also being reviewed

Evaluation of the JO framework

- Consultants will provide an update later today
- Consultation with JOs commenced
- Consultation with other stakeholders yet to commence

OLG is supporting councils to undertake their roles as regulators and employers



Workforce planning

- OLG project officer is supporting councils to access training
- Support for workforce planning
- Promoting veterans employment

Hoarding and squalor

- OLG has engaged Catholic Healthcare to run a series of workshops for council staff on better management of hoarding and squalor

Finance webinars

- OLG has run a series of webinars for council finance staff and more will be coming in the coming months and for incoming councillors

Further tools and guidance
will follow in the coming
months



Integrated planning and reporting

- IP&R guidelines to be released in the coming months

Model policies to support the code of conduct

- Model policies for:
 - Social media
 - Councillor and staff interaction
 - Media management
 - Lobbying of councillors

Credit card management

- OLG will prepare draft guidelines on credit card management in response to AO performance audit

OLG has recommenced its review of the Impounding Act



Consultation paper

- OLG released a consultation paper to seek sector and community feedback
- Feedback suggested the Act is not working well in its current form

Further consultation

- Further consultation on policy options on three key areas will commence shortly:
 - Shopping trolleys
 - Animals and stock
 - Vehicles and trailers



Town Water Risk Reduction Program

Chairs and Executive Officers of NSW Joint Organisations meeting

Meeting | 27 May 2021

Town Water Risk Reduction Program

Key objective

Develop and implement a new approach of working together that enables local water utilities (LWUs) to manage risks and priorities in town water systems more strategically and effectively and, as a result, reduce risks in regional NSW communities over time.

Focus

Work together with the sector to identify the most fundamental barriers within state and local government that prevent effective and strategic risk management, and to develop and implement long-term solutions to these barriers.

1. Scale and remoteness
2. Skills and training shortages
3. Sub-optimal strategic planning
4. Inefficiently targeted government funding
5. Inadequate regulatory approaches

Design systems, programs and partnerships that **enhance** LWUs and their partners **capabilities**, better **support** and **coordinate** with LWUs, **regulate** LWUs more **effectively** and **fund** them more **appropriately**.

Partnership approach

There is a history of unsuccessful reforms in this space, which stakeholders have attributed to:

- **Failure to meaningfully engage** the sector in developing options
- **Failure to look inward** at Government's own shortcomings
- **Failure to follow through** and implement recommended options

This program aims to overcome these issues through a new approach with the following key elements:

Stakeholder Advisory
Panel

Collaborative design,
not just consultation

Stakeholders
involved at every
stage

Imprimatur and
resources to make
internal changes

Dedicated team
tasked to both
identify and
implement solutions



Our Vision for Town Water

Work collaboratively with stakeholders to build a town water sector where:

- Stakeholders, including the department, **work together in partnership**, sharing data and knowledge, consulting and collaborating with one another, and supporting each other where applicable
- Local water utilities are **supported to manage safe, secure and sustainable** water supply and sewerage services in an efficient and customer-focused manner
- The regulation of local water utilities is focused on outcomes, based on risk and the maturity of local water utilities, and is **fair and transparent**. Regulators are accountable and well coordinated.

Program focus areas

Improve the
regulatory
framework

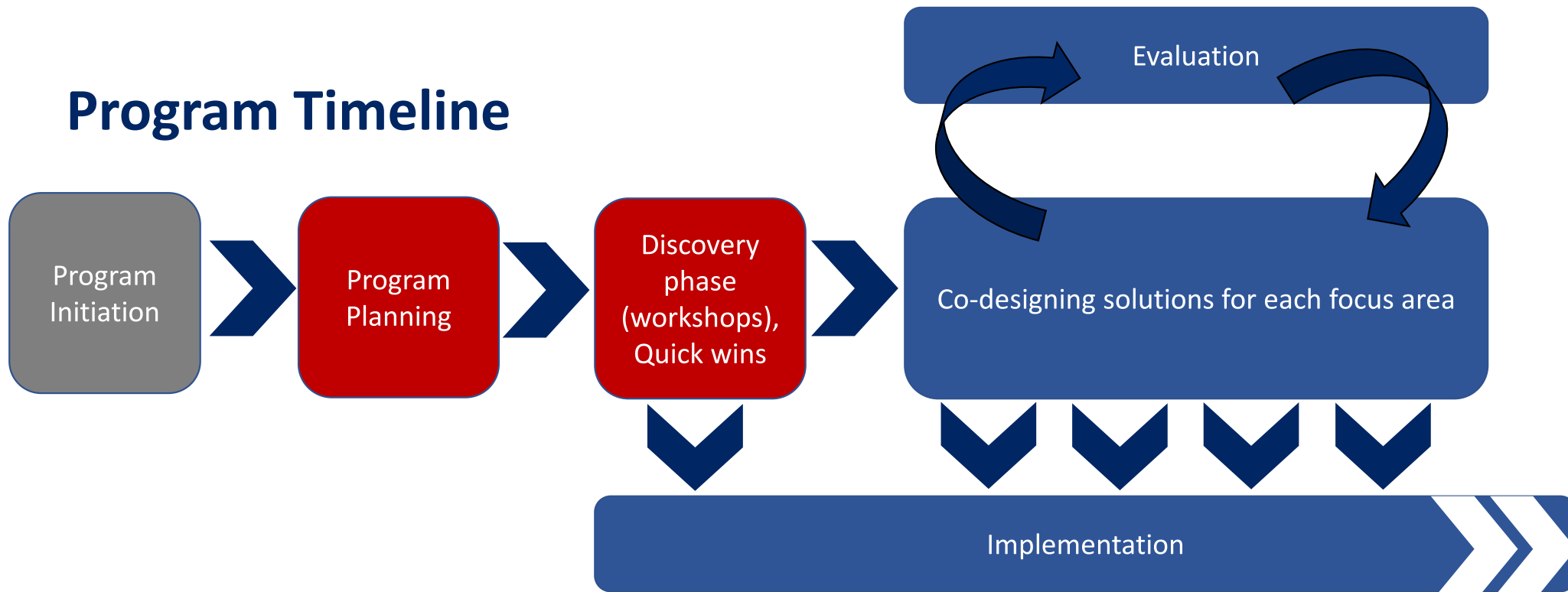
Encourage greater
collaboration
between utilities

Review of skills
shortages across
the sector

Investigate
alternative funding
models

Facilitate greater
State Government
support

Program Timeline



December 2020 –
March 2021

March – June 2020

July 2021 – September 2022



Planning,
Industry &
Environment

Water Reform Division

Key achievements to date

Progressed priority findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General report

- Website updates to provide transparency about current IWCM strategy processes

Partnering with the sector to design an improved regulatory framework

- Registrations open: June virtual and regional workshops on regulatory objectives, roles and responsibilities and roadmap towards improved regulatory framework
- Local water utilities volunteering to participate in re-design of IWCM strategic planning framework
- Exploring current approaches, identifying barriers to integration and sharing best practices of Councils who see value in integrating their IWCM and IP&R strategic planning activities

Operator skills and training

- Identification of barriers, possible mitigation factors and opportunities that can be addressed by the Program, informed by discussions with stakeholders including Central NSW JO, Namoi JO.
- Bringing together people already working on creating sustainable operator training in NSW into a focussed project team.
- Supporting Training Services NSW to develop draft Water Industry Skills Strategy.

Next steps – 3 month look ahead

- June virtual and regional workshops on regulatory objectives and roadmap towards improved regulatory framework
 - Virtual workshops – Wed 2 June & Tue 15 June
 - Griffith – Mon 21 June
 - Dubbo – Wed 23 June
 - Queanbeyan – Fri 25 June
 - Tamworth – Tue 29 June
 - Coffs Harbour – Wed 30 June
- **Investigating existing regional collaboration and looking for opportunities to enhance regional collaboration**
- **Investigating opportunities for increased state government support**
- Co-regulator working group
- Commencing pilots across the program – IWCM strategies, skills and training, regional collaboration
- Councillor awareness and training package – including case studies, videos
- Emergency management roles and responsibilities

What do you think?

- What do you think of our program's focus and activities?
- If we are going to **increase support or collaborate with you** – what would that look like?

More information?

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Director Town Water Risk Reduction Program
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Manager Town Water Risk Reduction Program
0414 310 763
Sascha.Moege@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Email the team at regional.town.water@dpie.nsw.gov.au



NSW JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS' FORUM

21 May 2021

Tracy Mackey
Chief Executive Officer
NSW Environment Protection Authority
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Tracey

Re: Delivery of the NSW Government's 20 Year Waste Strategy - Invitation to engage with the combined network of NSW Joint Organisations

The NSW Joint Organisations Chairs Network recognises and appreciates the establishment by the NSW EPA of the Local Government Advisory Group, to support the EPA's engagement with local government, particularly the Advisory Group's role in advising and partnering with the EPA to drive contemporary solutions to waste and resource recovery matters in NSW, including the development of the NSW Government's 20-Year Waste Strategy. The Chairs Network also values the opportunity for Joint Organisations to have a direct voice on the Advisory Group via the representation provided by Julie Briggs (Riverina JO) and Joe James (Hunter JO).

In addition to this representation however, the JO Chairs Network believes there would be substantial additional value if the EPA were to engage with the JO network collectively, to facilitate co-design of the 20 Year Waste Strategy's implementation program. The challenges surrounding waste management in regional NSW are different to those experienced in metropolitan areas. Capturing local knowledge and developing place based solutions via the JO Network represents a critical opportunity by which to achieve effective delivery of the Strategy across regional NSW.

Key opportunities identified by the Joint Organisation network around delivery of the 20-Year Waste Strategy around which collaborative planning could occur include:

1. Incorporating the JO network as a core partner in co-designing delivery mechanisms and programs that ensure the effective implementation of the 20 Year Waste Strategy across regional NSW
2. Implementing a process to explore and improve partnerships between JO's and Regional Waste Groups, to provide the opportunity to facilitate enhanced integration of both the operational and strategic focus of these respective entities.



NSW JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS' FORUM

3. Providing for regional autonomy to determine and deliver programs within regions that are consistent with overall State strategy objectives, but which can be tailored to regional characteristics and capacity.
4. Supporting the continuation of funds being allocated on a regional basis to implement regional programs that deliver on the objectives of the 20 Year Strategy and Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Strategies
5. Regional funding models encompassing clear and adequate / realistic levels of funding and timeframes to facilitate delivery of actions identified in regional strategies
6. Funding models that guarantee a base level of funding to support core staffing and administration costs, above which additional funding is allocated on an agreed matrix of characteristics.
7. Improved linkages and alignment of reporting between Regional Waste Strategies with the planning and reporting cycles of the Integrated Planning and Reporting frameworks and timelines of Councils.

On behalf of Joint Organisations across NSW, I thereby invite the NSW EPA to engage with the NSW Joint Organisation Network to facilitate a collaborative approach to designing the implementation framework and delivery mechanisms for the 20 Year Waste Strategy. This will ensure that its delivery effectively reflects and successfully addresses the differences and challenges in waste management that exist across regional NSW.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Yours Sincerely



Mayor Rowena Abbey
Chair – NSW Joint Organisation Chairs Forum



NSW JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS' FORUM

8 June 2021

Ms Steph Cooke MP
Member for Cootamundra
Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier, and The Nationals Whip
PO Box 350
YOUNG NSW 2594

Dear Ms Cooke,

Re: Continued support of the Joint Organisation network and follow-up from recent meeting

On behalf of the NSW Joint Organisations Chairs Network we would like to thank you for your time, interest and advocacy in support of the Joint Organisation network.

A stronger connection to the Deputy Premier, yourself and Regional NSW will help realise the opportunity Joint Organisations offer to our councils and communities in regional NSW. This is particularly important for the smaller less well resourced Councils.

There is also an opportunity to leverage better value for the State through Joint Organisations with this value then being returned to community.

We would welcome your presence at future meetings and the opportunity to brief you regarding progress. We also welcome the presence of Mr Chris Hanger, Regional NSW Deputy Secretary where there is an opportunity to put in place the change required to realise the value of Joint Organisations.

On behalf of Joint Organisations across NSW, I thereby invite Regional NSW to engage with the NSW Joint Organisation Network and attend all future meetings and to speak further on a collaborative approach to codesigning future projects.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Yours Sincerely



Mayor Rowena Abbey
Chair – NSW Joint Organisation Chairs Forum



NSW JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS' FORUM

19 July 2021

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government
By email: office@hancock.minister.nsw.gov.au

RE: Mayoral representation following upcoming ordinary election

Dear Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Chairs of the NSW Joint Organisations to express our concerns regarding the potential lengthy vacancy of the role of Mayor for those Councils where the mayor is elected by councillors following an ordinary election.

It has come to our attention that, as a consequence of an amendment in 2016 to section 234 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act"), council-elected mayors are unable to continue in their roles following an ordinary election until a new mayor is elected. However, this is not the case for popularly elected mayors. S234(5) reads:

The office of a mayor elected by councillors becomes vacant if the mayor ceases to hold office as a councillor.

We understand that this means the mayor ceases to be a councillor on election day and therefore ceases to be mayor. Prior to this amendment, the mayor would remain in office until a "successor was declared to be elected".

The situation is further aggravated this year, because of a recent amendment to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, whereby the results of the election may not be declared until as late as 6pm on Thursday, 23 September 2021. This means that for councils with mayors elected by councillors, they could be without elected representation for up to almost 6 weeks.

In NSW, approximately half of mayors are elected by council. Considering these legislative amendments, and the lengthy period between election commencement and finalization of the results, there is a very real risk of many communities across NSW being without local mayoral representation for an extended period of time.



NSW JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS' FORUM

As you would be aware, the role of Mayor is vital to the community and provides local leadership and response, and often acts as spokesperson during times of disruption. This has been in evidence during the many natural hazards of the previous 12 months and certainly in response to the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing impact. There have been numerous examples of Covid-19 cases emerging in regional towns and the community looks to their local leaders to provide guide, information and support to manage the impacts.

The potential for over half of the communities of NSW to be without mayoral representation is potentially devastating.

We respectfully request that an immediate amendment be made to s234 of the Act to allow mayors to continue in their positions until such time as a successor is elected to the position.

We suggest an amendment to s234(5) could read:

The office of a mayor becomes vacant if the mayor ceases to hold office as a councillor for any reason except in the case where the office of councillor is vacated on the day appointed for the next ordinary election pursuant to s.233(2)(b). A mayor who ceases to be a councillor on the day appointed for the next ordinary election continues to hold the office of mayor until a successor is elected.

We believe the above reflects the previous legislation and would cover both popularly elected mayors and those elected by their fellow councillors.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you and look forward to a constructive and swift resolution to the issue that gives confidence and certainty to our communities during these challenging times.

Yours Sincerely



Mayor Rowena Abbey

Chair – NSW Joint Organisation Chairs Forum



NSW JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS' FORUM

CC:

Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier

Hon Sam Faraway MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Deputy Premier

Ms Steph Cooke MP, Member for Cootamundra

Cr Linda Scott, LGNSW President





The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

Ref: A776217

Clr Danielle Mulholland
Chairperson
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
Email: danielle.mulholland@kyogle.nsw.gov.au
CC: execofficer@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

24 June 2021

Dear Clr Mulholland

Since becoming Minister for Local Government I have been working closely with Joint Organisations (JOs) to ensure the NSW Government best assists the network of JOs and their communities. I am committed to the ongoing success of JOs and will continue to ensure they deliver for our regions.

In 2019 the NSW Government established the *Joint Organisation Capacity Building Fund*. This fund has supported the ongoing sustainability of JOs with an initial \$1.95 million to assist each JO to build additional capacity and deliver their strategic plans.

A second round of the Fund is now available thanks to an additional \$1.95 million investment, and will provide JOs with additional financial assistance to further build capacity and demonstrate capability to work with State agencies, while delivering their strategic plans.

This means that an additional \$150,000 is now available to your JO to contribute towards a project or program designed to improve your JO's ongoing sustainability. This can be an existing or an entirely new project and must address one or more of the strategic priorities identified by the JO while delivering measurable outcomes towards its sustainability.

The New South Wales Government's Joint Organisation Capacity Building Fund combined with the initial seed funding provided to all Joint Organisations brings the total investment in our state's 13 JOs to \$8.2 million, and demonstrates our ongoing support for the program. Many Joint Organisations have secured NSW Government funds and grants in addition to this amount.

Funding guidelines and a funding agreement have been developed and are attached to this letter. The signed funding agreement is to be returned by **Friday 25 June 2021**. An action plan detailing the key delivery milestones, expected benefits and budget is required by **Monday 30 August 2021**.

I am looking forward to seeing the range of projects put forward in response to this funding and following progress. If you have any questions about the funding, please don't hesitate to contact your OLG Council Engagement Manager.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government



Office of Local Government

2021 JOINT ORGANISATION CAPABILITY BUILDING FUNDING AGREEMENT

Stage 2 Funding Agreement

Between:

**The Crown acting through the Office of Local Government, Department of
Planning, Industry and Environment in right of the State of New South
Wales**

and

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation

This Agreement is made on the day of 2021

Between:

The Crown acting through the Office of Local Government, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in right of the State of New South Wales
ABN 44 913 630 046, 5 O'Keefe Avenue, Nowra NSW 2541 ("the Provider") and

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation described in Attachment A ("the Joint Organisation").

Background

- A. Following the NSW Government's commitment to support sustainability of Joint Organisations and to build additional capacity, the Minister for Local Government created Joint Organisation Capacity Building Fund (the Fund).
- B. The purpose of this Stage Two of the Funding is to provide joint organisations with additional financial assistance to further build capacity and demonstrate capability to work with state agencies, while delivering their strategic plans.
- C. The Provider will provide the Joint Organisation with Stage Two financial assistance from the Fund (the Funding) and the Joint Organisation agrees to accept the Funding in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

Operative Provisions:

1. Definitions and Interpretation

1.1 In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Agreement" means this Funding Agreement and its attachments;

"Approved Funding" means the additional one-off funding under the Fund which has been approved by the NSW Government as specified in Attachment 1.

"Business Day" means a day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in Sydney NSW;

"Coordinator General" means the **Coordinator General, Planning Delivery And Local Government**

“Commencement Date” means the date specified in Item 2 of Attachment 1;

DPIE means the Department of Planning Industry and Environment.

“Funding Guidelines” means the Stage Two Guidelines 2021 - Joint Organisation Capacity Building Fund Guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government in 2021 Attachment 3.

“Funding Period” means the period specified in Item 3 of Attachment 1 (unless varied by agreement by the parties)

“GST” has the meaning as given in the Goods and Services Tax legislation

“GST legislation” means *A New Tax System (Goods and Services) Tax Act 1999*, related legislation and any delegated legislation made pursuant to such legislation

“Minister” means the Minister for Local Government

“OLG” means the Office of Local Government a branch within DPIE

“Party” means a party to this Agreement

“The Provider” means DPIE being the agency of the Minister for Local Government as described in the *Local Government Act 1993* and OLG is the branch within DPIE authorised by the Provider to administer this Agreement.

“Reports” means the reports specified in Attachment 2;

“Stage Two Funding” means the payment referred to in item 4 of Attachment 1 which the Provider will make to the Joint Organisation for the funding period specified in Item 3 of Attachment 1.

“Tax Invoice” has the same meaning as given in the GST legislation.

“Unexpended Funding” means Funding paid by the Provider to the Joint Organisation that is unspent and includes Funding that is committed but unspent.

1.2 In this Agreement, headings are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Agreement and, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) other parts of speech and grammatical forms of a word or phrase defined in this Agreement have a corresponding meaning;

- (c) a reference to a legislative provision or legislation (including subordinate legislation) is to that provision or legislation as amended, re-enacted or replaced, and includes any subordinate legislation issued under it;
- (d) a reference to a party to any document includes that party's successors and permitted assigns;
- (e) a reference to dollars or \$ is to an amount in Australian currency;
- (f) a reference to a clause, party or attachment is a reference to a clause of, and a party and attachment to, this Agreement.

- 1.3 Where any time limit pursuant to this Agreement falls on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in Sydney NSW then that time limit shall be deemed to have expired on the next Business Day.
- 1.4 This Agreement is not to be interpreted against the interests of a party merely because that party proposed this document or some provision in it or because that party relies on a provision of this document to protect itself.

2. Provision of the Funding

- 2.1 The Provider will authorise OLG to provide the Funding to the Joint Organisation in accordance with and subject to the terms of this Agreement.
- 2.2 The Joint Organisation acknowledges that this Agreement shall be binding on the Joint Organisation from the time of delivery of the Agreement duly executed by the Joint Organisation to the Provider.
- 2.3 Subject to this Agreement, the Provider will pay the Stage Two Funding to the Joint Organisation on or before the Commencement Date.

3. GST

- 3.1 Unless otherwise indicated, all consideration for any supply under this Agreement is exclusive of any GST imposed in relation to the supply.
- 3.2 If:
 - (a) despite any other provisions of this Agreement, GST is imposed on any supply by the Joint Organisation to the Provider under this Agreement; and
 - (b) the Provider is or will be entitled to receive an input tax credit (as defined in the GST Law) in relation to that supply,

the Provider will pay to the Joint Organisation an additional amount equal to the GST imposed on that supply, at the time and in the manner, payment is otherwise payable under this Agreement in relation to that supply.

- 3.3 The Joint Organisation must be registered under the GST Law at the time any supply under this Agreement on which GST is imposed.
- 3.4 If the Joint Organisation is not registered under the GST Law as required under clause 3.3, it will not be entitled to receive any additional amount as provided under this clause 3 (GST).
- 3.5 If for any reason the Provider pays to the Joint Organisation an amount under this clause 3 (GST) which is more than the GST imposed on the supply, the Joint Organisation must repay the excess to the Provider upon demand or the Provider may set off the excess against any other amounts due to the Joint Organisation.

4. How the Funding is to be used

- 4.1 At your direction, the Joint Organisation must:
- (a) use the Approved Funding for the purpose of developing programs and initiatives to further build capacity in the Joint Organisation and which demonstrate the Joint Organisation's capability to work with state agencies, while delivering on the strategic plans of the Joint Organisation.
 - (b) use the funding for purposes authorised by the Funding Guidelines; and
 - (c) only use the Approved Funding within the Funding Period however you may seek our approval to extend the Funding Period.
- 4.2 The Joint Organisation must not use the funding for:
- (a) capital expenditure.
 - (b) Council or JO operational costs.
- 4.3 For the purposes of processing and recording all Funding receipts and expenditure, the Joint Organisation must, throughout the Funding Period-
- (a) demonstrate, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Provider, that adequate internal financial controls are in place within an existing account controlled by the Joint Organisation identified for use for the purposes of this Agreement.
- 4.4 The Joint Organisation shall not enter into any arrangements or commitments in relation to the Approved Funding that are incompatible or inconsistent with the purpose of the Funding.

5. Acquittal and Repayment

- 5.1 The funding is to be expended and all funding must be acquitted before 30 June 2023 unless approved by us before this date.

5.2 In the unlikely event that the Joint Organisation does not identify programs or initiatives to build capacity as contemplated by this Agreement within the Funding Period or the Joint Organisation expends the Funding on unauthorised purposes then at the direction of the Department the Joint Organisation must repay to the Provider:

(a) any part of the Funding which remains unexpended; or/and

(b) any part of the Funding spent on purposes not authorised by this Agreement,

within 28 days of a demand notice being sent by the Provider.

5.3 Where the Joint Organisation has failed to comply with this Agreement, the Provider may make a determination of the amount of the funding which may be repayable pursuant to clause 5.1 and may serve a notice on the Joint Organisation specifying the amount so determined which the Joint Organisation must repay.

5.4 Any repayment the Provider claims from the Joint Organisation under this clause 5 will be a debt due and owing by the Joint Organisation to the Provider. A Certificate executed by the Provider shall be deemed to be conclusive evidence, without more, of the amount owed.

6. General undertaking of Joint Organisation

6.1 The Joint Organisation must-

(a) at all times duly perform its obligations under this Agreement and promptly inform the Provider of any occurrence which might adversely affect its ability to do so in a material way.

(b) comply with all Local, State and Commonwealth laws, rules regulations and bylaws.

(c) comply with the Funding Guidelines.

(d) cooperate fully with the Provider in the Administration of this Deed

7. Records and inspection

7.1 The Joint Organisation must-

(a) ensure that adequate financial records relating to the Funding are kept and maintained during the Funding Period;

(b) retain the records referred to in the preceding subclause throughout the Funding Period and for seven (7) years after the expiry or earlier termination of this Agreement;

(c) upon request by the Provider, arrange for such records to be made available for inspection by the Provider's authorised representative (including the taking of such extracts and the making of such copies

as the representative considers appropriate) and assist the representative in carrying out the inspection.

- 7.2 The Provider has statutory obligations to ensure the accountability of expenditure of funds including the Funding and, accordingly, the Joint Organisation is required to be accountable for all of the Funding the Joint Organisation receives under this Agreement.

8. Reporting Requirements

- 8.1 The Joint Organisation shall-
- (a) submit the Reports and Supporting Documents to the Provider, in a form satisfactory to the Provider, within the timeframes stipulated in Attachment 2;
 - (b) at the Provider's request, submit, within the timeframe stipulated by the Provider, any other information that may, in the Provider's opinion, be necessary to establish to the Provider's satisfaction that the terms of this Agreement have been or are being met by the Joint Organisation.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 9.1 The Joint Organisation –
- (a) acknowledges that the Provider's representative may maintain regular contact with the Joint Organisation to monitor the implementation and performance of this deed; and
 - (b) agrees to co-operate with the Provider's representative in this regard; and
 - (c) agrees to comply with any reasonable direction issued by the Provider.

10. Publicity

- 10.1 The Joint Organisation shall comply with the NSW Government Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines, as amended from time to time, in terms of Funding acknowledgment on publicity material, inclusion of logo and the approval process, so far as is reasonably practicable, in promotional materials or any public statements about the Joint Organisation.
- 10.2 The Provider and any other agency of the NSW Government may publicise the awarding of the Funding and in that material include reference to:
- (a) the name of the Joint Organisation;
 - (b) the amount of the Funding;
 - (c) any photographs relating to the Approved Project supplied to it by the Joint Organisation.

11. Indemnity

- 11.1 The Joint Organisation indemnifies the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, including the Provider and its officers, employees and agents (those indemnified) against any claim, action, damage, loss, liability, cost, charge, expense, outgoing or payment which those indemnified pay, suffer, incur or are liable for in connection with this Agreement in respect of any unlawful, wrongful, wilful or negligent act or omission of the Joint Organisation or its officers, employees, agents, contractors and volunteers.
- 11.2 The Joint Organisation's liability to indemnify those indemnified under this Agreement shall be reduced proportionally to the extent that any unlawful, wrongful, wilful or negligent act or omission of those indemnified caused or contributed to the liability or loss.
- 11.3 Any amount payable to those indemnified under this indemnity is payable on demand.
- 11.4 The indemnities contained in this Deed are continuing obligations of the Joint Organisation, separate and independent from the other obligations of the Joint Organisation and survive the termination of this Agreement.

12. Variation

- 12.1 A variation of any term of this Agreement must be in writing signed by the Parties.

13. Termination

- 13.1 The Provider may at any time without cause terminate this Agreement by giving the Joint Organisation 10 days' written notice.
- 13.2 In addition to the rights of the Provider under clause 13.1, if the Joint Organisation fails to comply with clause 4, the Provider may immediately terminate this Agreement by notice in writing.
- 13.3 If the Joint Organisation fails to comply with any other clause of this Agreement, the Provider may give the Joint Organisation notice specifying the failure and requiring the Joint Organisation to remedy the failure within 14 days or another time specified by the Provider in its absolute discretion.
- 13.4 If the Joint Organisation does not remedy the failure within the specified time, the provider may immediately terminate this Agreement by notice in writing.

13.5 If this Agreement is terminated in accordance with this clause 13, the Joint Organisation must:

- (a) return all portions of the Funding that remain uncommitted by the Joint Organisation in accordance with clause 5.1; and
- (b) take all steps reasonably necessary to minimise any loss the Provider may suffer as a result of the termination of this Agreement.

13.6 Any termination of this Agreement by the Provider is without prejudice to any of the Provider accrued rights or remedies.

14. Dispute resolution

14.1 The Parties agree that any dispute arising under this Agreement will be dealt with as follows:

- (a) A Party claiming that a dispute has arisen must give written notice of the dispute to the other Party.
- (b) On receipt of this notice the Parties must within fourteen (14) days of receipt seek to resolve the dispute by referring the matter to personnel who have authority to intervene and facilitate some form of resolution.
- (c) If the dispute is unresolved within a fourteen (14) day period or within such further period as the Parties agree in writing then the dispute is to be referred to the Australian Commercial Dispute Centre (ACDC) for mediation.
- (d) The mediation shall be conducted in accordance with the ACDC Guidelines for Commercial Mediation which are operating at the time the matter is referred to ACDC and which set out the procedures to be adopted, the process of selection of mediator and the costs involved.
- (e) If the dispute is not settled within 28 days (or such other period as agreed to in writing between the Parties) after appointment of the mediator, or if no mediator is appointed within 28 days of the referral of the dispute to mediation, the Parties may pursue any other procedure available at law for resolution of the dispute.
- (f) The Parties must continue performing their obligations under this Agreement while the dispute is being resolved, to the extent practicable to do so;
- (g) A Party must attempt to settle any dispute in relation to this Agreement in accordance with this clause (Dispute Resolution) before resorting to court proceedings or other dispute resolution process;
- (h) Nothing in this clause (Dispute Resolution) prevents either Party from seeking urgent interlocutory relief or the Provider exercising its rights to terminate this Agreement.

14.2 Nothing in this Agreement prevents the Minister or the Departmental Chief Executive (as defined in the Local Government Act 1993) from exercising powers available to them under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

15. Notices

- 15.1 A notice or demand under this Agreement must be in writing and faxed, emailed, posted or delivered to the address of the other Party as stated in Item 1 of Attachment 1, or such other address specified by notice in writing by the other Party.
- 15.2 A notice under this Agreement will be deemed to be served:
- (a) if hand delivered, on delivery;
 - (b) if sent by post, three Business Days after the date of posting;
 - (c) if sent by facsimile, when the sender's facsimile generates a message confirming successful transmission of the total number of pages of the notice;
 - (d) if sent by email, when the sender's computer generates a message confirming the email has been received by the other Party.

16. General

- 16.1 This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the Parties as to the subject matter of this Agreement. Any prior arrangement, representations or undertakings as to the subject matter of this Agreement are superseded.
- 16.2 Each Party bears its own costs in connection with the preparation and execution of this Agreement.
- 16.3 No failure or delay by the Provider in exercising any right, power or remedy under this Agreement and no course of dealing or Funding by the Provider to the Joint Organisation of any time or other consideration, will operate as a waiver of the breach or a default by the Joint Organisation. Any waiver by the Provider of a breach of this Agreement will not be construed as a waiver of any further breach of the same or any other provision.
- 16.4 If any part of this Agreement is prohibited, void, illegal or unenforceable, then that part is severed from this Agreement but without affecting the continued operation of the remainder of the Agreement.
- 16.5 This Agreement is governed by the laws in force in the State of New South Wales and each Party submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts exercising jurisdiction in the State of New South Wales, and the courts of appeal from those courts.
- 16.6 Any clause of this Agreement that by its nature should survive termination or expiry of this Agreement shall so survive including, without limitation, the following:
- (a) clause 1 Definitions and interpretation

- (b) clause 11 Indemnity
- (c) clause 13 Termination
- (d) clause 14 Dispute resolution
- (e) clause 15 Notices
- (f) clause 16 General

ATTACHMENT 1

AGREEMENT DETAILS

Item 1 **Description of approved funding:** Stage 2 Funding to further build capacity and demonstrate capability to work with State Agencies

Item 2 **Contact Details**

Provider	Name: The Crown in the right of the State of New South Wales acting through the Office of Local Government, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. ABN: 20 770 707 468 Postal Address: 5 O'Keefe Avenue, Nowra, NSW 2541 Contact Person: Anita Gambhir Phone: 02 4428 4100 Fax: 02 4428 4169 Email: olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Joint Organisation	Name: Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Postal Address: PO Box 146 LISMORE NSW 2480 Contact Person: Nicole Reeve Phone: 0427 668 860 Email: execofficer@northernriversjo.nsw.gov.au

Item 3 **Funding Period**

Commencement Date: 30 June 2021.

End Date: 30 June 2023.

Item 4 **Funding**

Amount of Funding provided on executing the Deed: \$ 150,000

ATTACHMENT 2

REPORTS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The Joint Organisation must prepare and submit to the satisfaction of the Provider the Reports meeting the description and requirements below. The Provider may prescribe the form of reports and manner of submission by written notice to the Joint Organisation from time to time.

- 1 No later than 30 August 2021, a report consisting of an action plan detailing the manner in which the Joint Organisation will allocate the Funding with key milestones for delivery, expected benefits and budget.
- 2 No later than 30 April 2022, a report detailing delivery progress for expenditure of the funding, benefits, and report against budget.
- 3 No later than 31 July 2023 or once the funding is fully expended, whichever is the earlier, a final acquittal report on the expenditure of the Funding and delivery against budget.
- 4 Any other supporting documentation requested by the Provider.

ATTACHMENT 3
STAGE 2 FUNDING GUIDELINES

Refer separate attachment

EXECUTION PAGE

Executed as a Deed:

Signed by
Coordinator General, Planning Delivery And Local Government for and on
behalf of the Crown
in the right of New South Wales

In the presence of:
Witness name:

Witness Signature:

Signed by:
[Insert Name]
Joint Organisation
By its authorised officer [insert name]
Signature

in the presence of:
Witness Name:

Witness Signature:



James Griffin MP

Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans

Ref: MD20/7605

Ms Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore
PO Box 52
LISMORE NSW 2480

By email: lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Saffin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janelle,'.

I refer to your representations to the Minister for Energy and Environment, the Hon Matt Kean MP, on behalf of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation about the Private Native Forestry (PNF) review. Your letter was referred to me and I have been asked to reply on the Minister's behalf.

The NSW Government is reviewing the regulatory frameworks for PNF to modernise regulation and ensure long-term ecological sustainability. The review is being led by the Local Lands Services in collaboration with the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

As you are aware, draft Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice were recently released for public consultation. I am advised that submissions are currently being reviewed and improvements to the Codes of Practice are under consideration.

As these issues also relate to the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, the Hon Adam Marshall MP, I have forwarded a copy of your letter and my response for his consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Griffin'.

James Griffin MP

Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans

cc: The Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales