

Central NSW Joint Organisation

Agenda

Central NSW Joint Organisation

Board Meeting

22 November 2018

Members

Cr G Hanger	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr J Medcalf	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr S Ferguson	Blayney Shire Council	Cr K Sajowitz	Oberon Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	Cr R Kidd	Orange City Council
Cr B West	Cowra Council	Cr K Keith	Parkes Shire Council
Cr P Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Cr M Liebich	Weddin Shire Council

Attending

Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Cr D Somerville	CTW
Mr D Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council	Mr G Rhodes	CTW
Ms R Ryan	Blayney Shire Council	Cr B Newton	Parkes Shire Council
Mr S Harding	Cabonne Council	Cr P Best	Weddin Shire Council
Mr P Devery	Cowra Council	Mr S Murru	Forbes Shire Council
Mr S Loane	Forbes Shire Council	Ms C Weston	RDACW
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms J Andrews	RDACW
Mr G Styles	Orange City Council	Mr A Albury	DPC
Mr K Boyd	Parkes Shire Council	Ms K Purser	OLG
Mr G Carroll	Weddin Shire Council	Ms J Bennett	CNSWJO
		Ms M Macpherson	Centroc

It is advised that the next meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation meeting will be held Thursday 22 November in the Missenden Room at Mayfield Gardens, 530 Mayfield Rd, Oberon after the lunch break and the Centroc AGM.

Tea and coffee on arrival and all refreshments will be provided. Please contact Jenny Bennett on 0428 690 935 with any queries.

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1. MINUTES**a. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Central NSW Joint Organisation meeting 23 August 2018 Parliament House****Present Members (in Bold)**

Cr G Hanger	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr J Medcalf	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr S Ferguson	Blayney Shire Council	Cr K Sajowitz	Oberon Council
Cr B West	Cowra Council	Cr K Keith	Parkes Shire Council
Cr G Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Cr M Liebich	Weddin Shire Council

Attendees

Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Lt G K Gillespie	DPC
Mr D Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council	Mr D Murray	DPC
Ms R Ryan	Blayney Shire Council	Mr N White	DPC
Mr P Devery	Cowra Council	Mr N Berry	DPC
Mr S Loane	Forbes Shire Council	Ms J Humphreys	DPC
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms K Purser	OLG
Mr M Burdack	Orange City Council	Ms J Bennett	Centroc
Mr G Carroll	Weddin Shire Council	Ms M Macpherson	Centroc
Cr D Somervaille	Central Tablelands Water	Ms K Barker	Centroc
Mr G Rhodes	Central Tablelands Water	Ms C Griffin	Centroc
Ms C Weston	RDACW	Ms V Page	Centroc

Meeting opened 2.05pm, Chaired by Chair Cr John Medcalf**1. Apologies** -Cr R Kidd, Cr K Beatty, Mr K Boyd, Mr G Styles, Mr S Harding, Mr A Albury, Ms J Andrews

Resolved	Cr K Keith/Cr B West
That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 23 August 2018 listed above be accepted.	

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Inaugural Central NSW Joint Organisation meeting 24 May 2018 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House Sydney

Resolved	Cr K Keith/Cr S Ferguson
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Minutes of the Inaugural Central NSW Joint Organisation meeting 24 May 2018 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House Sydney	

3. Business Arising from the Minutes – Matters in Progress

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr G Miller
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.	

4. Central NSW Joint Organisation Draft Charter

Resolved	Cr G Hanger / Cr K Sajowitz
<p>That the Board note the report on the Central NSW Joint Organisation Charter and</p> <p>1.adopt the Draft Charter for the Central NSW Joint Organisation amending:</p> <p>a capitation fee [based on the number of ordinary rate assessments issued by each Member Council].</p> <p>to</p> <p>a capitation fee (based on ABS population data by LGA and reviewed each census)</p> <p>2.place the Charter on the Central NSW Joint Organisation website and</p> <p>3.receive a report comparing fee structures using ordinary rate assessments and ABS population data.</p>	

Amendment to item 4.**Minutes and Matters in Progress**

4. Central NSW Joint Organisation Draft Charter

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr G Miller
That the Board note the report on the Central NSW Joint Organisation Charter and	
1. adopt the Draft Charter for the Central NSW Joint Organisation	
2. place the Charter on the Central NSW Joint Organisation website; and	
3. receive a report comparing fee structures using ordinary rate assessments and ABS population data.	

The amendment became the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

5. Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to Board Members Policy

Resolved	Cr K Keith/Cr S Ferguson
That the Board adopt the draft policy for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to Board members and the Chairperson.	

6. Code of Meeting Practice

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr G Miller
That the Board Adopt the draft Code of Meeting Practice	

7. Central NSW Joint Organisation Draft Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy 2018-2019

Resolved	Cr K Keith/Cr G Hanger
That the Board note the Report on the Central NSW Joint Organisation Draft Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy 2018-2019.	

Ms J Bennett declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as it related to her employment and left the room. Centroc staff (M Macpherson, K Barker, C Griffin, V Page) also left the room.

8. Appointment of Executive Officer for CNSWJO

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr G Miller
That subject to final ratification by the Board of the appointment, the Chairperson be delegated the authority to finalise the appointment of the Executive Officer, including remuneration. The Chairperson will consult with the Interview Panel as to the final recommendation.	

Ms J Bennett and Centroc staff returned to the room.

9. Administration Update

Resolved	Cr G Miller/Cr G Hanger
That the Board note the timeline for the implementation of the JO; and	
The Executive Officer circulate a one-page document on priorities requested from the Chairs of Joint Organisations for member feedback.	

Next meeting of the Joint Organisation is 22 November 2018
Meeting closed 2.26pm

Page 3 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation meeting 23 August 2018

b. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 2 October at Bathurst Regional Council office via phone conference

Present Members:

Cr G Hanger (in attendance)	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr R Kidd	Orange City Council
Cr S Ferguson	Blayney Shire Council	Cr K Keith	Parkes Shire Council
Cr B West	Cowra Council	Cr K Sajowitz	Oberon Council
Cr M Liebich (in attendance)	Weddin Shire Council	Cr J Medcalf	Lachlan Shire Council

Attendees:

Mr D Sherley (in attendance)	Bathurst Regional Council	Mr G Carroll	Weddin Shire Council
Mr D Wymer	Acting GM, Cowra Council	Mr G Rhodes	CTW
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Mr S Blackadder	Blackadder & Assoc.

Meeting opened at 8.04 am

1. Apologies – Cr K Beatty, Cr P Miller, Ms R Ryan, Mr S Harding, Mr P Devery, Mr S Loane, Mr G Wallace, Mr G Styles, Mr K Boyd, Cr D Somerville, Ms C Weston, Mr A Albury

Resolved:	Cr R Kidd/Cr K Keith
That the apologies be accepted.	

2. Declaration of Interest – Nil.

3. Chairman's Report – The Chair gave an update of the employment process.

Resolved:	Cr J Medcalf/Cr R Kidd
That the report be noted.	

4. Resolve into Confidential Committee of the Whole to deal with Confidential Reports

Resolved:	Cr R Kidd/Cr B West
Into Confidential Committee of the Whole to deal with Confidential Reports.	

That:

(a) Central NSW JO resolve into Closed Committee to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.

Item	Subject	Reason
1.	Appointment of Executive Officer CNSW Joint Organisation of Councils	10A(2)(a) – Deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors) disclosure of which would not be in the public interest as it would reveal personal details of the individuals concerned.

(b) Pursuant to section 10A (1)-(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A (2) as outlined above.

Minutes and Matters in Progress

(c) Correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005:

1. In accordance with Section 9(2A) of the Local Government Act 1993, it is the opinion of the General Manager that the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A (2) of the Act and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.
2. In accordance with Section 10B (1) it is considered that discussion of the matter in open meeting, would on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
3. In accordance with Section 10A (4) members of the public are invited to make representations to the Council as to whether the matter should or should not be dealt with in Confidential Committee.

5. Recruitment of Executive Officer, Central NSW Joint Organisation of Councils:

Resolved	Cr R Kidd/Cr K Sajowitz
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report of the Recruitment Panel to the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting on Tuesday 2 October in Closed session in relation to the recruitment and appointment of an Executive Officer be received and noted. 2. That Ms Jennifer Bennett the preferred candidate selected by the Recruitment Panel at interviews conducted on Monday 24 September 2018 be offered the position of Executive Officer of the Central NSW Joint Organisation and the Chair be authorised, with advice from the General Manager of Bathurst Regional Council and the Recruitment Consultant to finalise negotiations based on the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A five (5) year performance-based Contract. (b) A total remuneration package of \$190,000 comprising salary and superannuation at 9.5%, with a leaseback motor vehicle being provided on similar terms to current arrangements. (c) The contract of employment being in accordance with the standard contract required by the Office of Local Government. (d) Adoption of the Board Policies in Schedule A of the contract under Clause 4.5 of the contract relating to entitlements (private use benefits) provided to the Executive Officer, being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Computer usage Guidelines and Mobile Phone Policy; * Motor Vehicle Usage Policy – based on the Orange City Council Motor Vehicle Leaseback Policy; * Tools of Trade – the JO will supply a laptop computer, iPad and mobile phone and the JO will accept reasonable private international calls on the mobile phone. 3. That no public announcement of the name of the successful candidate be made until the Chair has obtained a written acceptance of the offer from the preferred candidate. 	

- | |
|--|
| 4. That should the preferred candidate not accept the offer or not be able to take up the position, then the position be offered to [REDACTED] at the same terms and conditions. |
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6. Open Meeting

Resolved:	Cr S Ferguson/Cr K Sajowitz
That the Board go into Open Committee.	

7. Adopt Report of Committee of the Whole

Resolved:	Cr K Keith/Cr R Kidd
That the Report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.	

Meeting closed at 8.08 am.

Page three is the last page of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held 2 October at Bathurst Regional Council and via teleconference

2. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

Action	By	Update
240518-8-Code of Conduct and Panel of Conduct Reviewers That the Central NSW Joint Organisation adopt: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (the Model Code); 2. the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for local Councils in NSW (the Procedures); 3. the panel of Conduct Reviewers as established by Centroc. 4. The PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES (PROTECTED DISCLOSURES) 	JB	Noted. Public disclosure forms have been sent for Mayors and Deputy Mayors to return. Follow-up is being undertaken where a vast majority are on file.
240518-16- Timeline, opening a bank account, recruitment and strategy concurrent with recruitment, commence the strategic process.	JB	The strategic process is well underway. Suggest deletion
230818-4-Central NSW Joint Organisation Draft Charter <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. adopt the Draft Charter for the Central NSW Joint Organisation 2. place the Charter on the Central NSW Joint Organisation website; and 3. receive a report comparing fee structures using ordinary rate assessments and ABS population data. 	JB	1 and 2 Complete Suggest deletion 3. Underway
230818-5-Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to Board Members Policy adopt the draft policy for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to Board members and the Chairperson.	JB	Complete Suggest deletion
230818-6-Code of Meeting Practice That the Board Adopt the draft Code of Meeting Practice	JB	Complete Suggest deletion
230818-7-Central NSW Joint Organisation Draft Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy 2018-2019 That the Board note the Report on the Central NSW Joint Organisation Draft Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy 2018-2019.	JB	Complete Suggest deletion
230818-8-Appointment of Executive Officer for CNSWJO That subject to final ratification by the Board of the appointment, the Chairperson be delegated the authority to finalise the appointment of the Executive Officer, including remuneration. The Chairperson will consult with the Interview Panel as to the final recommendation.	JB	Appointment process complete. Suggest deletion
230818-9-Administration Update	JB	Please see report to this meeting.

circulate a one-page document on priorities requested from the Chairs of Joint Organisations for member feedback.		Suggest deletion
<p>021018-Appointment of Executive Officer</p> <p>1. That Ms Jennifer Bennett the preferred candidate selected by the Recruitment Panel at interviews conducted on Monday 24 September 2018 be offered the position of Executive Officer of the Central NSW Joint Organisation and the Chair be authorised, with advice from the General Manager of Bathurst Regional Council and the Recruitment Consultant to finalise negotiations based on the following:</p> <p>(a) A five (5) year performance-based Contract.</p> <p>(b) A total remuneration package of \$190,000 comprising salary and superannuation at 9.5%, with a leaseback motor vehicle being provided on similar terms to current arrangements.</p> <p>(c) The contract of employment being in accordance with the standard contract required by the Office of Local Government.</p> <p>(d) Adoption of the Board Policies in Schedule A of the contract under Clause 4.5 of the contract relating to entitlements (private use benefits) provided to the Executive Officer, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Computer usage Guidelines and Mobile Phone Policy; * Motor Vehicle Usage Policy – based on the Orange City Council Motor Vehicle Leaseback Policy; * Tools of Trade – the JO will supply a laptop computer, iPad and mobile phone and the JO will accept reasonable private international calls on the mobile phone. <p>2. That no public announcement of the name of the successful candidate be made until the Chair has obtained a written acceptance of the offer from the preferred candidate.</p>	DS/JB	<p>1. Some final steps in sorting administrative arrangements to manage payroll and HR are being sorted.</p> <p>2. Public announcement has been made, please request media release.</p> <p>Suggest deletion</p>

3. REPORT FROM JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS**Report by Jenny Bennett 12 November 2018****RECOMMENDATION****That the Board note the report from the meetings of the Joint Organisation Chairs and**

- 1. With regard to the priorities identified by the Chairs of the Joint Organisations, Central NSW Joint Organisation recommends that**
 - a. Effort be undertaken to identify those priorities that ought be progressed through Local Government NSW and provide this advice to the peak body accordingly;**
 - b. Feedback be provided to the Chairs of Joint Organisations regarding Central NSW Joint Organisations once these have been finalised through the strategic process;**
 - c. This region supports the notion of a Forum of Joint Organisation Chairs for the short-term purpose of information sharing noting there may be further value once the various Joint Organisations in the State are fully operational; and**
- 2. Endorse the Terms of Reference for the Forum of Joint Organisation Chairs.**

Reason for the Report

This report seeks to update the Board on two meetings of Joint Organisations (JOs) Chairs 21 October 2018 and 16 August 2018; seeking feedback and direction particularly with regard to a summary of all Joint Organisation priority and a Joint Organisation Terms of Reference.

Minutes and other relevant documentation is attached.

Background on the opportunity**Joint Organisations Summary Statement of Regional Priority**

At requests from the Premier at the meeting of JO Chairs 16 August 2018, the Chairs of Joint Organisations have been meeting to discuss priority. The perspective of the Deputy Premier includes the following advice from the notes from the meeting:

- *My vision is that with a collaborative approach the JO model provides the foundational structure and governance framework to decentralise decision making from Macquarie Street – I want to build trust and true partnerships, delivering outcomes for your local communities*
- *Once the JO model is up and running and successful, I can advocate for additional funding from Treasury. I am committed to ensuring success and will invest in some of the low hanging fruit opportunities.*
- *Encourage each JO, individually and as a group, to identify the opportunities – identify the barriers – come forward with a plan to deliver outcomes for your communities. Use the 20-Year Economic Vision as a framework – connect your priorities to that strategy. What is your 20 Year Economic Vision – what is your low hanging fruit? Be bold and come forward with the opportunities.*

The clear message from all State representatives from the Premier down is that the State is keen to be informed on regional priorities by the Joint Organisations (JOs). This includes Tim Reardon, Secretary of DPC who is promoting the opportunities of JOs with all NSW Government Secretaries –

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all agencies at the highest level are now aware of Joint Organisations and advised that Gary Barnes, Deputy Secretary Regional NSW for DPC is looking to work with Joint Organisations to inform change in government policy and deal with those intractable regional issues – let's work together.

Finally, the Shadow Minister for Local Government, Mr Peter Primrose, provided advice that the Opposition was strongly supportive of Joint Organisations.

Subsequently at the Central NSW Councils meetings in Canberra in August it was resolved to develop an Interim Statement of Regional Strategic Priority. A draft was circulated to members for feedback and subsequently provided to the Joint Organisation Forum. All Joint Organisations provided their priorities and they were pulled together by Namoi Joint Organisation. Please find the aggregation attached.

The meeting discussed at length the nine strategic priorities as per the attached and how these priorities might be addressed both at an individual JO basis and also potentially on a state-wide basis, with specific actions being pursued with the combined support of the Chairs' Forum. The meeting agreed that there are a number of potential projects that can be considered in further detail for implementation on a whole of Joint Organisations state-wide basis, with the following being mooted: -

- Southern Lights Project - LED Street Lighting and Smart Controls
- Waste to Energy projects
- Crushed glass recycling for road construction materials
- Water and wastewater - infrastructure needs and prioritisation analysis
- Youth employment strategy programs

It was resolved that Joint Organisations refer to their next Board meetings the Summary of Strategic Regional Priorities (the Summary), for information and discussion as to which priorities can best be supported and collaboratively pursued with the State Government for implementation across the Joint Organisations network. It was further resolved that at the next Chairs' Forum meeting in early 2019, that a number of Joint Organisations be invited to make a presentation in relation to the following:

1. Riverina JO – Southern Lights Street Lighting and Smart Controls Project
2. Canberra Region JO – Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Prospectus
3. Illawarra Shoalhaven JO – Youth Employment Strategy (YES) Program
4. New England JO – Waste to Energy Programs – Funding Proposal to Governments
5. Central NSW JO – Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement

The discussion included the following points:

1. JOs are at various stages when thinking about priority.
2. Could the JOs give consideration to supporting each other's more specific priorities?
3. Is it worthwhile having two JOs collaborate on a specific priority as identified in the Summary and/or project and provide feedback?
4. There are some interesting projects already being rolled out in JOs and these are worth sharing.
5. When thinking about the point of difference of the role of the JOs, it is intergovernmental collaboration.

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It is recommended that this region provide the Statement of Regional Strategic Priority to the Forum once it has been finalised. Further, given their shared advocacy role, any priority that has broad based regional advocacy support should be taken up by Local Government NSW allowing the JOs to focus on intergovernmental collaboration, where appropriate, in regions.

Terms of Reference

Please find attached the Terms of Reference agreed to at the meeting of JO Chairs 21 October 2018. An earlier version was circulated to members in October 3. In discussion JO Chair attendees are keen to remain low key at present while the Forum finds its feet. The Terms of Reference are commended to the Board.

Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations

While there is no legal requirement for JOs to work together, to optimise outcomes for communities in Central NSW, the State needs to recognise the value of most if not all JOs. This Forum of Chairs seeks in the first instance to be a support mechanism as JOs develop. To manage the risk of duplicating the role of LGNSW and Country Mayors, the Chairs, while enthusiastic, are hastening slowly and keen to explore the opportunity as JOs bed down. To reinforce minimising duplication, this report recommends that prioritisation give consideration to the role of LGNSW.

Financial Implications

There will be costs associated with the Chair and Executive Officer attending meetings. These are estimated at \$1000 for both the Executive Officer and Chair to attend. This includes travel and catering at Parliament House. This could be further minimised as the intention is for Forum meetings to coincide with other Local Government events.

Attachment/s

1. Summary Statement of Regional Priority
2. Minutes of the JO Chair Forum meeting 16 August 2018
3. Minutes of the meeting JO Chair Forum meeting 21 October 2018
4. Terms of reference for the JO Chair Forum

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4. REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Report by Jenny Bennett 12 November 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Joint Organisation Board note the report on regional priorities, adopt the interim Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities and with regard to the specifics of five priorities for advocacy leading into the State election focus on the following:

- 1. Support for a safe swift link between Central NSW and Sydney;**
- 2. Raising the wall at Wyangala;**
- 3. Fully funding of the Southern Lights Project;**
- 4. Progressing the Blayney to Demondrille Line; and**
- 5. Recognition of the role of this region in leading the State in the development of Special Activation Precincts in Parkes, Orange and Bathurst.**

Reason for the Report

This report provides advice on the Interim Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities that has been used while the Joint Organisation undertakes a more thorough approach to strategy. The Executive of Central NSW Councils gave consideration to this advice and has commended to the JO that it also nominate current projects for advocacy purposes leading into the next election. There have been changes made to the recommendations made by the Executive subsequent to further discussion in region.

Background on the opportunity

Interim Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities

Members will be aware that this region has resolved to undertake a thorough strategic process to inform its mandatory Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP). Correspondence has been sent to the Office of Local Government advising that this region's intention is for a thorough approach to strategy and there may be slippage in the November timeline.

The Workshop 22 November seeks to shape the SSRP where every effort will be undertaken to provide this advice to the OLG as soon as possible.

To manage the interim period where for example, the Chairs of the JOs have requested advice on regional priority for a broader state-wide discussion, members may recall at the Boards' meetings in Parliament House it was resolved to circulate a draft document for member feedback to inform discussions on priority noting this is interim. This was progressed to inform a meeting of Executive Officers 28 September in Sydney. Please find this interim advice attached.

Five priorities for advocacy leading into the State election

Discussion at the Executive meeting 25 October encouraged the development of advocacy based on tangible projects that would inform lobbying to the State election. Concern was expressed at the low level of State support for a safe swift link between Sydney and Central NSW. Subsequent resolve was that the interim Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities be commended to the Board adding the 6 regional priorities as follows:

- a. Raising the wall at Wyangala Dam
- b. Blayney Demondrille Line
- c. Second Circuit at Mount Panorama
- d. Parkes Special Activation Precinct
- e. Orange Special Activation Precinct
- f. Southern Lights

In subsequent discussions regarding these projects it is suggested this list be amended in two ways. Firstly, despite the lack of political support for a safe swift link between Sydney and Central NSW, this region should not step away from raising this issue. There may be some subtleties in its presentation in the current political climate and this should be managed in the advocacy material and approach.

Secondly, there is an opportunity to position this region as the lead for NSW in exploring the potential of Special Activation Precincts. This will have the benefit of seeking to ensure that a merit-based approach be taken to their rollout rather than a geographic or political approach. Arguably, given this region's pattern of settlement and dynamism it could easily be under-served by anything other than a merit-based approach.

It is therefore suggested that the 5 top priorities for this region going into the next election be:

1. A safe swift link between Central NSW and Western Sydney
2. Southern Lights
3. Raising the wall at Wyangala
4. Blayney-Demondrille
5. Special Activation Precincts in Parkes, Orange and Bathurst

Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations

Statements of Strategic Regional Priority (SSRP) are mandatory for Joint Organisations. The Board has resolved to take the time required to develop this work and has advised the Office of Local Government accordingly. To manage the period until the SSRP has been produced, an interim version has been produced.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Attachment/s

5. Interim Statement of Strategic Regional Priority

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5. WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

Report by Jenny Bennett 12 November 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

Note the report and to progress opportunities for collaboration once its new Executive Officer is in place.

Reason for the Report

Local Government NSW have provided Joint Organisations with a membership proposal. This report seeks to provide feedback to the peak Local Government body in NSW in line with the advice below once it has a new Executive Officer where it is understood this will happen in the near future. The Executive of Central NSW Councils gave consideration to the below report and provided the above recommendation to the JO Board.

Background on the opportunity

The proposal from LGNSW for Joint Organisations to become members is attached and was circulated to members 12 October. The focus of the proposal seems to be around member support and does not appear to pick up on the idea this region has been suggesting for some time around the JOs providing support to LGNSW as did the Divisions of the past.

Regarding costs for membership and services provided, these are summarised as follows:

Costs: Where all councils that belong to the Joint Organisation are Ordinary members of LGNSW, the Joint Organisation would pay:

- a) a **base fee** of \$3,593.00 plus GST; plus
- b) a **supplementary fee** based on the number of full time equivalent (FTE) employees, according to the following scale:

Number of FTE employees	Supplementary fee
0 – 10 employees	\$0
For each additional 10 employees	\$3,593.00, plus GST

2) Where not all councils that belong to the Joint Organisation are Ordinary members of LGNSW, the Joint Organisation would pay:

- a) a **base fee** of \$14,372.00 plus GST; plus
- b) a **supplementary fee** based on the number of full time equivalent (FTE) employees, according to the following scale:

Number of FTE employees	Supplementary fee
0 – 10 employees	\$0

Reports

For each additional 10 employees	\$3,593.00, plus GST
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Summary of Services:

Proposed Services and Entitlements	Associate Member JO	Non-Member JO
Advocacy	Yes	Yes
Policy Information and Advice	Yes	Yes
Co-ordinating training for Member Councils	Yes	Yes
Industrial Advice	Yes	No
Legal Support	Yes	No
Free networks e.g. HR, L&D, Comms, GMs, Planning, Environment etc	Yes	No
Training for JO staff	Subsidised member rates	Non-member rates
Executive Recruitment and Performance	Subsidised member rates	Non-member rates
Management Consulting	Subsidised member rates	Non-member rates

Given there is a new Executive Officer to be appointed in the near future by LGNSW, it is recommended that a meeting be held inviting our LGNSW Board members and representatives of the Central NSW JO to further explore the broader potential for collaboration between Joint Organisations and our peak industry body.

Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations

Where existing regional policy is to support Local Government NSW as the region's peak body, there are no legislative or risk considerations at this time. Further advice will be provided subsequent to exploration of the shared value proposition with Local Government NSW.

Financial Implications

None at this stage.

Attachment/s

6. Prospectus from LGNSW

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6. ALGA PRIORITIES SUPPORT REPORT

Report by Jenny Bennett 12 November 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Centroc Board note the report on the Australian Local Government priorities and advocate in their support, in particular;

1. restore Federal Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth;
2. fund the development of the Local Government Higher Productivity Investment Plan starting at \$200m pa for five years;
3. increase R2R funding to \$800m and make the Bridges Renewal Program permanent;
4. invest in a Local Government Community Infrastructure Program of \$300m pa for four years, with a separate stream for regional and rural communities;
5. fund a targeted disaster mitigation program of \$200m pa for four years;
6. establish a Local Government Climate Change Partnership Fund of \$200 pa for four years;
7. invest in a Local Government Place-Based Preventative Health and Activity Program of \$100m over four years;
8. continue to provide at least \$5.5bn over the next 10 years for Indigenous well-being;
9. fund a Digital Local Government and Rural / Regional Telecommunications Program of \$100m over four years;
10. develop a national waste and resource recovery strategy underpinned by circular economy principles, the waste hierarchy, product stewardship and extended producer responsibility;
11. reinstate a nation governance model that addresses homelessness and housing affordability that includes local government; and
12. adjust the identified roads component of the Federal Assistance Grants to make the additional funding for South Australia permanent.

At the recent LGNSW confernace held in Albury, members reported the information provided from ALGA President Mr David O'Loughlin, gave and excellent detailed 12 point plan. For the full report please go to

https://alga.asn.au/site/misc/alga/downloads/fedelection1819/ALGA_Election_Document.pdf

Please find below the summary presentation by Mr O'Loughlin with some commentary from Centroc's policy perspective.



1. Repair federal funding to local government

Restore the quantum of **Financial Assistance Grants** to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue



**BY 3RD YEAR
CUMULATIVE GDP BENEFIT**
\$1.42 billion
4,000 jobs



2. Realise the productive potential of Australia's freight routes

Fund a **Local Government – Higher Productivity Investment Plan** starting at \$200 million per annum over 5 years



**BY 3RD YEAR
CUMULATIVE GDP BENEFIT**
\$1.07 billion
2,300 jobs



3. Boost safety on local roads

Increase **R2R funding** to \$800 million per annum and make the **Bridges Renewal Program** permanent



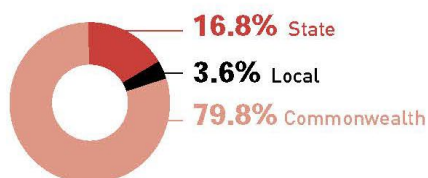
**BY 3RD YEAR
CUMULATIVE GDP BENEFIT**
\$1.71 billion
4,000 jobs

Reports

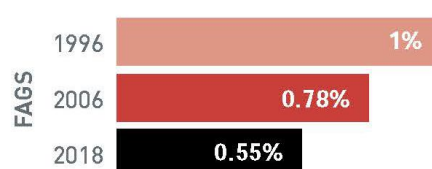
1. Repair Federal Funding to Local Government

There has been a steady decrease in federal funding to local government that has limited the spending to services and infrastructure. FAGs were equal to around 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue in 1996. However, despite an annual growth rate in Australia's Gross Domestic Product of an average 3.47% from 1960 until 2017, FAGs have declined by around 43% in relative terms over the past 20 years, and now amount to approximately 0.55% (2018) of Commonwealth tax revenue.

LOCAL GOV COLLECTS THE LEAST TAX



LOCAL GOV GETS LESS FUNDS EACH YEAR



2. Realise the productive potential of Australia's freight routes

The Commonwealth is currently developing a comprehensive national freight strategy that takes an "end-to-end" approach to supporting business supply chains called the Local Government Higher Productivity Investment Plan. Investment in improving freight links is the next logical step.

3. Boost safety on local roads

This region taken advantage of the NSW Government's Fixing Country Roads Bridge Assessment Program and advice on this will strengthen member Councils funding likelihood for bridge renewal. Roads funding is always a challenge for rural and regional Councils and any increase in this regard should be supported.

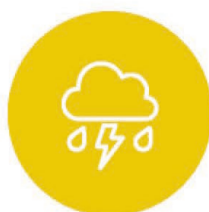


4. Promote equitable access to community services

Invest in a **Local Government Community Infrastructure Program** of \$300 million per annum over four years



**BY 3RD YEAR
CUMULATIVE GDP BENEFIT**
\$1.41 billion
3,600 jobs

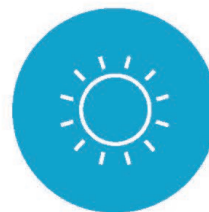


5. Protect communities from the impacts of natural disasters

Fund a **targeted disaster mitigation program** at a level of \$200 million per annum for four years



**BY 3RD YEAR
CUMULATIVE GDP BENEFIT**
\$620 million
1,500 jobs



6. Support communities with their climate change response

Establish a **Local Government Climate Change Partnership Fund** of \$200 million over four years



**BY 3RD YEAR
CUMULATIVE GDP BENEFIT**
\$451 million
1,100 jobs

4. Promote equitable access to Community Services

Investing in community infrastructure will support community services for member Councils. Given that regional and rural communities typically provide more community services, including health services, it is further recommended that there be an enabling dedicated funding stream.

5. Protect Communities from the impacts of natural disasters

Dedicated funding to assist communities in betterment of assets to increase their ability to withstand natural disasters is worthwhile.

6. Support Communities with their Climate Change response

Direct funding to Councils of any type is Board policy. Councils across Central NSW are increasingly engaging in collaborations like the Cities Power Partnership and funding that can support the activities Councils are committing to would be welcomed.



7. Promote healthier communities

Invest in a **Local Government Place-Based Preventative Health and Activity Program** of \$100 million over four years



**BY 3RD YEAR
CUMULATIVE GDP BENEFIT**
\$292 million
1,600 jobs



8. Foster Indigenous well-being and prosperity

Continue to provide at least **\$5.5 billion over the next decade** to address the needs in Indigenous communities



**BY 3RD YEAR
CUMULATIVE GDP BENEFIT**
\$1.66 billion
5,300 jobs



9. Support communities on their digital transformation journeys

Provide a **Smart Communities Program** of \$100 million per annum and a **Digital Local Government and Rural / Regional Telecommunications Program** of \$100 million over four years



**BY 3RD YEAR
CUMULATIVE GDP BENEFIT**
\$340.4 million
1,000 jobs

7. Promote Healthier Communities

Centroc policy is to support place-programming.

8. Foster Indigenous well-being and prosperity

While Centroc has no explicit policy in this regard, there has been an ongoing interest in justice reinvestment programs that target indigenous recidivism. Accordingly fostering indigenous well being and prosperity is supported.

9. Support Communities on their digital transformation journeys

This region has identified the need for better digital connectivity, accordingly support in this regard is welcomed.



10. Strengthen Australia's circular economy

Achieve more cost-effective and equitable funding approaches across all parties involved in a product's lifecycle



11. Support local government's current work in addressing affordable housing and homelessness issues

Reinstate a national governance model to address affordable housing and homelessness, that includes local government



12. Address the South Australian road funding anomaly

Adjust the Identified Roads Component of Financial Assistance Grants to make the additional funding to South Australia permanent

10. Strengthen Australia's circular economy

This initiative is primarily about waste management recognizing the growing concerns of managing particularly plastic as a result of China's new policy in this regard.

11. Support Local Government's current work in addressing affordable housing and homelessness issues

Homelessness is increasing. Currently the National Housing and Homelessness Agreements are determined between the Commonwealth and individual state/territory government without direct engagement of local government. There is a need to advocate for a national housing governance model to include local government engagement, so that there is an understanding across all three levels of government.

12. Address the South Australian road funding anomaly

There is an anomaly that means the communities of South Australia are at a disadvantage under the FAGs program.

Attachment/s Nil

7. JOINT ORGANISATION FUNDING FRAMEWORK REPORT**Report by Jenny Bennett 12 November 2018****RECOMMENDATION:**

That the CNSWJO Board note the Joint Organisation Funding Framework Report and seek to codesign an approach to the funding of Joint Organisations with the State using the following considerations:

- 1. The principle of subsidiarity;**
- 2. Councils should control the JO;**
- 3. Councils retain control over their assets;**
- 4. Funding should not be “readministered” by the JO or be cost shifting, so for example the single invitation RMS contracts would not be administered by the JO;**
- 5. The greater opportunity is working with the State to leverage Federal funding;**
- 6. Funded activities should add value to member Councils;**
- 7. JOs should not be a fourth tier of government;**
- 8. JOs should not add more red tape;**
- 9. This region seeks to work collaboratively with the State Government to codesign better processes in the interests of our communities;**
- 10. State agencies be resourced and have delegation in the region to deliver collaborative programming with Joint Organisations;**
- 11. Ongoing administrative funding for codesigned programming that has state and local shared value is welcome; and**
- 12. Benefit Cost Ratio and other Treasury guidance ultimately leads to difficulties with accessing funding for regional Councils where the more remote the Council the greater the challenges.**

Reason for the Report

Joint Organisations’ representatives, State agencies’ representatives and elected representatives have suggested a variety of ideas for funding streams for Joint Organisations. Having been a Pilot Joint Organisation and a successful ROC this region has given deep thought to this issue based on decades of experience. Meetings are being coordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in Sydney to progress intergovernmental collaboration and funding has come up in discussion. The next of these meetings is 26 November 2018. It is important to go into this meeting with a clear policy position to influence thinking in the interests of member Councils and their communities.

Background on the opportunity

At a meeting in Sydney of Executive Officers of Joint Organisations 28 September JOs were asked about their region’s views on direct funding to Joint Organisations including for infrastructure where the Board determined priority on the spend. This model has been suggested by State representatives with some support from some Joint Organisations. Clarification has been sought from State representatives where it appears the thinking is in the very early stages.

Having a very different view, this region agreed to confirm policy advice from members and provide this to the State.

Reports

Further meetings exploring funding per tranche are anticipated beginning in November.

Advice from the JO Pilot and other influences in discussion

Please find attached advice from the JO Pilot regarding grant funding. This is the only work undertaken during the Pilot that addressed the issue of grant funding and did not contemplate direct funding to JOs for regions to determine priority.

With the proclamation of JOs there are several in the State that will find sustainable funding challenging and it would appear that discussion on direct funding to JOs is an attempt to help manage this problem. The challenge for our region will be to ensure some type of equity going forward. At least one JO is contemplating administering RMCC contracts where others provide advice that seeking to have JOs providing administrative support to programs is welcomed.

Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations

Centroc has consistently provided advice from a regional perspective to the Local Government Reform Process. Please request submissions dating back to 2013.

Advice from various sets of Centroc Board Minutes and submissions informs the funding of Joint Organisations using the following considerations:

- Principle of subsidiarity – control should be maintained at the logical devolved level. An example here would be the Stronger Country Communities fund which is best determined locally. Many other funding rounds fit this principle though there may be a more nuanced policy around potential regional support beyond Centroc's current approach using the prioritisation matrix informed by the State and Federal funding framework.
- Through the Pilot this region was consistent in its view that Councils should own the JO, while the Legislation does not directly allow for this, members substantively fund the JO and provide representation and should therefore control the JO.
- Councils retain control over their assets.
- Funding should not be "readministered" by the JO or be cost shifting, so for example the single invitation RMS contracts would not be administered by the JO.
- The greater opportunity is working with the State to leverage Federal funding.
- Activities should add value to member Councils.
- JOs should not be a fourth tier of government.
- JOs should not add more red tape.
- This region seeks to work collaboratively with the State Government to codesign better processes in the interests of our communities.
- State agencies be resourced and have delegation in the region to deliver collaborative programming with Joint Organisations.
- Set up costs for Joint Organisations should include the Pilots receiving similar funding.
- Benefit Cost Ratio and other Treasury guidance ultimately leads to difficulties with accessing funding for regional Councils were the more remote the Council the greater the challenges.

Reports

Central NSW has a proud history of grant funding on behalf of member Councils. Funding is sought at both the State and Federal levels where there has been a greater amount of funding coming from Federal Government. The general principles this region applies for grant funding are:

- At member request, typically coming from operational teams. Current examples include funding for water operator training and bridge assessments.
- Providing both a local and regional benefit, so for example the current funded Central West Food and Fibre Strategy will have outputs at both the LGA and JO level.
- Not in competition with members.

This region is also mature in its support of members seeking to have projects funded. For example, the Infrastructure Prioritisation Matrix ranks projects in transport, water & sewer and community. Outputs supporting members seeking funding are provided and are used strategically by members. Arguably the very sound work this region has undertaken in water and sewer over the past decade has seen a higher proportion of members being funded than in other regions.

From time to time the region is asked by State agencies to administer monies in their interests. This is currently occurring using DPC monies to help support Councils developing business cases for funding where DPC provided advice on who is funded for what.

Discussion

From discussion with various State representatives it seems this thinking is in early stages and there is no intention of providing funding that members do not want. There may be a need to tailor funding to specific JOs. This raises the issue of equity.

A number of JOs are seeking recurrent funding for operations. There is an opportunity to codesign some type of operational support program which has value to both JO members and the State. This is recommended.

When giving consideration to influencing the funding framework in the interests of our members, questions we should ask ourselves are:

- Will this add any value to our member Councils?
- Is it cost shifting?
- Will it lead to a fourth tier of government?
- Will this region and its members be disadvantaged?
- What type of funding to the JOs would members find acceptable?

Feedback to State agencies to date has been in line with the advice above. It is recommended that this policy be retained though members may wish to give careful consideration to a more nuanced approach to inform any future codesign.

Attachment/s

7. Grant Funding Paper from OLG during the Pilot
8. Advice from Pilot JOs to inform the above Paper

Reports

8. ADMINISTRATION UPDATE**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the CNSWJO Board note the timeline for the implementation of the JO.

Action	By	Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain relevant insurances and workers compensation coverage Hold the first meeting of the joint organisation board Adopt a code of conduct Appoint an interim executive officer Obtain an ABN and TFN Reserve a domain name Establish a phone number and email address 	First month	✓
Return signed funding agreement to OLG	29 June 2018	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a charter—and publish on website Adopt an expenses and facilities policy 	First three months	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a communication and engagement plan Organise for any relevant regional organisation of councils grants and contracts to be transferred to the joint organisation 	First three months	This is not anticipated within this time frame
Adopt a statement of revenue policy for 2018/19, including budget	31 August 2018	✓
Funding report, noting key milestones to be met	28 September 2018	Via email to Karen Purser 12 October
Adopt a statement of regional strategic priorities	30 December 2018	The OLG have been advised that this region is unlikely to meet this timeframe. An interim document has been circulated to members and is being used to inform discussion until the strategic process is complete. A consultant has been engaged and strategic work is progressing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a logo and other key elements of visual identity Deliver a website featuring the adopted visual identity 	First six months	This is not anticipated within this time frame an interim web page is up.
Submit six-monthly progress and expenditure report to OLG on the Establishment Funds	28 February 2019	On track
Adopt statement of revenue policy for 2019/20, including Budget	30 July 2019	On track
Submit six-monthly progress and expenditure report to OLG on the Establishment Funds	31 August 2019	On track
Prepare an annual performance statement	30 November 2019	On track
Prepare audited financial reports for the period ending on the last day of the financial year after the year in which the joint organisation is established	31 October 2019	On track – the region is in discussion with the Auditor General's Office on who are Auditor is.

Attachment/s Nil

Reports

9. FINANCIAL REPORT**Report by Ann Thomas 7 November 2018****RECOMMENDATION:****That the CNSWJO Board note the Financial Report****Central NSW Joint Organisation
Financial Position at 7 November 2018**

	Budget 2018/2019	Actual 7/11/2018	Anticipated 30/06/2019
Income			
Establishment Funding - Office of Local Government	300,000	300,000	300,000
Interest		377	800
Vehicle Leaseback - Executive Officer		989	4,000
Total Income	\$300,000	\$301,366	\$304,800
Expenditure			
Executive Officer Costs	150,000	50,731	150,000
Executive Officer Recruitment		26,449	26,449
Accounting Setup fees	3,000		3,000
Bank Fees		20	110
Total Expenses	\$153,000	\$77,200	\$179,559
Surplus	\$147,000	\$224,166	\$125,241