



## Central NSW Joint Organisation

PO Box 333 Forbes NSW 2871

Chair – Cr Kevin Beatty- Cabonne Council

Executive Officer – Jennifer Bennett

Email: [jennifer.bennett@centraljo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jennifer.bennett@centraljo.nsw.gov.au)

Ph: 0428 690 935

# Agenda to the Board Meeting Wednesday 24 May 2023

### Voting Delegates

<b>Cr R Taylor</b>	Bathurst Regional Council	<b>Cr M Statham</b>	Lithgow City Council
<b>Cr S Ferguson</b>	Blayney Shire Council	<b>Cr M Kellam</b>	Oberon Council
<b>Cr K Beatty</b>	Cabonne Council	<b>Cr J Hamling</b>	Orange City Council
<b>Cr B West</b>	Cowra Shire Council	<b>Cr K Keith, OAM</b>	Parkes Shire Council
<b>Cr P Miller, OAM</b>	Forbes Shire Council	<b>Cr C Bembrick</b>	Weddin Shire Council
<b>Cr J Medcalf, OAM</b>	Lachlan Shire Council		

### Associate member delegates and others attending

<b>Mr D Sherley</b>	Bathurst Regional Council	<b>Cr A McKibbin</b>	UMCC
<b>Mr M Dicker</b>	Blayney Shire Council	<b>Mr T Johnston</b>	UMCC
<b>Mr B Byrnes</b>	Cabonne Council	<b>Ms R Fagan</b>	RDACW
<b>Mr P Devery</b>	Cowra Shire Council	<b>Ms L Smart</b>	RDACW
<b>Mr S Loane, OAM</b>	Forbes Shire Council	<b>Ms O West</b>	Regional NSW
<b>Mr G Tory</b>	Lachlan Shire Council	<b>Ms J Bennett</b>	CNSWJO
<b>Mr C Butler</b>	Lithgow City Council	<b>Ms M Macpherson</b>	CNSWJO
<b>Mr G Wallace</b>	Oberon Council	<b>Ms K Barker</b>	CNSWJO
<b>Mr D Waddell</b>	Orange City Council	<b>Ms J Webber</b>	CNSWJO
<b>Mr K Boyd, PSM</b>	Parkes Shire Council	<b>Ms G Quinton</b>	CNSWJO
<b>Ms N Vu</b>	Weddin Shire Council	<b>Ms V Page</b>	CNSWJO
<b>Cr D Somerville</b>	CTW		
<b>Mr G Rhodes</b>	CTW		

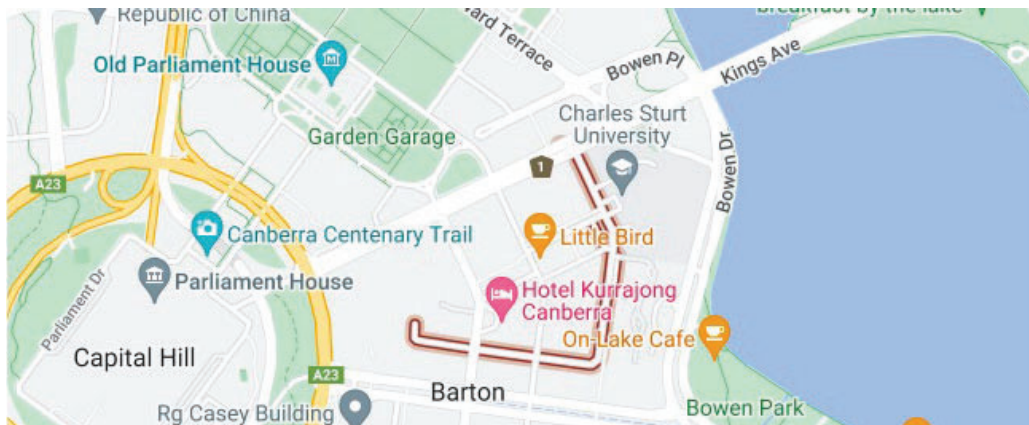
It is advised that the next meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board will be held Wednesday 24 May 2023 beginning at 12.30pm in the CSU Campus Canberra, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. From the carpark proceed to Building 851, The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Conference Room – The Pavilion. See directions and map over the page. Signage will be at Venue.

Thursday 25 May 2023, will be held at Parliament House, hosted by Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories the Hon Kristy McBain who will address the Board at 11.30am. A separate schedule will be circulated.

Please contact Jenny Bennett on 0428 690 935 with any queries.

## Agenda

### CSU Campus in Canberra, 15 Blackall Street Barton ACT 2600



### Building 851 The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Conference Room – The Pavillion

#### DIRECTIONS:

Turn left into Blackall Street from Kings Avenue.  
Proceed to 15 Blackall Street, CP02, the first on the left.

Press the button on the boomgate to enter.  
Walk to Building 851, the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, conference room, The Pavillion.



## Reports

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Acknowledgment to Country: (Ngunnawal) Canberra  
*I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present.*
3. Apologies applications for a leave of absence by voting members
4. Conflicts of Interest
5. 2.30pm Guest Speaker –Professor Mark Evans, CSU Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research) will launch the Policy Lab collaboration.  
In attendance also is Samantha Beresford Head of Government Relations and Regional Engagement, Office of Engagement and Enterprise
6. Minutes ..... 4
  - a. Confirmation of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 February 2023 held in Forbes ..... 4
7. Matters in Progress ..... 10
8. Reports on Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025 ..... 22
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  - i. Transport Report ..... 67
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  - k. Energy Report ..... 87
9. Quarterly review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022 -2025 ..... 92
10. Confidential Reports ..... 109
  - a. CNSWJO Executive Officer Performance Review 2021-2022 and Extension of Contract ..... 109
  - b. Executive Officer Transition Report ..... 113
  - c. Tender for the Business Case for the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction ..... 116
11. Late Reports
12. Matters raised by Members.
- 13 Speakers to the next meeting
14. Next Meetings:
 

GMAC: 27 July 2023 – Orange

Board: 24 August 2023 -State Parliament - Tbc



Jenny Bennett  
Executive Officer  
Central NSW Joint Organisation

# Agenda

**6. Minutes****a. Confirmation of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 February 2023 held in Forbes****Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 February 2023 held in Forbes****In Attendance\***

<b>Cr D Somervaille</b>	Blayney Shire Council	<b>Cr J Medcalf OAM</b>	Lachlan Shire Council
<b>Cr K Beatty</b>	Cabonne Council	<b>Cr M Kellam</b>	Oberon Council
<b>Cr B West</b>	Cowra Shire Council	<b>Cr K Keith OAM</b>	Parkes Shire Council
<b>Cr P Miller OAM</b>	Forbes Shire Council	<b>Cr C Bembrick</b>	Weddin Shire Council

Mr D Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council	Mr A McKibbin	UMCC
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Cr M Statham	Lithgow City Council
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Mr C Butler	Lithgow City Council
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Ms T Robinson	RDACW
Mr S Loane OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Ms J Bennett	CNSWJO
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms A Thomas	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Ms N Vu	Weddin Shire Council	Ms J Webber	CNSWJO
Mr G Rhodes	CTW	Ms V Page	CNSWJO
Cr C Roylance	Forbes Shire Council		

\*Voting members in bold

Meeting opened at 10.07am by Chair Cr Kevin Beatty

**1. Acknowledgement of Country**

"I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, the Wiradjuri people, and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging."

**1. Welcome**

Welcome to Forbes by Cr P Miller

The Chair welcomed Lithgow representatives to the meeting

**2. Apologies applications for a leave of absence by Joint Voting representatives**

Cr Ferguson, Cr J Hamling, Mr K Boyd, Cr R Fagan, Mr W Sunderland, Cr R Taylor, Mr T Johnston and Ms O West

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr P Miller/Cr K Keith</b>
That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 23 February 2023 listed above be accepted.	

**4. Conflicts of Interest -**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr M Kellam/Cr J Medcalf</b>
Nil declared	

**5. Speakers**

Mr Richard Colbran, CEO NSW Rural Doctors' Network and Chair of the Ministers' Health Advisory Committee

**Actions**

- a. Follow up will be undertaken by the Executive Officer regarding advocacy and data

# Minutes

- b. Focus of immediate advocacy around the disparity of support for rural first year medical student blocks in Sydney

Kate Barker and Jenny Webber arrived at 10.15am

Richard Colbran left at 11.00am

## 6. Minutes

### Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 24 November 2022 held online

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr K Keith/Cr M Kellam</b>
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board confirm the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 24 November 2022 held online	

## 7. Business Arising from the Minutes – Matters in Progress

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr P Miller/Cr C Bembrick</b>
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.	

## 8. Reports on Statement of Regional Strategic Priority

### Priority One: Inter-Council Co-operation

#### a. Compliance Report

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr M Kellam/Cr J Medcalf</b>
That the Board note the Compliance Report.	

#### b. Budget considerations 2023/2024 and revision of the CNSWJO Charter

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr M Kellam/Cr P Miller</b>
That the Board:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt the draft Statement of Budget and Revenue and place it on exhibition for 30 days;</li> <li>2. Note that the budget for the next financial year includes a fee rise of 3.7% and a small profit for the year of \$2,072;</li> <li>3. Adopt the revised CNSWJO Charter with the following changes highlighted in yellow for member feedback: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.2 Associate Members  <i>The following organisations are Associate Members of the Organisation as at February 2023: Central Tablelands County Council; Upper Macquarie County Council; and Lithgow City Council.</i> </li> <li>....</li> <li>4.2 Non-Voting Representatives  ..... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. the Mayor of Lithgow City Council</li> <li>v. the Chair of Upper Macquarie County Council</li> </ol> the General Managers of Member Councils [and of Central Tablelands County Council, Upper Macquarie Country Council and Lithgow City Council ... </li> <li>4.7 Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson  ... <i>Remuneration for the Chair of the Central NSW Joint Organisation is \$10,000 per annum and will increase in line with CPI and be paid quarterly in advance subsequent to Board meetings.</i> </li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Provide advice in the Mayoral Board report regarding the Statement of Budget and Revenue and Draft Charter seeking feedback; and</li> </ol>	

5. Pursue funding for:
  - a. Reducing emissions from Council waste facilities and
  - b. Transitioning water utility strategy into Integrated Planning and reporting

#### **c. The CNSWJO Governance Structure Report**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr P Miller/Cr J Medcalf</b>
That the Board note the CNSWJO Governance Structure Report and	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nominate Portfolio Mayors to the various portfolios of:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Leveraging our successful collaboration - Cr Kevin Beatty as Chair and Cr John Medcalf</li> <li>d. Regional Prosperity through better infrastructure and services - Cr Bill West</li> <li>e. Advocate for better infrastructure and services in health and ageing - Cr Phyllis Miller as Chair, Cr John Medcalf, Cr Ken Keith and Cr Maree Statham</li> <li>f. Telecommunications - Cr John Medcalf as Chair and Cr Phyllis Miller</li> <li>g. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation - Cr Ken Keith</li> <li>h. Regional Water Security and Productive Water - Cr David Somerville, Cr Jason Hamling and Cr Robert Taylor</li> <li>i. Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future -Cr Mark Kellam</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Form a subcommittee to meet monthly to progress advocacy strategy; and</li> <li>3. Provide a report to next meeting on Board meeting frequency.</li> </ol>	

#### **d. SSRP Evaluation**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr B West/Cr C Bembrick</b>
That the Board note the Evaluation Report for the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority (SSRP) found the process and outputs compliant, good value for money and well received. Where possible in future iterations;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The strategy itself should be developed in-house;</li> <li>2. A subcommittee of Mayors similar to that used for this iteration should provide oversight of the process;</li> <li>3. Any expenditure on consultants should be for “new eyes” on the region for a background document to inform strategy like the <a href="https://www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/content/uploads/CNSWJO-Enviromental-Scan.pdf">https://www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/content/uploads/CNSWJO-Enviromental-Scan.pdf</a> of strategic and plans at the regional, state, national and international levels that are relevant to this region;</li> <li>4. Give greater thought to engagement with State agencies; and</li> <li>5. The highest priority for any funding for renewal of strategy is for a conference for new Councillors.</li> </ol>	

#### **e. Regional Procurement and Contracts**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr P Miller/Cr B West</b>
That the Board notes the report on the Regional Procurement and Contract Management Report and approves;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The approval of a 12-month extension the regional traffic control contract;</li> <li>2. The approval of a 12-month extension of the Supply of bitumen emulsion regional contract;</li> <li>3. The approval of an Asset Management Audit RFQ process inclusive of a 5% contract management fee; and</li> <li>5. Approve a regional process for a Modern Slavery Risk Assessment of suppliers for regional councils, provided more than 5 councils express interest in participating.</li> </ol>	

**Priority two: Regional Prosperity through better Infrastructure and Services****f. Advocacy Plan for Regional Prosperity through better Infrastructure and Services Report**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr M Kellam/Cr C Bembrick</b>
That the Board adopt the Advocacy Plan for Regional Prosperity through better Infrastructure and Services, and review content regarding housing giving consideration to opportunities with the Federal Government.	

**g. Skills Shortages Report**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr J Medcalf/Cr M Kellam</b>
That the Board note Skills Shortages report and	
1. Give consideration to progressing a relationship with another council;	
2. Note the draft key messages of the advocacy plan and delegate the finalisation of the plan to the Portfolio Mayor and Sponsoring General Managers;	
3. Seek advice on options for Councils to secure post training employment; and	
4. Include in advocacy the capacity of Councils to pay given rate pegging.	

**Priority three: Advocate for better infrastructure and services in health and ageing****h. Health Advocacy**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr P Miller/ Cr K Keith</b>
That the Board notes the report on the Health Advocacy and	
1. Adopt the key messages on health and ageing;	
2. Note the balance of the advocacy advice will be provided to the next Board meeting;	
3. Seek to have the Health and Social Profiles developed by the Western Area Local Health District's Health Intelligence Unit updated;	
4. Seek feedback from Mr Richard Colbran on advocacy.	

**Priority five: Transport and Infrastructure****i. Transport Advocacy**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>C K Keith/Cr J Medcalf</b>
That the Board notes the report on the Transport Advocacy and adopts the Transport and Infrastructure Advocacy Plan.	

**Priority six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water****j. Regional Water Report**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr B West/Cr C Bembrick</b>
That the Board note the Regional Water Security report and adopt the updated Advocacy Plan for Regional Water.	

**k. Transitioning Local Water Utility Strategic Planning into the IP & R Framework**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr P Miller/Cr B West</b>
That the Board note the report on transitioning what was Integrated Water Cycle Management Planning for Local Water Utilities into the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework report and	
1. Approve the Terms of Reference and Project Scope;	
2. Note that the Subcommittee of General Managers is Mr B Byrnes, Mr K Boyd, Mr G Rhodes and Mr G Tory; and	
3. Note that the region is seeking funding to progress this project while expending \$25K of the Office of Local Government Capacity Building Funds to commence work.	

**I. Regional Water Security and Productive Water**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr B West/Cr J Medcalf</b>
That the Board note the report on Productive Water and approve that:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A bid be put up to the newly formed Charles Sturt University Policy Lab to bring together CNSWJO member Council representatives, academics, subject matter specialists and key regional stakeholders to participate in a forum to co-design a Roadmap for the region to progress work on Productive Water; and</li> <li>2. In the interim, the Board continue advocacy in line with the updated Advocacy Plan for Regional Water on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the finalisation of the Regional Water Strategies and the co-design of the Governance and Implementation Plans for these; and</li> <li>b. Wyangala Dam wall raising and Belubula Water Security Project inclusive of the recognition of the value of urban water and the opportunities to manage water differently (the 'Dutch Model').</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

**Priority seven: Transition to a sustainable, secure, and affordable energy future****m. Energy Report**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr C Bembrick/Cr J Medcalf</b>
That the Board note the Energy Report and note there are no changes to the previously adopted Energy Advocacy Plan.	

**n. Update from Essential Energy in Relation to Matters Raised by Members Report**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr B West/Cr M Kellam</b>
That the Board note the Update from Essential Energy in Relation to Matters Raised by Members Report and continue to direct matters as they arise through Essential Energy's Head of Strategic Council Partnerships.	

**9. Quarterly review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022 -2025**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr P Miller/Cr J Medcalf</b>
That the CNSWJO note the Quarterly review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022 -2025 and	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sign the MoU with Regional Development Australia Central West;</li> <li>2. Seek a variation for the OLG Capacity Building Funds of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$25,000 for the Water Training funding to be transferred to capacity building in water strategy aligned with Integrated Planning and Reporting; and</li> <li>b. \$23,132.86 remaining from the energy capacity building monies to augment the Regional NSW Business Case funding for the Nexus Between Net Zero and Energy Security;</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Note that CNSWJO is seeking to have an event sponsored by the Regional Australia Institute to build better alignment with the Regionalisation Ambition 2032- Rebalance the Nation;</li> <li>4. Continue membership of the Regional Australia Institute of \$5K pa;</li> <li>5. Develop a response to the Environmental Impact Statement for the upgrade to the Great Western Highway between Blackheath to Little Hartley in line with current policy; and</li> <li>6. Endorse the support of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia submission to the Australian Energy Market Commission on Minor Energy Flow Metering</li> </ol>	

**10. The Board resolved to move Confidential Reports Items 10 b and 10 c into General Business given recent announcements by the State government.**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr B West/ Cr J Medcalf</b>
The Board resolved to move Confidential Reports Items 10 b and 10c into General Business.	

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

12.00pm Mr Dave Waddell and Mark Hodges Left the meeting

**12.02pm The Chairs suspended the meeting to hear from the General Manager of Destination Central West, Mr Sean Haylan.**

**The Chair reopened the meeting at 12:30.**

#### **10b. Procurement Report - Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Program**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr M Kellam/Cr B West</b>
That the Board note the Procurement Report - Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Program, and	
1. Approve CNSWJO to conduct an RFT process if required on behalf of participating JOs for a Local and Regional Needs Analysis; and	
2. Approve CNSWJO to conduct the following RFQ procurement processes, if required, on behalf of participating JOs, noting that acceptance will be via the Chair and Sponsoring General Managers as per the CNSWJO Procurement Policy:	
a. Community Workshops & Training;	
b. Transport Vulnerability/Freight Routes;	
c. Disaster Risk Reduction/Integrated Planning and Reporting Integration; and	
d. Simtables or equivalent.	

#### **10c. Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Program report**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr J Medcalf/Cr B West</b>
That the Board note the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Program report and	
1. Note the funding received from the NSW Reconstruction Authority of \$647,989;	
2. Note the engagement of Ms Jenny Webber as the DRRF Program Manager;	
3. Endorse the draft DRRF Implementation Plan;	
4. Endorse the draft DRRF Risk Management Plan; and	
5. Endorse the draft Terms of Reference for the CNSWJO DRRF Project Steering Committee.	

#### **Closure of the meeting to the public**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr B West/ Cr J Medcalf</b>
The Board resolved to move into closed.	

#### **11. Confidential Reports**

##### **Financial Report**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr J Medcalf/Cr B West</b>
That the Board note the Financial Report.	

#### **Reopening the meeting**

<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Cr B West/ Cr J Medcalf</b>
The Board resolved to reopen the meeting to the public.	

**12. Late reports – Nil**

**13. Speakers to the next meeting.**

**14. Next meetings:**

**GMAC: 27 April - Cowra**

**Board: 24/25 May – Canberra (TBC Federal Parliament)**

**Meeting closed 12.36pm**

**Page 6 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation meeting 23 February 2023 at Forbes**

**7. Matters in Progress**

Action	By	Update
<b>290519-8b-Drought Sub-committee - Progressing the recommendations of the Drought Issues Paper</b> Work with requisite State agencies and other peak regional bodies regarding drought preparedness with a report to be provided to the Board on options for resourcing better drought support and coordination at the local and regional level.	JB and MM	<p><b>290519-8b-- Progressing the recommendations of the Drought Issues Paper</b></p> <p>Work with requisite State agencies and other peak regional bodies regarding drought preparedness with a report to be provided to the Board on options for resourcing better drought support and coordination at the local and regional level.</p> <p>This is the current update I was hoping you could assist with based on our conversation the other day.</p> <p>Advice on 21 March 2020 from Ken Harrison, Director, Central West Orana and Far West, Resilience NSW is that the Office of Drought Preparedness is still a function in the department of Regional NSW. The State Government's Future Ready Regions Strategy has been developed to guide drought management while its inter-agency coordination for drought has been discontinued. <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/future-ready-regions">https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/future-ready-regions</a></p> <p>There has been a 2023 update on progress <a href="#">Future Ready Regions 2023 Update (nsw.gov.au)</a></p> <p>Further the funding programs for drought have been evaluated with the findings being positive. <a href="#">Drought Measures – Strategic Evaluation (nsw.gov.au)</a></p> <p>While it is pleasing that the work this region has been undertaking is recognised by the NSW Govt in its 2023 update on drought preparedness, the activities being progressed fall well short of this region's policy particularly for urban communities. It is clear from the commentary in the 2023 Update that the focus of the State response is to support Councils manage leakage and demand. It is noteworthy that the Centroc Water Security Study undertaken in 2009 found that any amount of demand management and leakage reduction will not deliver water security for this region without further investment on a multi-source approach in infrastructure investment. This finding has been reinforced in the draft Regional Water Strategies for the Macquarie and the Lachlan.</p> <p>However, it is alarming that the <b>implementation plans</b> for adopted regional water strategies also offer little solace for urban water. For example the implementation plan for the North Coast Regional Water Strategy provides detail on infrastructure to enable fish passage – right down to box culverts while providing generic advice on State programming</p>

**Matters in Progress**

Action	By	Update
		<p>for urban water security not acknowledging Armidale at all where it was a key vulnerable community in the last drought. Given the advice in the Auditor General's Report <a href="#">Support for regional town water infrastructure   Audit Office of New South Wales (nsw.gov.au)</a> this is, frankly, not good enough.</p> <p>Further, feedback from across the region is that Local Water Utilities trying to progress infrastructure solutions are meeting the sorts of challenges described in the Auditor General's Report and are not progressing fast enough to prepare for the next drought.</p> <p>Advocacy continues for inter-agency coordination of water security planning and management with Local Government with a seat at the table. Happily, the RLE advise that they are having success in working with DPE Office of Water, including the Regional Water Strategies team and the Local Utilities and Safe &amp; Secure teams, where the plan for the RLE for this includes to effect change on the critical RLE Priority of 'Advocate for the delivery of the Regional Water Strategies in the Central West (Lachlan and Macquarie/Castlereagh) including creating an accountability framework for their co-existence/importance to Central West'. Happily, DPE Office of Water will be providing Director-representation to the CW RLE to ensure they are at the table this critical issue in the Central West.</p> <p>CNSWJO met with Regional NSW 10 March with a view to progressing a collaborative project tackling the bigger policy issues not address in the <a href="#">Future Ready Regions 2023 Update (nsw.gov.au)</a> for example linking urban water restrictions to automatically reduce allocation to other users. The meeting was positive with Mr Brendan Cook advising Regional NSW will progress support. It is understood follow-up is being undertaken by Ms Olivia West in this regard.</p>
<b>271119-P4-b-Regional Water Report.</b> 1. Agree arrangements be developed with the strategic subcommittee and in consultation with member Councils for emergency water management between towns across the region that (based on previous Board policy) address the following heads of consideration:	MM	<p>1. While a Regional Water Committee comprising member Councils formed in April 2020, since this time strategic work on a.to d. has been driven by the State Government through the development of the State and Regional Water Strategies, the Town Water Risk Reduction Program, review of the Water Sharing Plans and associated work. Sub-regional work by Cabonne/CTW and Orange has also sought to address some of these.</p> <p>Where the JO and member Councils have been actively pursuing water security solutions and enabling policy and structures through these programs, the RWS have been subject to long delays. Further as detailed above feedback</p>

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
<p>a. Arrangements for the sharing of water for emergency water needs between towns across the region so that the burden of providing infrastructure for critical urban water transfers is borne equitably by the region (for example through the development of instruments and agreements not structures);</p> <p>b. Ownership and management by LG of any such infrastructure built to transfer emergency water between towns across the region for critical human needs;</p> <p>c. On-going operational costs for emergency water infrastructure;</p> <p>d. A multi-source approach to the supply of emergency water that enables options to be switched on or off as needed with these to be linked to State and local based triggers; and;</p> <p>2. Undertake advocacy seeking early engagement in the Wyangala Dam wall raising and Lake Rowlands to Carcoar Dam projects with a view to being able to influence outcomes.</p>		<p>from across the region is that Local Water Utilities trying to progress infrastructure solutions are meeting the sorts of challenges described in the Auditor General's Report and are not progressing fast enough to prepare for the next drought. Taking this into consideration the potential for the Regional Water Committee to meet to re-visit these issues was referred to a meeting of the Regional Water Security and Productive Water Portfolio Mayors on 22 May 2023.</p> <p>2. Superseded – <b>suggest deletion.</b></p> <p>See action at 230223-I-Regional Water Security and Productive Water where the Board has resolved to continue advocacy in line with the updated Advocacy Plan for Regional Water on:</p> <p>a. the finalisation of the Regional Water Strategies and the co-design of the Governance and Implementation Plans for these.</p> <p>b. Wyangala Dam wall raising and Belubula Water Security Project inclusive of the recognition of the value of urban water and the opportunities to manage water differently (the 'Dutch Model').</p>
<p><b>270820-7j-Water</b></p> <p>Through the Regional Water Committee, receive scoping advice on the development of a Productive Water Position Paper and that this take into consideration specific feedback from members on water security issues impacting on their towns.</p>	MM	<p>The Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities includes priority 6: work on Regional Water Security and Productive Water. Reporting has commenced. <b>Suggest deletion.</b></p>
<p><b>41220-9m-Western Link</b></p> <p>Work with TfNSW on aligned messages on road safety.</p>	JB	<p>Correspondence has been sent and follow-up through the Central NSW Regional Integrated Transport Group is anticipated once the Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan, currently nearly five years in the making, is finalised.</p>

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
<b>110321- A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW – Refresh</b> seek advice from Inland Rail, Wyangala Dam, the Newell Highway taskforce and TfNSW and Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation on the outcomes from their work on traineeships.	JB	Ms Olivia West is invited to GMAC and Board meetings and can provide an update to members at that time.  A meeting was held with representatives of Water NSW and Water Infrastructure NSW and advice has been provided previously.  <b>Suggest deletion</b>
<b>030621- Progressing a Western Link Event</b> Meet with Blue Mountains City Council, Penrith City Council and other Western Sydney Councils individually on potential opportunities.	JB	Meeting regularly with Penrith City Council.
<b>240222 -9b- Review of the CNSWJO Advocacy position for a safe, swift link between Central NSW and Sydney</b> Hold a workshop to revitalise strategy connection to the east coast, inviting TfNSW and including rail.	JB	While originally intended for 3 June 2022, members have provided feedback that there is just too much on. Conference held in August 2022 addressed the issue to some extent.  Notably the October 2022 Federal Budget has placed a stop on funding for the GWH though funding for securing the corridor and a second crossing at Richmond is a Federal govt election commitment. The newly elected State Government have dropped it as a priority. A regroup is anticipated with the opt in Mayors' Subcommittee who met 28 April with a representative of the Blackheath Action Group. At the time of writing advocacy materials into the Canberra visit are being developed accordingly.
<b>260522 – 11- Matters raised by Members</b> Parkes: Ms J Bennett to bring a report to the Board on the potential for more activity in screen in Central NSW.	JB + CG	Meetings with Screen NSW have taken place, see report in the Business Paper.  <b>Suggest deletion</b>
<b>121022-8 Speakers</b> 1. JO Board to write to follow up regarding Cr Keith's suggestion the Old Shires Association model be used with the JO Boundaries. 2. JO Board to follow up with LGNSW regarding the advocacy for more cadetships with the State. 3. The Hon. Mick Veitch, MLC Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, and Shadow Minister for Western NSW- Actions: 4. Follow up with Mick's Offer to arrange a roundtable in region in	JB	1 and 2 Correspondence has been sent. The matter is raised regularly.  3 4 and 5 ALP unable to attend in person in December and Mick Veitch was not reelected. Advocacy approach has been discussed by the opt in Mayors' Subcommittee who met 28 April. Meetings and briefing are being arranged. Please see advice in a report elsewhere in this agenda.  <b>Suggest deletion</b>

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
November. Include Paul Scully re common planning assumptions. 5. JO to coordinate a tour in the region.		
<b>121022 – 7d- Health and Building Surveyors Skills Shortages Working Group</b> a. send a joint delegation to meet with Minister Roberts; and b. seek advice on insurance to enable cross Council activity.	JB/KB/CG	a. Ministerial request lodged. <a href="#">Minister for Planning and Homes   NSW Government</a> - he has advised he cannot receive this delegation. Follow-up will be undertaken with the Deputy Premier. Given the change of government this matter will be raised with the incoming government. Please find the advocacy plan for skills shortages elsewhere in this agenda. b. Forbes Shire Council provided advice to General Managers at their last meeting. This has been circulated in the Minutes of GMAC.  <b>Suggest deletion</b>
<b>121022 -7g-Report of Regional Australia Institute event Regions Rising Canberra</b> 1. co-hosting events and familiarisations in region for Federal representatives and bureaucrats; 2. progressing the alignment between this region and precincts commitments by the Federal Government including ongoing engagement with the National Farmers' Federation; 3. engaging with the Regional Australia Institute in progressing these ambitions; 4. receive a report on opportunities afforded to the region from the Rebalance the Nation Framework; and 5. seek a time to meet with Minister King's Office and provide advice on the Dutch Model.	JB	1. Currently in the plan for the State and Federal Government: a. familiarisations for State agency bureaucrats is being coordinated by Regional NSW; b. correspondence has been sent and various presentations have been made. The Regional Australia Institute has been approached for support; c. special water famil held for Rose Jackson, State Shadow Minister for water 30 November 2022 – follow-up undertaken, no response at this time. This will be discussed at the Portfolio Mayors meeting 22 May 2023. 2. The JO has been advocating for a precinct program like what was in the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) submission pre-election supported by the incoming Federal Government. Minister King recently had this to say about their approach to precincts – which is not as anticipated by the NFF: "The Growing Regions Program will provide new opportunities for regional local councils and not-for-profit organisations through an annual open, competitive grants process," she said. "The regional Precincts and Partnerships Program will provide a strategic, nationally consistent mechanism for funding and coordinating larger-scale projects that transform a place, to benefit communities in regional cities and wider rural and regional Australia. "While Coalition MPs are cynically attempting to claim election promises as funded projects, the government is delivering improvements the Australian people voted for by cleaning up the chaotic mess the previous government left behind." A meeting between Minister McBain and representatives of the region is being coordinated. 3, 4 and 5 Underway
<b>241122-7-Matters raised by Members. Lachlan has raised the need for advocacy regarding this flooding event</b>	JB and JW	Correspondence was sent to Ken Harrison regarding the Systematic Tool development and the lessons learned session. A meeting was held with Ken Harrison 30 January and he has agreed to progress a lessons learned workshop.

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
<p>That the Central NSW Joint Organisation endorse the following key messages in the briefing note on the recent flooding event and seek feedback from members on specific advocacy they are seeking support for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There should be automatic, well-known processes switched on when natural disaster declarations are made. These should include; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. one source of truth;</li> <li>b. effective and known communication pathways, governance arrangements and messaging;</li> <li>c. a known support package including rates relief and business support tailored to the impacted engine industries of the community; and</li> <li>d. recognition that some natural disasters are much bigger than the local response through Council and the SES and there ought to be pre-planned responses to rapidly escalate.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. There ought to be known escalation points to support the local effort including use of the military.</li> <li>3. CNSWJO, through its Disaster Risk Reduction Program, prepare a tool that systematises mutual support between Councils for natural disasters.</li> <li>4. CNSWJO ensure coordination of a debrief with affected Councils and key agency representatives to inform the above tool where this includes elected representatives.</li> <li>5. There should be policy and financial recognition of the ongoing and unprecedented road impacts on the safety and economy of this region as a result</li> </ol>		<p>Ken Harrison has provided the following advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Reconstruction Authority, under the provisions of its Act, is the primary recovery agency, but is not a response agency, such as RFS and SES.</li> <li>• Combat agencies are responsible for After Action Reviews, after each event. (focussing on the response phase)</li> <li>• SES for the Lachlan River based LGAs are in SES Southern Zone, run from Wagga Wagga. Ben Pickup is the SES zone commander and may be able to supply the outcomes of any AARs they undertook. I'd have anticipated that LEMC reps may have been involved in this process.</li> <li>• If the JO wants to undertake a broader review encompassing relief and recovery processes, I would be happy to support and be involved. It would be informative to have a clear idea of who was to be involved and what the objective is.</li> <li>• NSW RA is undertaking a full review of the NSW Recovery Plan this year. This is quite extensive and will include learnings from recent events. I will liaise with the review team to determine opportunities for consultation with the JO.</li> </ul>

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
<p>of the continued La Nina event. This recognition should include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Country Mayors and LGNSW in their advocacy on their State-wide Roads Emergency declaration</li> <li>Extension of funding deadlines allowing Councils reprioritisation of resource from other infrastructure funding programs to the roads' effort; and</li> <li>An ongoing plan for roads recovery that recognises that this effort will take years.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>241122-8j- Terms of Reference for the Central NSW Joint Organisation/Charles Sturt University Local Government Policy Lab Working Group</b></p> <p>Provide advice on the pace at which this working group is to progress.</p>	JB	<p>The launch will be at this Board meeting</p> <p><b>Suggest deletion</b></p>
<p><b>241122-8n-Regional Asset Management</b></p> <p>commend to members a Regional Asset Management Improvement Program coordinated by CNSWJO comprising:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>joint procurement of asset management audits across the JO membership once every Council term (4 yearly) with procurement to be undertaken in early 2023 for audits to be completed by July 2023.</li> <li>the development of Asset Management Improvement Plans for each Council informed by the Asset Management Audits; and</li> <li>annual reports by Council's asset management staff to ARICs on progress towards achieving improvements detailed in their Asset Management Improvement Plans to formalise the integration of asset management into the ARIC process.</li> </ol>	MM	<p>Procurement is underway with the following Councils agreeing to participate: Blayney, Bathurst, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Parkes, Weddin.</p> <p>CTW, Cowra and Orange have indicated that they will not be participating. Forbes and Cabonne have not indicated either way but can be included if they choose to participate at a later stage.</p>
<p><b>230223-5 –Speakers – Mr R Colbran</b></p>	JB	<p>Several meetings have been held with Mr R Colbran the most recent with the Portfolio Mayors for Health. An MoU is anticipated. Media about the broader health issues has been</p>

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
1. Follow up will be undertaken by the Executive Officer regarding advocacy and data 2. Focus of immediate advocacy around the disparity of support for rural first year medical student blocks in Sydney		issued via the Portfolio Mayors for Health. Please see attachments to the Advocacy Report.  <b>Suggest deletion</b>
<b>230223-b. Budget considerations 2023/2024 and revision of the CNSWJO Charter</b> 1. Adopt the draft Statement of Budget and Revenue and place it on exhibition for 30 days; 2. Note that the budget for the next financial year includes a fee rise of 3.7% and a small profit for the year of \$2,072; 3. Adopt the revised CNSWJO Charter with the following changes highlighted in yellow for member feedback: 3.2 Associate Members The following organisations are Associate Members of the Organisation as at February 2023: Central Tablelands County Council; Upper Macquarie County Council; and Lithgow City Council. .... 4.2 Non-Voting Representatives ..... iv. the Mayor of Lithgow City Council v. the Chair of Upper Macquarie County Council the General Managers of Member Councils [and of Central Tablelands County Council, Upper Macquarie Country Council and Lithgow City Council ... 4.7 Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson ... Remuneration for the Chair of the Central NSW Joint Organisation is \$10,000 per annum and will increase in line with CPI and be paid quarterly in advance subsequent to Board meetings.	JB	1.& 2 The Draft Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy 2023-2024 has been placed on the Website and was seeking feedback by 30 March. None has been received.  3 and 4 Draft available online and provided to members. Some feedback has been received please see report provided to this meeting seeking adoption of the Charter and the Statement of Budget and Revenue including fees for the Chair.  5 Noted – please see updates on funding advice in respective reports.  <b>Suggest deletion</b>

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
4. Provide advice in the Mayoral Board report regarding the Statement of Budget and Revenue and Draft Charter seeking feedback; and 5. Pursue funding for: a. Reducing emissions from Council waste facilities and b. Transitioning water utility strategy into Integrated Planning and reporting		
<b>230223-c-The CNSWJO Governance Structure Report</b> 1. Nominate Portfolio Mayors to the various portfolios of: a. Leveraging our successful collaboration - Cr Kevin Beatty as Chair and Cr John Medcalf b. Regional Prosperity through better infrastructure and services - Cr Bill West c. Advocate for better infrastructure and services in health and ageing - Cr Phyllis Miller as Chair, Cr John Medcalf, Cr Ken Keith and Cr Maree Statham d. Telecommunications - Cr John Medcalf as Chair and Cr Phyllis Miller e. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation - Cr Ken Keith f. Regional Water Security and Productive Water - Cr David Somerville, Cr Jason Hamling, Cr Craig Bembrick and Cr Robert Taylor g. Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future -Cr Mark Kellam 2. Form a subcommittee to meet monthly to progress advocacy strategy; and 3. Provide a report to next meeting on Board meeting frequency.	JB	1.Portfolio Mayors meeting are progressing their advocacy work  2.Subcommittee Mayors are meeting monthly Friday at 7.30am  3. See report to this meeting.  <b>Suggest deletion</b>
<b>230223-d - SSRP Evaluation</b> b. The strategy itself should be developed in-house;	JB	Noted - <b>suggest deletion</b>

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. A subcommittee of Mayors similar to that used for this iteration should provide oversight of the process;</li> <li>d. Any expenditure on consultants should be for “new eyes” on the region for a background document to inform strategy like the <a href="https://www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/content/uploads/CNSWJO-Enviromental-Scan.pdf">https://www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/content/uploads/CNSWJO-Enviromental-Scan.pdf</a> of strategic and plans at the regional, state, national and international levels that are relevant to this region;</li> <li>e. Give greater thought to engagement with State agencies; and</li> <li>f. The highest priority for any funding for renewal of strategy is for a conference for new Councillors.</li> </ul>		
<b>230223- f- Advocacy Plan for Regional Prosperity through better Infrastructure and Services Report</b> review content regarding housing giving consideration to opportunities with the Federal Government.	JB	Underway
<b>230223-g-Skills Shortages Report</b> 1. Give consideration to progressing a relationship with another council; 2. Include in Advocacy the capacity to Councils to pay given rate pegging.	CG	Please see skills shortages advocacy plan to this meeting.  <b>Suggest deletion</b>
<b>230223- h - Health Advocacy</b> 1. Note the balance of the advocacy advice will be provided to the next Board meeting; 2. Seek to have the Health and Social Profiles developed by the Western Area Local Health District’s Health Intelligence Unit updated; 3. Seek feedback from Mr Richard Colbran on advocacy.	JB	This is being progressed through the Portfolio Mayors for Health. Please see advice provided in a separate report.
<b>230223-I-Regional Water Security and Productive Water</b>	MM	1. A meeting was held with the CSU Local Government Policy Lab Working Group on 21 March. See report to this meeting.

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A bid be put up to the newly formed Charles Sturt University Policy Lab to bring together CNSWJO member Council representatives, academics, subject matter specialists and key regional stakeholders to participate in a forum to co-design a Roadmap for the region to progress work on Productive Water; and</li> <li>2. In the interim, the Board continue advocacy in line with the updated Advocacy Plan for Regional Water on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the finalisation of the Regional Water Strategies and the co-design of the Governance and Implementation Plans for these.</li> <li>b. Wyangala Dam wall raising and Belubula Water Security Project inclusive of the recognition of the value of urban water and the opportunities to manage water differently (the 'Dutch Model').</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. A session to update newly appointed Regional Water Security and Productive Water portfolio mayors- Cr David Somerville, Cr Jason Hamling, Cr Craig Bembrick and Cr Robert Taylor is slated for 22 May 2023.</li> </ol> <p>See Briefing Notes to Federal Ministers for this meeting.</p>
<p><b>230223- 9. Quarterly review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022 -2025</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sign the MoU with Regional Development Australia Central West;</li> <li>2. Seek a variation for the OLG Capacity Building Funds of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$25,000 for the Water Training funding to be transferred to capacity building in water strategy aligned with Integrated Planning and Reporting; and</li> <li>b. \$23,132.86 remaining from the energy capacity building monies to augment the Regional NSW Business Case funding for the Nexus Between Net Zero and Energy Security;</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	JB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete see website <b>Suggest deletion</b></li> <li>2. Notice given to OLG 17 Feb 2023 <b>Suggest deletion</b></li> <li>3. Negotiations continue</li> <li>4. Noted <b>Suggest deletion</b></li> <li>5. Completed See website <b>Suggest deletion</b></li> <li>6. Completed see website <b>Suggest deletion</b></li> </ol>

## Matters in Progress

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Action	By	Update
3. Note that CNSWJO is seeking to have an event sponsored by the Regional Australia Institute to build better alignment with the Regionalisation Ambition 2032- Rebalance the Nation; 4. Develop a response to the Environmental Impact Statement for the upgrade to the Great Western Highway between Blackheath to Little Hartley in line with current policy; and 5. Endorse the support of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia submission to the Australian Energy Market Commission on Minor Energy Flow Metering.		

## Matters in Progress

**8. Reports on Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025****Priority One: Leveraging our successful collaboration****a. Financial Report**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	1: Leveraging our successful collaboration 1.1 Driving efficiencies and effectiveness saving Councils money 1.2 Building capacity across our Councils 1.3 Working well with other peak organisations
<b>Portfolio Mayor</b>	Cr K Beatty and Cr J Medcalf OAM
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	G Tory, N Vu, B Byrnes and C Butler

**Report by Ann Thomas and Jenny Bennett, dated 15 May 2023**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<b>That the Board note the Financial report.</b>

**Precis**

This report includes an update on the Financial Accounts as at 15 May 2023, including:

- The anticipated profit for 30 June 2023 against a budgeted profit; and
- Anticipated surplus.

The financial year is near completion and travelling well.

**Reason for report**

This report is procedural.

**Legislative Risk and Policy considerations**

This report presents the financial accounts at 15 May 2023. This report anticipates a full year profit of \$43,420 at 30 June 2023 against a budgeted profit of \$2,888. Taking into account prior year surpluses carried over it is anticipated that the surplus at 30 June 2023 will be \$298,580.

The increase in income from \$1.4m to \$3.2m is due to successful grants. The increase in the anticipated result from previous reports is due to the higher than expected income the JO will receive from management fees on contracts, higher interest than budgeted and grant funded administration income.

Lithgow City Council became a full member of the JO via proclamation on 2 March 2023. Associate membership fees were paid to 30 June 2023 with full membership fees to be invoiced in 2023/2024.

The original \$50,000 grant from Regional NSW for the Spare Capacity in Housing Project as agreed to and invoiced in June 2022, however never paid, was replaced in February 2023 by a new Services Contract. This

**Reports**

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Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

was due to funding procedures changing within Regional NSW shortly after the original grant was awarded. We have now been paid the first milestone payment of the new Services Contract of \$45,000. A further \$2,500 will be paid upon completion of the business plan and the remaining \$2,500 on completion of the project which is scheduled for 30 June 2024. The JO's external accountant will adjust the 2022 accounts to reflect the rescinding of the original grant during this year's audit preparation.

The Department of Planning and Environment has now provided total funding of \$810,000 for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Water Loss Management Program with the final \$90,000 payable on completion of the project. To date no costs have been recorded. We anticipate this project extending beyond this current financial year.

The JO continues to provide three annual scholarships of \$5,000 each to CSU medical students to assist with the costs of their studies. This is the third year the JO has provided these scholarships and has a commitment to provide these scholarships for two more years.

An amount of \$150,000 has been reserved from the prior year carried over surplus for the BPAP program as resolved at the Board meeting of 26 May 2022. This reserve is reflected in the above anticipated surplus at 30 June 2023 of \$298,580.

This report includes the wages and oncosts for the JO's eight staff members up to the end of the March 2023 quarter.

**Attachment/s:** Nil

## Reports

## Central NSW Joint Organisation

Financial Position at 15 May 2023

	Budget 2022/2023	Actual 13/02/2023	Anticipated 30/06/2023
<b>Income</b>			
CNSWJO Membership Fees	309,568	322,450	322,450
CWUA Best Practice Program	280,694	287,024	287,024
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group	102,691	103,447	106,467
CNSWJO Operational Membership	107,270	110,622	110,622
WRAS	9,576	9,576	9,576
	<b>\$809,799</b>	<b>\$833,119</b>	<b>\$836,139</b>
Grant - CNSWJO Water Loss Management Program		135,000	225,000
Grant - JONZAG		93,000	93,000
Grant - Disaster Risk Reduction Fund		323,995	323,995
Grant - Destination NSW		93,750	125,000
Grant - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund		834,662	834,662
Grant - Spare Capacity in Housing Project (V2)		45,000	45,000
	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,525,407.23</b>	<b>\$1,646,657.00</b>
Asset Revaluations for Buildings and Operational Land	0	114,000	114,000
CWUA - Smart Approved Watermark	19,767		0
CWUA - Auditing of Performance Monitoring - Lithgow		7,000	7,000
	<b>\$19,767</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
HR - Regional Training Service Income	200,000	82,850	200,000
HR - Online Training & Other HR Modules	176,636	125,214	176,636
	<b>\$376,636</b>	<b>\$208,064</b>	<b>\$376,636</b>
Management Fees from Contracts	155,000	144,521	170,000
Management Fee from LGP	65,000	48,891	48,891
	<b>\$220,000</b>	<b>\$193,412</b>	<b>\$218,891</b>
Copyright Licence	20,000	20,514	20,514
Vehicle Lease Back EO	4,600		0
Vehicle Lease Back CWUA	5,700		0
Vehicle Lease Back Operational Program Mgr	5,000	3,670	5,000
Interest	500	16,202	18,000
Member Council/Consultant expenses reimbursed		15,000	15,000
	<b>\$35,800</b>	<b>\$55,386</b>	<b>\$58,514</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,462,002</b>	<b>\$2,936,388</b>	<b>\$3,257,837</b>

### Expenditure

## Reports

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Executive Officer Costs	210,000	134,388	195,000
Executive Officer Vehicle Costs & Depn	13,500	761	13,500
Net Zero and Operational Programs Manager	128,750	70,019	87,000
Net Zero and Operational Programs Manager - Vehicle costs	13,500	5,300	7,809
Finance Manager	73,000	59,470	78,000
Project Officer - Operations	58,500	46,491	60,000
Project Officer - Procurement		40,412	50,700
Executive Support Officer	73,000	57,460	74,000
Grant - CNSWJO Water Loss Management Program			225,000
Grant - JONZA		29,931	93,000
Grant - Disaster Risk Reduction Fund		25,095	323,995
Grant - Destination NSW		93,749	125,000
Grant - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund		16,932	834,662
Grant - Spare Capacity in Housing Project (V2)			45,000
Asset Revaluations for Buildings and Operational Land			114,000
CWUA Program Manager & Program costs	160,000		160,000
CWUA Membership Program & Benchmarking Program (incl Lx)	120,694	127,020	127,694
CWUA - Smart Approved Watermark	19,767		0
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group	102,691	66,847	102,691
WRAS	9,576	9,576	9,576
HR - Training Service Costs	195,000	50,086	195,000
HR - Online Training & Other HR Modules	176,636	125,214	176,636
Regional Medical Student Scholarship	15,000	15,000	15,000
Advocacy	10,000	8,699	10,000
Accounting/Audit/Financial Services Support	30,000	6,670	30,000
Bank Fees and Sundry costs	2,500	1,667	2,500
Computer Software/Licences	3,000	1,306	2,000
Copyright Licence	20,000	20,654	20,654
Depreciation (excl vehicles)	3,000		3,000
Internet Cloud	10,000	7,204	10,000
Legal	5,000		5,000
Member Council/Consultant expenses reimbursed		15,000	15,000
Printing/Stationery/Postage	1,000	666	1,000
Supply Management Administration	1,000		0
Zoom Conferences	2,000	983	1,000
Website Hosting and costs	2,000	674	1,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,459,114</b>	<b>\$1,037,273</b>	<b>\$3,214,417</b>
<b>Net Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$2,888</b>	<b>\$1,899,115</b>	<b>\$43,420</b>

Non-Budgeted Expenditure

## Reports

**CNSWJO Reserves from 2021/22 and previous years**

BPAP - Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement	150,000		150,000
Capacity Building Funding Stage 1	15,100	15,100	15,100
Capacity Building Funding Stage 2	67,096	30,080	67,096
CWUA Best Practice Program	222,399	100,192	222,399
CWUA - Asset Revaluations	66,592	66,593	66,593
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group	61,585	61,585	61,585
Energy Project	34,939	2,571	34,939
Energy - Regional Energy Program - Council Contributions	35,587	12,973	35,587
Grant - CNSWJO Water Loss Management Program	675,000		675,000
Grant - DPIE Sustainable Councils and Communities Program	380	380	380
Grant - Spare Capacity in Housing Project (V1)	50,000		0
Inter-Council Cooperation Reserve - Procurement	27,864	7,237	27,864
Roads and Transport Group	11,673	11,500	11,673
	<b>\$1,418,215</b>	<b>\$308,209</b>	<b>\$1,368,216</b>

<b>Net Profit/Loss after Non-Budgeted Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,590,905</b>	<b>-\$1,324,796</b>
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<b>CNSWJO Accumulated Surplus at 30 June 2022 (incl grants/broker trans)</b>	<b>\$1,673,376</b>
<b>Less Rescinded Grant 21/22 - Spare Capacity V1</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Anticipated Surplus at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>\$298,580</b>

**b. Compliance Report**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	1: Leveraging our successful collaboration 1.1 Driving efficiencies and effectiveness saving Councils money 1.2 Building capacity across our Councils 1.3 Working well with other peak organisations
<b>Portfolio Mayor</b>	Cr K Beatty and Cr J Medcalf OAM
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	G Tory, N Vu, B Byrnes and C Butler

**Report by Jenny Bennett and Verity Page, dated 2 May 2023**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<b>That the Board note the Compliance report.</b>

**Precis**

This report includes an update on the Annual calendar of compliance and reporting requirements for 2022-23

CNSWJO is compliant with the annual calendar provided by the OLG for the 2022/2023 calendar year.

**Reason for report**

This report is procedural.

**Legislative Risk and Policy considerations**

The OLG Council 2022/2023 Joint Organisations Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements refers to key deadlines and statutory reporting. Please see on the following page. Green are items that are complete or tracking well.

**An update on the Annual Compliance Calendar**

Please find following the Annual Compliance Calendar for the JO.

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

JOINT ORGANISATIONS CALENDAR OF COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 2022-23											
JULY 2022	AUGUST 2022	SEPTEMBER 2022	OCTOBER 2022	NOVEMBER 2022	DECEMBER 2022	JANUARY 2023	FEBRUARY 2023	MARCH 2023	APRIL 2023	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023
9th: Proposed loan borrowings return to be submitted to TCorp	30th: Capacity Building Funding Stage 2 -Report to OLG with action plan, key delivery milestones and budget	30th: Lodge completed written returns of interest for voting representatives and designated persons who held office at 30 June [MCC cl 4.21(b)]. Executive Officer to table returns at next JO Board meeting [MCC cl 4.25]	17th: Request for financial statements to be submitted in writing to OLG [LGA s446(2); Code]	30th: Annual Performance Statement due [LGReg cl 397(1)]	4th: Joint Organisations must adopt a new policy on the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to the chairperson within 12 months of an election [LGA s252]	30th: Public Interest Disclosure Report due to the NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA]			30th: Capacity Building Funding Stage 2 -Report to OLG detailing delivery progress for expenditure of the funding, benefits, and report against budget.		30th: Last day to adopt Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget [LGReg cl 397]
30th: Public Interest Disclosures Report due to the NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA]			30th: Annual Report of obligations under PIDA to the Minister and the Ombudsman [PIDA s31]		4th: Joint Organisation must review their organisation structure within 12 months of an election [LGA s333]						
31st: Capacity Building Stage 1 - Final report on the funding and delivery. Where extensions are granted- progress report is 31 July and final on project completion			30th: Annual Report of obligations under GIPA to the Minister and the Information Commissioner [GIPA s125]		4th: Joint Organisations must adopt a code of meeting practice within 12 months of an election [LGA s360]						
			31st: Audited Financial Statements to be lodged with OLG [LGA s417(5); Code]		4th: Joint Organisations must review their adopted codes of conduct within 12 months of an election [LGA s440(7)]						
					4th: Joint Organisations must adopt a statement of strategic regional priorities within 12 months of an election [LGReg cl397H]						
					5th: Last day for audited financial statements to be presented to the public [LGA s418(2)]						
					28th: Last day for annual performance statement to be published [LGReg cl 397(42)]						
					31st: Report to JO Board [MCCP cl 11.2] and OLG [MCCP cl 11.2] on code of conduct complaint statistics						

## Reports

**c. Budget considerations 2023/2024 and revision of the CNSWJO Charter**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	1: Leveraging our successful collaboration 1.1 Driving efficiencies and effectiveness saving Councils money 1.2 Building capacity across our Councils 1.3 Working well with other peak organisations
<b>Portfolio Mayor</b>	Cr K Beatty and Cr J Medcalf OAM
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	G Tory, N Vu, B Byrnes and C Butler

**Report by Jenny Bennett, dated 10 May 2023**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
That the Board note the Budget considerations 2023/2024 and revision of the CNSWJO Charter report and; 1. adopt the Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget; and 2. adopt the revised CNSWJO Charter.

**Precis**

CNSWJO must adopt its Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget before 30 June, at the February meeting a draft was presented and has been on exhibition with no further feedback received.

Changes were made to the CNSWJO Charter to include remuneration of the Chair of \$10k with a CPI increase to be paid quarterly. Lithgow and Upper Macquarie County Council are included. Advice was provided to members in line with the direction of the Office of Local Government. Some feedback has been received and this is included as an option for member consideration.

Please request previous reports informing the Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget.

**Reason for Report**

This report seeks adoption of the Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget and CNSWJO Charter.

**Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations**

The JO must adopt its Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget having put it on public exhibition for 30 days. The draft adopted by the Board at its February meeting was put in exhibition 28 February 2023 and no comments have been received.

To effect payment of a fee to the Chair, a change to the Charter was required. The Office of Local Government advised that any change to the Charter should be provided to members for feedback.

Feedback was received from Lachlan Shire Council:

*Please note at point 4.7 of the resolution Council resolved to use different wording to that recorded in the CNSWJO Board minutes. That is, LSC considered that future increases in the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson*

# Attachment 1

*remuneration should be tied to the increases approved by the NSW Remuneration Tribunal for Councillors and Mayors in Non-metropolitan Regional Rural Councils rather than the Consumer Price Index (CPI).*

The Board may wish to change the Charter in line with this feedback, that it, not increase the fees by CPI but rather use the NSW Remuneration Tribunal increases.

## Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget 2023-2024

The Central NSW Joint Organisation's revenue and accounting policies are kept in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards Board. CNSWJO abides by the:

- *Local Government Act (1993)*
- *Local Government (General Regulation 2005)*
- *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting*

### 1. Financial Contributions by Member Councils

Financial contributions by member Councils fall into two categories. Firstly, membership fees are levied from all member councils in order to perform the principal functions of delivering on strategic regional priorities, regional leadership and intergovernmental cooperation. The second category is for contributions from participating councils for a program of other functions enhancing strategic capacity and direct service delivery. Strategic work by the Joint Organisation will determine the nature of this program. [Strategic Planning - Central Joint Organisation \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/strategic-planning)

As outlined in its Charter, the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) member councils must contribute financially based on the following methodology:

- a. The annual financial contribution required to be made by each Member Council is to consist of:
  - i. base fee of the same amount for each Member Council; and
  - ii. a capitation fee [based on the population number drawn from ABS census figures].
- b. The annual financial contribution required to be made by each Associate Member is to be based on a methodology adopted by the Board.
- c. The amount of the base fee, capitation fee and financial contribution by Associate Members for a financial year is to be determined prior to the start of that year by Resolution of the Board.

For 2023-2024, contributions from member councils of the Joint Organisation of \$936,582 has been determined with the following breakdown:

- Membership & Administration: \$359,208
- Membership of various programs: \$577,374  
(Operational, CNSWJO Water Utilities' Alliance, Tourism & Western Region Academy of Sport)

## Reports

## 2. Fees & Charges

Under the Local Government Act 1993, the CNSWJO may charge and recover an approved fee for its services.

CNSWJO must consider the following when establishing approved fees:

- The cost of provision of the service
- Recommended prices suggested by outside bodies
- The importance of the service
- Legislation that regulates certain fees
- Goods & Services Tax legislation.

## 3. 2023-2024 Budget

### Central NSW Joint Organisation Budget 2023/2024

Budget 2023/2024	
<b>Income</b>	
CNSWJO Membership Fees	359,208
CWUA Best Practice Program	324,649
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group	119,020
CNSWJO Operational Membership	122,364
WRAS	11,341
	<b>\$936,582</b>
Grant funding - JONZAG	\$62,000
Grant funding - DRRF	\$323,995
Grant funding - RNSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund	\$208,665
	<b>\$594,660</b>
CWUA -Smart Approved Watermark	19,767
	<b>\$19,767</b>
HR - Regional Training Service Income	200,000
HR - Online Training & Other HR Modules	100,000
	<b>\$300,000</b>
Management Fees from Contracts	130,000
Management Fee from LGP	42,500
	<b>\$172,500</b>
Copyright Licence	20,000
Vehicle Lease Back - Net Zero and Operational Programs Mgr	5,000
Interest	15,000
	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,063,509</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Executive Officer Costs	190,000

# Reports

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Executive Officer Vehicle Costs & Depn	10,000
Net Zero and Operational Programs Manager incl Vehicle	72,000
Finance Manager	77,500
Project Officer - Procurement	97,000
Project Officer - Operations	65,000
Executive Support Officer	73,000
CWUA Program Manager & Program costs	186,927
CWUA Membership Program & Benchmarking Program	137,722
CWUA - Smart Approved Watermark	19,767
Grant - JONZAG	62,000
Grant - DDRF	323,995
Grant - RNSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund	208,665
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group Marketing	119,020
Remuneration of the Chair	10,000
WRAS	11,341
HR - Training Service Costs	195,000
HR - Online Training & Other HR Modules	100,000
Regional Medical Student Scholarship	15,000
Advocacy	15,000
Accounting/Audit/Financial Services Support	28,000
Bank Fees and Sundry costs	2,500
Computer Software/Licences	2,000
Copyright Licence	20,000
Depreciation (excl vehicles)	3,000
Internet Cloud	10,000
Legal	3,000
Printing/Stationery/Postage	1,000
Zoom Conferences	1,500
Website Hosting and costs	1,500
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$2,061,437</b>
<b>Net Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$2,072</b>

## Reports

## Charter

### CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

#### CHARTER

##### INTRODUCTION

##### 1.1 Name and legal status

- a. The name of the Organisation is Central NSW Joint Organisation.
- b. The Organisation is a body corporate established on 11 May 2018 by proclamation under Part 7 Chapter 12 of the Local Government Act 1993.

##### 1.2 Interpretation

This Charter is to be interpreted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and the Interpretation Act 1987.

##### 1.3 Definitions

The following definitions apply in this Charter:

**Act** means the Local Government Act 1993.

**Associate Member** means those councils and other organisations that are members of the Organisation by virtue of clause 3.2 of this Charter.

**Board** means the Board of the Organisation consisting of the Voting Representatives and Non-Voting Representatives set out in clause 4.1 of this Charter, acting collectively.

**Charter** means this document, as amended from time to time.

**Chairperson** means the person elected to the office of chairperson by the Voting Representatives under clause 4.7 of this Charter.

**Councillor** means a person elected or appointed to civic office and includes a Mayor.

**Executive Officer** means the person employed by the Organisation under clause 4.8 of this Charter.

**General Manager** means the person employed by a council as its general manager.

**Member Councils** means the councils proclaimed under the Act to be the members of the Organisation.

**Mayor** means the mayor of a Member Council.

**Non-Voting Representative** means the Board representatives appointed pursuant to clause 4.2 of this Charter. Organisation means Central NSW Joint Organisation.

**Principal Functions** means the functions set out in clause 2.2 of this Charter or as otherwise prescribed by the Act or Regulations.

**Regulations** means the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

**Special Resolution** has the meaning given in clause 5.4(b)(ii).

**Supplementary Functions** means the functions approved by the Board under clause 2.3 of this Charter.

**Voting Representative** means a representative of a Member Council on the Board.

## Reports

**1.4 Adopting the Charter**

- a. This charter, in the form originally adopted by the Board, was approved in consultation with member councils.
- b. This Charter was adopted by the Board on [date]

**1.5 Amending the Charter**

This Charter may be amended from time to time by Special Resolution.

**ESTABLISHMENT****2.1 Vision and principles**

- a. The vision of the Organisation is set from time to time by the Board to reflect the collective regional priorities and aspirations of its Member Councils.
- b. In accordance with the Central NSW Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2019/2020 the Vision is Central NSW is a vibrant, prosperous and welcoming place of seasonal landscapes that is recognised by the nation for its agricultural heart.
- c. In accordance with the Central NSW Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2019/2020 the Principles guiding the organisation are:
  - Exercising leadership
  - Mutual respect
  - Demonstrating integrity
  - Thoughtful contribution
  - Acting in the public interest
  - Intergenerational equity
  - Timely and appropriate responsiveness
  - Willingness and commitment
  - Accountability and transparency
  - Sharing and positive intent
  - Adding value

**2.2 Principal functions**

In accordance with the Act, the principal functions of the Organisation are:

- a. to establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and to establish strategies and plans for delivering those priorities;
- b. to provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities; and
- c. to identify and take up opportunities for inter-governmental cooperation on matters relating to the joint organisation area.

**2.3 Supplementary functions**

The Organisation may perform functions, supplementary or ancillary to its Primary Functions, if:

- a. the objective of undertaking those functions is to provide support for the operations of its Member Councils aimed at strengthening local government in its joint organisation area; and
- b. the scope, operational principles and business plan for those Supplementary Functions is approved by a Special Resolution of the Board.

**MEMBERSHIP****3.1 Member Councils**

The following are the Member Councils of the Organisation as at the date of its establishment:

- a. Bathurst Regional Council;
- b. Blayney Shire Council;
- c. Cabonne Council;
- d. Cowra Shire Council;
- e. Forbes Shire Council;
- f. Lachlan Shire Council;
- g. Lithgow City Council;
- h. Oberon Shire Council;
- i. Orange City Council;
- j. Parkes Shire Council; and
- k. Weddin Shire Council.

**3.2 Associate Members**

The following organisations are Associate Members of the Organisation ~~as at the date of its establishment~~ as of May 2023:

- a. Central Tablelands County Council;
- b. Upper Macquarie County Council

**3.3 Changes in membership**

- a. An additional council may become a Member Council if:
  - i. it applies in writing the Organisation to become a Member Council pursuant to a resolution to that effect by its governing body;
  - ii. it is approved as a Member Council by [Special Resolution of] the Board; and
  - iii. the proclamation establishing the Organisation is amended to include the additional Member Council and the area of the Organisation is extended to include the local government area of that council.
- c. A Member Council may withdraw as a Member Council of the Organisation if:
  - i. it has given 12 months' notice in writing to the Organisation to withdraw as a Member Council pursuant to a resolution to that effect by its governing body; and
  - ii. the proclamation establishing the Organisation is amended to remove the Member Council and the area of the Organisation is amended to excise the local government area of that council.
- d. An Associate Member:
  - i. may withdraw as an Associate Member on giving 6 months notice in writing to the Organisation; and
  - ii. may be removed as an Associate Member by Special Resolution.

**3.4 Financial Contributions**

- a. The annual financial contribution required to be made by each Member Council is to consist of:
  - i. base fee of the same amount for each Member Council; and
  - ii. a capitation fee [based on the number population drawn from ABS census figures].
- a. The annual financial contribution required to be made by each Associate Member is to be based on a methodology adopted by the Board.
- b. The amount of the base fee, capitation fee and financial contribution by Associate Members for a financial year is to be determined prior to the start of that year by Resolution of the Board.

## Reports

## THE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

### 4.1 Membership of the Board

The Board consists of:

- a. the Mayors of each Member Council, who are the Voting Representatives (or a replacement Councillor of a Member Council, if the Mayor is removed from office as a Voting Representative by the Minister under the Act);
- b. the alternate for a Voting Representative appointed by the Member Council under the Regulations, while acting in the place of the Voting Representative; and
- c. the Non-Voting Representatives appointed under clause 4.2.

### 4.2 Non-Voting Representatives

- a. The following persons are Non-Voting Representatives on the Board:
  - i. an employee of the public service nominated by the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet;
  - ii. the chair of Regional Development Australia, Central West;
  - iii. the Chair of Central Tablelands County Council, for so long as it remains an Associate Member;
  - ~~iv. the Mayor of Lithgow City Council~~
  - v. the Chair of Upper Macquarie County Council
  - vi. the General Managers of Member Councils [and of Central Tablelands County Council, Upper Macquarie Country Council and Lithgow City Council for so long as they remain Associate Members]; and
  - vii. any other person or a member of a class of persons prescribed by the Regulations.
- b. Non-Voting Representatives may attend and speak at meetings of the Board but may not move, second, amend or vote on motions.
- c. The following persons may attend meetings of the Board in an advisory capacity and may be members of committees established under clause 4.9:
  - i. the Executive Officer
  - ii. NSWJO staff at the direction of the Executive Officer

### 4.3 Powers of the Board

Except as otherwise required by the Act, any other applicable law or this Charter, the Board:

- a. has power to direct and control the affairs of the Organisation in carrying out its functions, in consultation with the Executive Officer; and
- b. may exercise every right, power or capacity of the Organisation.

### 4.4 Exercise of powers

A power of the Board can be exercised only:

- a. by resolution passed at a meeting of the Board; or
- b. in accordance with a delegation of the power under clause 4.5

### 4.5 Power to delegate

- a. The Board may delegate any of its powers.
- b. The Board may revoke a delegation previously made whether or not the delegation is expressed to be for a specified period.
- c. A delegation of powers may be made:

## Reports

- i. to the Executive Officer, to a committee established under clause 4.9, to a Member Council or to any other person or body;
  - ii. for a specified period or without specifying a period; and
  - iii. on the terms (including power to further delegate) and subject to any restrictions the Board decides.
- d. A document of delegation may contain the provisions for the protection and convenience of those who deal with the delegate that the Board thinks appropriate.

#### **4.6 Acceptance of delegations**

The Organisation may not accept the delegation to it by a Member Council of a function of that Member Council except in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in a Special Resolution.

#### **4.7 Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson**

- a. The Chairperson is to be elected from amongst the Voting Representatives who are mayors and will hold office in accordance with the Act and Regulations.
- b. The Chairperson while acting as such:
  - i. has a deliberative vote; and
  - ii. does not have a casting vote.
- c. The Board may elect a Deputy Chairperson from amongst the Voting Representatives who are Mayors following the election of the Chairperson, to hold office for the term of the Chairperson.
- d. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson (or in their absence, a person elected by the Voting Representatives at the meeting) is to preside at a meeting of the Board and does not have a casting vote.
- e. Remuneration for the Chair of the Central NSW Joint Organisation is \$10,000 per annum and will increase in line with CPI and be paid quarterly in advance subsequent to Board meetings.

#### **4.8 Executive Officer**

The Board must appoint an Executive Officer in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

#### **4.9 Committees**

For the purpose of carrying out its functions, the Organisation may by resolution of the Board establish:

- a. standing committees or divisions within the Organisation;
- b. ad hoc advisory committees; and
- c. working groups,
- d. and determine their membership and terms of reference.

#### **4.10 Common seal**

- a. The Board may decide whether or not the Organisation has a common seal.
- b. The common seal may only be used with the authority of the Board.
- c. The fixing of the common seal to a document must be witnessed:
  - i. by two Voting Representatives; or
  - ii. by one Voting Representative and the Executive Officer.

### **MEETINGS**

#### **5.1 Meeting frequency**

The Board will meet:

## **Reports**

- a. at least once in each quarter on such date and at such place and time as the Board decides; and
- b. at such other times as the Chairman may decide.

## **5.2 Use of technology**

A Board meeting may be held using any means of audio or audio visual communication by which each Board member participating can hear and be heard by each other Board member participating. A Board meeting held solely or partly by technology is treated as held at the place at which the greatest number of the Board members is present or, if an equal number of Board members is located in each of two or more places, at the place where the chairman of the meeting is located.

## **5.3 Quorum**

The quorum for a meeting of the board is a majority of voting representatives entitled to vote under the JO charter

No business may be transacted at a meeting of the Board without a quorum being present at the time the business is transacted.

## **5.4 Voting**

- a. Each Voting Representative has one vote at a meeting of the Board.
- b. A resolution of the Board is passed:
  - i. in the case of an Ordinary Resolution, if a majority of the votes cast by Voting Representatives entitled to vote on the resolution are in favour of it. If an equal number of votes is cast for and against a resolution, the matter is decided in the negative; and
  - ii. in the case of a Special Resolution, if not less than 75% of the votes cast by Voting Representatives entitled to vote on the resolution are in favour of it.
- c. Unless otherwise stated in this Charter, all decisions of the Board are to be made by Ordinary Resolution.

## **INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE**

### **6.1 Indemnity**

- a. Subject to and so far as permitted by the Act and any other applicable law the Organisation must indemnify every member of the Board and the staff of the Organisation against any Liability incurred as such, unless the Liability arises out of conduct involving a lack of good faith.
- b. This indemnity is a continuing indemnity. It applies in respect of all acts done by a person while a member of the Board or the staff of the Organisation even though the person is not member of the Board or the staff of the Organisation at the time the claim is made.
- c. In this clause, Liability means a liability of any kind (whether actual or contingent and whether fixed or unascertained) and includes costs, damages and expenses, including costs and expenses incurred in connection with any investigation or inquiry by a government agency or a liquidator.

### **6.2 Insurance**

Subject to the Act and any other applicable law, the Organisation may enter into, and pay premiums on, a contract of insurance in respect of any person.

# **Reports**

**6.3 Liability on winding up**

The liability of a Member Council or an Associate Member to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Organisation or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Organisation is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the Member Council or Associate Member in respect of the financial contributions required by clause 3.4.

**d. The CNSWJO Governance and Advocacy Report**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	1.1 Governance arrangements enable inter-council co-operation.
<b>Portfolio Mayor</b>	Cr K Beatty and Cr J Medcalf OAM
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	G Tory, N Vu, B Byrnes and C Butler

**Report by Jenny Bennett, dated 16 May 2023**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<p><b>That the Board note the CNSWJO Governance Advocacy Report and</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. note the subcommittee monthly meeting update to progress advocacy strategy;</b></li> <li><b>2. adopt the Terms of Reference for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Advocacy Subcommittee;</b></li> <li><b>3. note the advice from the Health and Aging Portfolio Mayors' Subcommittee;</b></li> <li><b>4. adopt the Terms of Reference for the Health and Aging Portfolio Mayors' Subcommittee;</b></li> <li><b>5. adopt the Advocacy Plan for Skills Shortages;</b></li> <li><b>6. note that an MoU is under development with the Rural Doctor's Network and that this will be progressed under the hand of the Chair;</b></li> <li><b>7. adopt the GMAC TOR; and</b></li> <li><b>8. note the advice on meeting frequency for the CNSWJO.</b></li> </ol>

**Precis**

At the recent Board meeting

- Portfolio Mayors were identified for the 7 priorities for this term of the CNSWJO Board;
- an opt in Subcommittee was created to support the broader advocacy agenda for the JO given the change of government at both the State and Federal levels; and
- a report on meeting frequency of the CNSWJO Board was requested.

This report

- updates the Board on progress on advocacy;
- seeks to have terms of Reference for various subcommittees adopted including GMAC;
- seeks to have the Advocacy Plan for Skills Shortages adopted; and
- provides advice on the meeting frequency for the Board.

**Reason for the Report**

At the Board meeting in February Portfolio Mayors were identified as follows:

1. Leveraging our successful collaboration - Cr Kevin Beatty as Chair and Cr John Medcalf (OAM)
2. Regional Prosperity through better infrastructure and services - Cr Bill West
3. Advocate for better infrastructure and services in health and ageing - Cr Phyllis Miller (OAM) as Chair, Cr John Medcalf (OAM), Cr Ken Keith (OAM) and Cr Maree Statham
4. Telecommunications - Cr John Medcalf (OAM) as Chair and Cr Phyllis Miller (OAM)
5. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation - Cr Ken Keith (OAM)
6. Regional Water Security and Productive Water - Cr David Somerville, Cr Jason Hamling and Cr Robert Taylor
7. Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future -Cr Mark Kellam

## Reports

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Subsequently meetings have been held or are being coordinated with the various Portfolio Mayors. Please find more detail below including where appropriate the approval of terms of Reference for Subcommittees of Portfolio Mayors. These meetings inform a broader advocacy update. From the meetings the following recommendations seek adoption:

1. note the subcommittee monthly meeting update to progress advocacy strategy;
2. adopt the Terms of Reference for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Advocacy Subcommittee;
3. note the advice from the Health and Aging Portfolio Mayors' Subcommittee;
4. adopt the Terms of Reference for the Health and Aging Portfolio Mayors' Subcommittee;
5. Adopt the Advocacy Plan for Skills Shortages;
6. note that an MoU is under development with the Rural Doctor's Network and that this will be progressed under the hand of the Chair;
7. Adopt the GMAC TOR and
8. Note the advice on meeting frequency for the CNSWJO.

The Terms of Reference for GMAC are provided for approval.

Finally, at its meeting in February the Board requested a report be provided on meeting frequency. This is provided for noting however includes various options that the Board may wish to consider at its discretion.

### Legislative, policy and risk considerations

CNSWJO legislative role includes both prioritisation and advocacy. According to its Charter, the CNSWJO Board may set up Subcommittees and other governance arrangements at its discretion. These are reviewed subsequent to the adoption of the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority to ensure that priorities are being adequately resourced – structure follows strategy.

Effective governance and communication are identified as strategies to manage a variety of risks identified in the CNSWJO Risk Management Plan adopted by the Board.

### Advocacy Update

With the ALP now in government at both the State and Federal levels the Board has been turning its mind to changing its approach to advocacy. In the first instance – more work anticipated and Portfolio Mayors have begun putting their shoulders to the wheel.

#### 1. Speakers

Mr Michael Paag of the Blackheath Action Group spoke about the opportunity on the Safe, Swift and Secure Link between Sydney and Central NSW given the change of policy at both the State and Federal level.

#### 2. Adoption of TOR

- a. Commend the Advocacy Subcommittee Terms of Reference to the Board
- b. Include in agenda advocacy policy for ongoing review.

#### 3. Review of Advocacy Policy – the current CNSWJO Advocacy Policy was noted

## Reports

4. Advocacy update - note the update and commend to the Chair the progress the Grattan Institute Project.
  - a. ESL – Ms J Bennett to seek advice on \$ from members.
  - b. Cr J Medcalf briefed on where Country Mayors are up to with this issue
  - c. Cr M Kellam advised Advocacy Plan for energy being updated to have a greater focus on impacts of development of renewables in region.
  - d. Cr J Medcalf provided a brief on the recent meeting the Health Portfolio Mayors.
  - e. Include Intercouncil Cooperation on next advocacy update.
  - f. Policy paper on LG sustainability to be developed.
  - g. Deep dive into Regional Prosperity next time.
  - h. Grattan Institute approved and do media with them on project.
5. Next Board meeting update - note the next Board meeting update 24/25 May.
  - Ms J Bennett and Cr B West to have a catch up on engaging Deborah O'Neill's Office.
6. State election and follow up – Align with State Parliament sitting dates in August 2023
  - Roy Butler MP worth pursuing.

### Meeting of the Health Portfolio Mayors

Please find attached the agenda and notes from the first meeting of the Health and Ageing Portfolio Mayors' Subcommittee. Chaired by Cr Phyllis (OAM) Wednesday 19 April. Mr Richard Colbran spent some time with the Subcommittee building on the following advice:

*As additional background, I am pleased to share the following details regarding RDN's community engagement approach -*

- *RDN's 2022-25 Strategic Plan ([available via this link](#)) has purposefully reinforced RDN's commitment to the improvement of health and social service access and sustainability in the communities that RDN is invited to contribute to. Under the tagline 'doctors for community', we aim to support enhanced coordinated planning to respond to local needs, more effective and collaborative use of resources and stronger stakeholder engagement in service solutions.*
- *As we continue the development of this state-wide 'community at the centre' approach, we are seeking advice from the Joint Organisations and NSW Country Mayors plus exploring the most appropriate activation approaches.*
- *RDN has also been successful in securing introductory funding from NSW Regional Health Division to support the community engagement approach. This project has been titled 'NSW Regional Community Health System and Workforce Engagement Project'. Our goal is to identify and test mechanisms for local government and community engagement and capability in locally based health service and workforce solutions and it will be rolled out between July 2023 and June 2024.*
- *Coupled with continuing, or extending, existing local planning forums and work groups with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, LHDs, PHNs and local providers, the potential activities envisaged to trial this approach include –*
  - *Delivery of 'state of play' reports providing an assessment of health and social service access and sustainability in participating regions (see RDN's state-wide 2022 Report [via this link](#))*
  - *Expansion of RDN's online resources as a clearinghouse resource detailing evidence-based approaches for remote and rural health service models and workforce approaches*
  - *Activation of intel and education channels for communities engaging with health service and workforce model design, such as briefings for local councils, joint organisations and service groups, plus regular 'health wrap' podcasts.*
  - *Assessment of value to include health service and workforce model design and sustainability within local government planning.*
  - *Alignment of RDN's long-standing future workforce immersion programs, such as Go Rural, Bush Bursary and Outreach Student Placement, to the local government work plans*

## Reports

The Notably, these Mayors are recommending to the Board that it develop an MoU with the Rural Doctors Network including a collaborative work plan and invite the Minister for Health to the region.

Other matter considered by this HAPMS were a renewal of health data sets by Western Area Health and progress on the CSU Policy Labs.

The Subcommittee issued a media release – please find this attached.

### **Advocacy Plan for Skills Shortages**

To realise the vision of Central NSW Joint Organisation and to grow our region, the challenges of skills shortages must be addressed.

Skills shortages are being reported across the region in every industry. This is both short term as a result of the immediate impacts of workforce having Covid and structural impacts for example the growth of the regional population and the government spending so much money on infrastructure to stimulate the economy.

Understanding that skills shortages are impacting many departments within Councils, CNSWJO is working with Council staff and other stakeholders to identify opportunities and programs that will assist members to attract, grow and retain staff to deliver services for their communities.

Building on the work and reputation of Centroc, the CNSWJO will work collaboratively with relevant State, Federal and other government agencies to support member councils in growing and retaining a strong, skilled workforce.

In summary, the key messages of the Advocacy Plan for Skills Shortages are summarized below the following headings:

1. More investment is needed in training to support a skilled workforce;
2. The fragmented training sector is costly, complex, and difficult to navigate;
3. Improved access to quality, affordable training in regional NSW;
4. All federal government initiatives need to be more nimble;
5. Investment is needed in initiatives to attract and retain skilled workers;
6. Prioritise programming in a “Grow Our Own” program and support collaboration;
7. Build partnerships with other stakeholders; and
8. Issues specific to the Building Surveyors department.

### **Term of Reference for GMAC**

Please find attached the Draft Terms of Reference for GMAC. The role of GMAC is to provide support to the JO Board through:

1. Giving consideration to Council resourcing implications of JO priorities;
2. Providing feedback regarding the delivery of the JO strategy to support optimal value to member Councils;
3. Providing advice on governance, strategy and policy;
4. Reviewing the progress of the JO financial position; and
5. Identifying emergent priorities and providing advice on their resourcing.

## **Reports**

Reports on GMAC are provided to the Board where GMAC deals with a significant amount of operational advice while the Board focuses on advocacy.

### **Meeting frequency for the CNSWJO**

Members may recall there was discussion at the February Board around meeting more frequently and a report was requested.

Under the Local Government Act Joint Organisations must meet at least quarterly and are able to meet via telephone or video. Through the Chair as per the Charter meetings are at the Chairs discretion and can always be called for emergent issues.

CNSWJO meets quarterly where the Board;

- considers progress on its priorities;
- undertakes its regulatory functions including for procurement; and
- progresses its advocacy, including by meeting with both State and Federal representatives.

Informal workshops, briefing sessions and events are held on an as needs and per request basis. It is notable that more policy-based events for Local Government emerged as a priority from the August strategic workshop in Orange. As a result, the Policy Labs program in collaboration with Charles Sturt University is being progressed and members will receive advice in this regard at this meeting from the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof Mark Evans.

General Managers, who meet quarterly, receive detailed reports on operations while the Board received reports more around advocacy and to fulfill their regulatory role which includes procurement.

The CNSWJO has 8 employees of whom four are part time and two are grant funded. An estimated 70% of CNSWJO staff time resourced delivering value to member Councils through supporting their operations. This is through:

- Procurement;
- Grant funded support for operations (eg for batteries, support with disaster risk reduction, training, net zero and water loss management); and
- Other support for operations (eg. Asset management, roads and water infrastructure, ARIC, WHS, IT and Cyber Security and HR).

At this time, opportunities for the JO to deliver value for members though better collaboration with the State and Federal governments continue to grow. Current examples include:

- The \$900K water loss management program with DPE Water;
- The JONZA Program with OECC, currently providing funding for many activities across region including most recently to support an 100% ARENA funded battery project; and
- The \$847 Disaster Risk Reduction Program.

This is on top of the collaboration with RDA Central West, Arts Out West, Business NSW, Regional NSW, Charles Sturt University, DPE Planning and Destination NSW Central West on an ongoing basis. Notably collaboration across the JO network is growing. It is an exciting time to be a Joint Organisation.

## **Reports**

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## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

From a political perspective the ALP are in government at both the State and Federal levels and the Board has to find new networks for their advocacy. Media and building the CNSWJO brand will be more important.

To enable both the greater collaborative opportunities and the advocacy challenges the following has occurred:

- at the February meeting an opt in Subcommittee of Mayors has been created; and
- portfolio Mayors, particularly for the new priorities, are meeting and taking on a greater role.

The Board may prefer to meet more frequently or establish other arrangements and direction in this regard is sought.

### **Attachments/:**

1. Terms of Reference for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Advocacy Subcommittee;
2. Terms of Reference for the Health and Aging Portfolio Mayors' Subcommittee;
3. Terms of Reference for GMAC ;
4. Skills Shortages Advocacy Plan;
5. Media release 1 May 2023 CNSWJO Chair welcomes collaborative approach to better Health and Social Care for our Communities; and
6. 19 April 2023 Notes from Health and Ageing Portfolio Mayors' Subcommittee.

**e. Procurement and Contract Report**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	1: Leveraging our successful collaboration 1.1 Driving efficiencies and effectiveness saving Councils money
<b>Portfolio Mayor</b>	Cr Kevin Beatty and Cr John Medcalf OAM
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	G Tory, N Vu, B Byrnes and C Butler

**Report by Grace Quinton and Kate Barker, dated 15 May 2023.**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<p><b>That the Board notes the report on the Regional Procurement and Contract Management Report and that it:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. approve the changes to the Procurement Policy where the material changes include:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. the approval to conduct an RFQ up to \$49,999 where the expenditure is outside of existing budget is by the CNSWJO Chair;</b></li> <li><b>b. the approval to conduct an RFQ up to \$249,999 is by a minimum of 2 of: the CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, the Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging Our Successful Collaboration priority and the CNSWJO Executive Officer;</b></li> <li><b>c. given there must be an intent to procure, where the Executive Officer deems there to be exceptional circumstances, the approval to conduct an RFT is by a minimum of 3 of: the CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, the Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging Our Successful Collaboration priority and the CNSWJO Executive Officer;</b></li> <li><b>d. delegate the acceptance of tenders up to \$2M for CNSWJO contracts to a minimum of 3 of: the CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, the Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging Our Successful Collaboration priority and the CNSWJO Executive Officer;</b></li> <li><b>e. the approvals for variations to existing CNSWJO contracts be the same as the delegations for approving to conduct a procurement process;</b></li> <li><b>f. the determination of contract management fee percentages be by the Executive Officer on a contract-by-contract basis, based on the heads of consideration identified through BPAP and previously approved by the Board;</b></li> <li><b>g. amend the delegations register accordingly; and</b></li> </ol> </li> <li><b>2. approve the CNSWJO regional procurement plan for 2023/2024, including new procurement activities and their related management fees, noting that approval to conduct any emerging activities will be as per the Procurement Policy.</b></li> </ol>

**Precis**

This report provides advice on:

1. Changes to the Procurement Policy to enable doing business between Board meetings; and
2. Initiating procurement processes in line with requests from members and the 2023/2024 procurement plan including management fees.

GMAC has considered the advice in this report and commended to the Board that it approve a series of changes to the Procurement Policy, with the most notable being the delegation of the acceptance of tenders up to \$2M to a minimum of 3 of: the CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, the Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging Our Successful Collaboration priority, and the CNSWJO Executive Officer. This is to manage tight timeframes for procurement processes outside the control of the JO e.g. grant funded projects given the Board meets quarterly.

## Reports

## Reason for the Report

This report seeks the Board approval for a procurement plan for 2023/2024 to streamline the approval process. The report also seeks approval for a number of changes to the CNSWJO Procurement Policy.

## Legislative Policy and Risk Considerations

Given procurement is an operational support program designed to bring cost savings and other benefits from aggregation, prior to commencing a procurement process a report is considered by GMAC where they are notified of the background and asked to approve the process. All procurement processes are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act and the CNSWJO procurement policy.

The region is continuing to engage with the Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement (BPAP) program which was a collaborative effort with neighbouring JOs that assists in informing optimal processes that can be leveraged by the changes in legislation enabling the work and actions of the JO.

Related risks from the Strategic Plan include:

**7** – Despite the efforts by the OLG subsequent to the JO Review, all Councils in the JO footprint do not engage.

**12** – Confused messaging on what JO does.

**19** – Long term viability and financial sustainability.

## Review and Update of Procurement Policy

At its April meeting, GMAC received a report and presentation on a number of proposed changes to the CNSWJO Procurement Policy and this report is based on that advice.

There have been 2 recent examples of the JO seeking approval from the Chair and Sponsoring General Managers to conduct procurement processes in between the Board meeting cycle, where the current Procurement Policy requires approval from the Board to conduct procurement processes above \$50K. The existing policy allows the Executive Officer to approve processes and contracts up to \$50K where the expenditure is within existing policy.

Where the current policy is causing inefficiencies and instances of requesting to deviate from the Policy, and it has been requested by the Sponsoring General Managers to amend the Policy to streamline this process. it is recommended that the Board endorse a number of changes to the Procurement Policy.

Additionally, it is recommended that the Board delegate the acceptance of tenders up to \$2M for CNSWJO contracts to a minimum of 3 of: the CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, the Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging Our Successful Collaboration priority and the CNSWJO Executive Officer. There is a vast amount of procurement underway and planned via the JO for 2023 and following years, and therefore delegating the acceptance of tenders under \$2M will create efficiencies and ensure the Board has time to focus on the more strategic matters of the organisation. While it has been flagged that the Board may need to meet out of session to progress procedural matters, given this is

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becoming a reality, calling Board meetings for procurement purposes only is not seen as a good use of resource, or the Mayors' time.

As detailed in the following table and in the track-changes version of the Procurement Policy that forms an attachment to this report, the approval process to conduct a tender is still via the Board, except where the Executive Officer deems there to be exceptional circumstances, in which case approval is via a minimum of 3 of: the CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, the Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging Our Successful Collaboration priority and the CNSWJO Executive Officer.

It is noteworthy that these changes are only related to 'Type 1 contracts' which is where the contract is between the CNSWJO and the service provider. The approval process to accept a recommendation for 'Type 2 contracts', where the contract is between individual councils and a service provider, is as per individual councils' procurement policies.

The proposed changes are as follows where the intention is to streamline the approval process so as not to hold up time-sensitive projects such as grant funded projects:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Value of Goods and Services (inc. GST)</i>	<i>Process</i>	<i>Current Policy – approval to conduct the process</i>	<i>Proposed amendment to policy – approval to conduct the process</i>	<i>Current policy – approval to accept the recommendation</i>	<i>Proposed amendment to policy = approval to accept the recommendation</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>Up to \$4,999</i>	<i>Minimum 1 written quotation</i>	<i>Executive Officer</i>	<b>No change</b>	<i>Executive Officer</i>	<b>No change</b>
<i>B</i>	<i>\$5,000 to \$49,999</i>	<i>Minimum 3 written quotations</i>	<i>Executive Officer where spend is within budget, otherwise approval from Board</i>	<b>Executive Officer where spend is within budget, otherwise approval from CNSWJO Chair</b>	<i>Executive Officer</i>	<b>No change</b>
<i>C</i>	<i>\$50,000 to \$249,999</i>  <i>(previously \$199,000 where GMAC requested this be increased to \$249K (inc GST) in line with the tendering threshold).</i>	<i>Formal RFQ</i>	<i>CNSWJO Board</i>	<b>Minimum 2 of: CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, Executive Officer, and Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging our Successful Collaboration Priority, and reported to the Board at its next meeting.</b>	<i>CNSWJO Chair and Sponsoring General Managers of the Inter-Council Cooperation Priority</i>	<b>Minimum 2 of: CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, Executive Officer, and Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging our Successful Collaboration Priority, and reported to the Board at its next meeting.</b>
<i>D</i>	<i>Over \$250,000</i>	<i>RFT</i>	<i>CNSWJO Board</i>	<b>CNSWJO Board, or</b>	<i>CNSWJO Board</i>	<b>For tenders under \$2M, the</b>

## Reports

	<i>(previously \$200,000 where GMAC requested this be increased to \$250K (inc GST) in line with the tendering threshold).</i>			<i>where the EO deems there are exceptional circumstances, minimum 3 of: CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, Executive Officer, and Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging our Successful Collaboration Priority, and reported to the Board at its next meeting.</i>		<i>acceptance of the tender is by minimum 3 of: CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, Executive Officer, and Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging our Successful Collaboration Priority, and reported to the Board at its next meeting.</i>  <i>For tenders over \$2M, Board approval is required.</i>
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The tracked-changes version of the Procurement Policy which is attached to this report also provides more detail of the approval process for 'type 2 contracts' (council contracts) where approval to participate in a process is via the CNSWJO Procurement Participation Form, signed by a General Manager or Director, and the approval to engage the provider is as per the councils' procurement policies.

The other material addition to the policy is in regard to variations and extensions where the existing policy is silent on this. The recommended additions to the policy include:

*Where an existing Type 1 Contract (JO contract) is to be varied or extended, the following approval process applies:*

<b>Value of Variation (inc. GST)</b>	<b>Approval to Vary or Extend Type 1 Contracts</b>
<i>Up to \$4,999</i>	<i>Executive Officer</i>
<i>\$5,000 to \$49,999</i>	<i>Executive Officer</i>
<i>\$50,000 to \$249,999</i>	<i>minimum 2 of: CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, Executive Officer, and Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging our Successful Collaboration Priority</i>
<i>Over \$250,000</i>	<i>minimum 3 of: CNSWJO Chair, GMAC Chair, Executive Officer, and Portfolio Mayors of the Leveraging our Successful Collaboration Priority</i>

*Any variation or extension to a 'type 2 contract' (individual council contract) will be reviewed by the Sponsoring General Managers of the Leveraging our Successful Collaboration priority, with a recommendation provided to councils who hold the contract.*

These limits are in line with the proposed changes for approvals to conduct a procurement process.

The marked-up version of the Procurement Policy is attached to this report.

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Additionally, it is recommended that the contract management fees to be included on regional contracts be determined by the Executive Officer based on the heads of consideration identified through the BPAP program that have previously been considered and adopted by the Board.

### Approvals for Procurement for 2023/2024

GMAC received a report at its April meeting in relation to upcoming procurement processes, where it resolved to recommend to the Board a number of new procurements at request of member councils. Additionally, GMAC suggested that an annual procurement plan be provided to the Board to capture all known and planned procurement, rather than continually putting up reports seeking approval just prior to the timing of the procurement process being conducted. As such, the following table sets out the planned procurement for the next 12 months, where it recommended that the Board approve the table in its entirety. It is then anticipated that at each May Board meeting, the Board would approve the procurement for the next 12 months. This will significantly streamline the process.

As discussed earlier in this report, there are procurement activities that emerge throughout the year either through member request or grant funding. It is proposed that these emergent activities would be approved as per the Procurement Policy, where this report is also seeking a number of changes.

The contract management fee is determined on a contract by contract based, according to spend, and historical information relating to cost savings, where the Board has previously considered and approved a cost savings sharing approach to management fees. For example, the providers for the road signs contract consistently report savings of between 20-25% on average. Historically the road signs contract has had a contract management fee of 2%, it is proposed that this is increased to 5%. The additional income will be used to strengthen the procurement function of the organisation, where CNSWJO is experiencing a period of significant growth in this area, at member request of a vast number of contracts.

The planned activities for 2023/2024 are as follows:

Contract	Contract holder	Model	Estimated Value	Management fee %	Timeframe
Business Case for the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction	CNSWJO	RFT	\$900K	0%	Process has been conducted due to the short timeframe for the delivery of the project. Contract is expected to commence on 1 June 2023.
Supply and Delivery of Road Signs	Participating councils	RFT/Q	\$400-500K per year	5%. Note this has increased from 2% on previous contracts due to advice provided during BPAP	Contract to commence on 1 January 2024

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				in relation to sharing cost savings where cost savings for this contract are generally 20-25%	
CCTV, Smoke Testing and Pipe Relining of Sewer Lines – annual rolling procurement process for package of work in the next financial year	Participating councils	RFT/Q	Dependent on uptake by members, where currently most councils have expressed interest in this approach, however, spend is not yet known.	Up to 5% - it is proposed that the contract management fee initially be set at 5%. In the past contracts, the contract management fee was lower at 2%, however there was minimal uptake of the standing offer contract. Should there be significant proposed spend under this contract, CNSWJO will consider reducing the management fee.	Annual procurement process commencing in March each year for work to commence the following FY.
Asset Revaluations for Land Under Roads	CNSWJO	RFT/Q pending interest	TBC	5% - other revaluation contracts have historically included a 5% contract management fee	Mid 2023
Asset Revaluation of Roads, Bridges, Footpaths	CNSWJO	RFT/Q pending interest	TBC	5% - other revaluation contracts have historically included a 5% contract management fee	Early 2024

## Reports

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

Community Engagement Surveys	CNSWJO	RFQ	\$70K	0%	Processed has commenced where approval was sought from the Chair and Sponsoring General Managers between Board meetings. Contract due to commence in late May.
Delivery of Water and Reticulation Training	CNSWJO	RFQ	\$150-180K without funding.	0%	Funding is being sought, however should funding not be available, a procurement process will be conducted to identify a suitable provider.
Bridge Load Capacity Assessments	Participating councils	RFT/Q	\$500K	3%	Grant funded project, commencing ASAP. Deed currently under negotiation.
Asset Management Maturity Audit	CNSWJO	RFQ	<\$200k	5%	RFQ to be released in coming weeks.
Water Loss Management Equipment and Installation	TBC	RFT/Q	TBC	Up to 5% - TBC	Grant funded project, commencing ASAP.
Internal/External Audits of Drinking Water Management Systems	CNSWJO	RFQ x 2	TBC	Up to 5% - TBC	Late 2023. This could be a multi-staged project with more than 1 contractor engaged.
LWU Strategic Planning IP&R	CNSWJO	RFQ	TBC	0%	Processed has commenced where approval was sought from the Chair and Sponsoring General Managers

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					between Board meetings. Contract due to commence in late May.
LWU Strategic Planning IP&R Toolkit Development, Design & Editing	CNSWJO	RFQ	TBC	0%	Pending Grant Funding
Code of Conduct Panel EOI	Pre-approved panel, no contract	EOI	Do and charge model	0%	Early 2024
Local and Regional Needs Analysis.  It is noted that CNSWJO is taking the lead on procurement on this activity on behalf of other JOs also participating in the Disaster Risk Reduction Program.	CNSWJO	RFT	\$200,000	0%	Grant funded. Procurement is underway, with contracts expected to commence in July
Community Workshops & Training	CNSWJO	RFQ	TBC	0%	Grant funded. Commencement date not yet known.
Transport Vulnerability/Freight Routes	CNSWJO	RFQ	\$50,000	0%	Grant funded. Commencement date not yet known.
Disaster Risk Reduction/Integrated Planning and Reporting Integration	CNSWJO	RFQ	\$50,000	0%	Grant funded. Commencement date not yet known.
Simtables or equivalent	CNSWJO	RFQ	\$100,000	0%	Grant funded. Commencement date not yet known.
Aerial Imaging	Participating Councils	RFQ/T	TBC	Up to 5% - depending on estimated spend and usage.	Scoping underway through IT Managers Group

It is also noted that the procurement for the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Needs Analysis procurement process is under development, however the process has not yet formally commenced with the RFT expected to be released to market in the coming weeks. As the RFT will close and be evaluated in between Board meetings, should the proposed changes to the Procurement Policy not be endorsed by the Board, a special meeting of the Board will need to be called in July to accept the

## Reports

tender. There is \$200K + GST in the budget for the project, and as per the existing Procurement Policy, this process must be conducted as an RFT where the limit is \$200K including GST.

**Value for Members**

Value for members in relation to regional procurement and contract management can be found in the cost savings table elsewhere in this business paper.

**Financial Implications**

Some contracts administered by CNSWJO contain a management fee which is a percentage of total spend by members under the contract. The management fee is incorporated into the cost to Councils for the goods or services and is paid to CNSWJO directly by the provider. The JO is continuing to do research to identify the value stack from the provider's perspective, where to date the majority are advising the management fee is either fully absorbed or party absorbed (50/50) by the provider.

**Attachment/s:**

7. Proposed changes to the CNSWJO Procurement Policy

**f. Opportunities for Screen in Central NSW Report**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	Regional Prosperity through Better Infrastructure and Services
<b>Portfolio Mayor</b>	Cr Bill West
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	N Vu, S Loane, P Devery, C Butler and M Dicker

**Report by Jenny Bennett and Carolyn Griffin, dated 3 May 2023.**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<p><b>That the Board notes the report on the Opportunities for Screen in Central NSW and</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. formally request a photoshoot in region by Screen NSW; and</b></li> <li><b>2. approach RDACW to progress a briefing of members on the opportunities of screen for Economic Development Officers in the region.</b></li> </ol>

**Precis**

CNSWJO administers Screen Central including a website. Members may recall substantial resourcing to attract screen production to the region 15 years ago, however there was little return on investment. At the request of the Board investigation has commenced on the current opportunities for screen and the optimal way for this region to harness them.

Several meetings have been held with Screen NSW and this report is informed from those meetings.

**Reason for the Report**

This report seeks to provide an update on the potential for more activity in screen in Central NSW as requested in the November Board meeting 2022.

**Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations**

The Filming Related Legislation Amendment Act 2008 was passed by the NSW Parliament in June 2008 to make NSW more Film Friendly. Other related regulatory and administrative changes have been made to enhance location based screen production. These build on previous legislative and regulatory changes made. The purpose of these changes is to enable NSW to attract and maintain, domestic and international film, television and TV commercials production, in a very competitive marketplace.

These arrangements signal the support of the NSW Government to screen production by establishing a presumption that approvals for location filming should be supported wherever possible.

Amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 provided that the Director General may issue a filming protocol which is binding on local councils in relation to the approvals and services provided to location filming production. Please go to the current protocol at:

[Department of Local Government - Local Government Filming Protocol - 2009 \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/department-of-local-government-local-government-filming-protocol-2009)

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Centroc in the past has provided a toolkit to members to support them with their compliance risk.

### Discussion

Members would be aware that in the past, although there were both full time and part time employees with Screen Central administered through Centroc, very little filming eventuated despite all the work that was done. Resourcing of this priority was therefore reduced. Both the Screen Central website and Facebook page are still operational and occasional requests from industry are supported by CNSWJO staff.

As was the case in the past, typically film producers or State Screen NSW work directly with Councils. Further, Councils closer to Sydney tend to get the lion's share of the work in region. This is an opportunity for CNSWJO members given their proximity to Sydney and broad range of visual assets

The position of Destination Attraction Manager through Department of Enterprise, Investment & Trade within Screen NSW has been filled and discussions with Lisa Scope have taken place on 11 April and 2 May 2023. The aim of these discussions was to seek advice on what the region can be doing better to optimise work in this area. Please find suggestions as follows.

- Reel Scout is an online database with images that have been uploaded and descriptions of the images. Location professionals can then search for a location for their next production shoot. If the opportunity exists – there would be interest in refurbishing these images. It is recommended that the Board formally make this request.
- Ms Scope advised that the Regional Filming Fund (RFF) offsets costs associated with shooting in regional areas of NSW (defined as all areas in NSW outside the Sydney Metro area and excluding the ACT). More information can be found via this link:  
<https://www.screen.nsw.gov.au/funding/production-support/regional-filming-fund-rff>

It is recommended that RDA Central West seek a presentation from both CNSWJO and Screen NSW on obligations and opportunities for Councils in screen given RDACW administers the Economic Development Officers' Forum.

Additional advice from Screen NSW will be sought including benefits in refreshing the Screen Central website and a photoshoot in the region to provide updated photography for the Reel Scout database. Screen NSW are to provide information on what has been filmed in the region from the past 3 years and this information has been requested.

### Value for Members

Given there is no costs at this stage, there is value to members of promoting this region as a destination for screen.

### Financial Implications

Nil at this stage

Attachment/s: Nil

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**g. Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Program report**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	1.2 Building capacity across our Councils 5.3 Natural disaster road funding
<b>Portfolio Mayors</b>	1. Leveraging our successful collaboration: Cr Kevin Beatty as Chair and Cr John Medcalf OAM 5. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation: Cr Ken Keith OAM
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	Leveraging our successful collaboration: G Tory, N Vu, B Byrnes and C Butler 5. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation: K Boyd, S Loane, G Wallace and P Devery

**Report by Jenny Webber, dated 4 May 2023.**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<b>That the Board note the Disaster Risk Reduction Program (the Program) report and;</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. adopt the Program's Communication Plan;</b></li> <li><b>2. adopt the Program's Project Steering Committee Terms of Reference; and</b></li> <li><b>3. adopt the Program's Needs Analyses Working Group Terms of Reference.</b></li> </ol>

**Precis**

This report provides an update to the Board on the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund and includes:

- An update on the Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee (RRPAC).
- Including the commencement of the Regional Resilience Program (RRP) Monitoring and Evaluation RFQ.
- Establishment of the Project Steering Committee in region, including draft Terms of Reference and Communication Plan.
- Establishment of the Needs Analyses Working Group, including draft Terms of Reference.
- Key Reporting Areas progress including on procurement, media, and Milestone reporting.

There is an emerging opportunity to leverage the strategic alignment of the DRRF project and the CNSWJO Technical Transport Committee (TTC) and work together in prioritising projects and resources to achieve long term goals for efficient and resilient regional freight networks in the face of extreme climate events. Please refer to the Transport report that indicates and expands on priority projects that the TTC are currently exploring. These projects will inform and support components of the DRRF project.

**Reason for the Report**

Please see advice in the body of the report on progress and governance including the Project Steering Committee (PSC). This report seeks approval for the PSC Terms of Reference (TOR) and Communication Plan. This report will be provided as a deliverable to the funding entity.

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## Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations

In the Milestone 1 report, NSW Reconstruction Authority have been alerted that some JOs are still in the process of recruitment to the Regional Capability Officer/Program Manager role and that this is a risk to the project schedule. This is being controlled by:

- Those affected JO's continued participation in the RRPAC until positions are filled, ensuring that the collaborative work can progress;
- Recognising that Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) has been funded to lead the collaboration of the RRP, CNSWJO sought approval from CRJO to lead the procurement process of the four aligned JO's for the Local and Regional Needs Analysis, (further information below); and
- The JO network Microsoft Teams site is being populated regularly with useful and supportive material.

## Background

### Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee (RRPAC) update

The RRPAC have met on three occasions, with a fourth meeting scheduled at the time of writing this report for 17 May 2023. At the 15 March 2023 meeting it was proposed to establish working groups for RRPAC aligned project outputs that will assist in working towards achieving project Key Reporting Areas, CNSWJO opted into all working groups. Initial meetings have been scheduled by CRJO for May and June, these being:

- DRRF Technology Working Group (Simtables & Early Warning Technology)
- DRRF IP&R Working Group
- DRRF Regional Resilience Working Group (Needs Analysis/Capability/ Capacity/Climate Risk)
- DRRF Transport Working Group
- DRRF Waste Working Group

The CRJO led Regional Resilience Program (RRP) Monitoring and Evaluation RFQ number DRRF1\_2023 closed 13 April 23. The evaluation panel met on 26 April 2023 and rejected all applicants based on price. Negotiations with providers are taking place at the time of writing this report.

### Project Steering Committee

The CNSWJO Project Steering committee (PSC) held its first virtual meeting through MS Teams on 22 March 2023 where the program manager provided a presentation of DRRF to the group. There was a good presence with 15 members invited, and 11 members in attendance.

### Communication Plan

A draft Communication Plan was in development at the initial meeting and subsequently endorsed by the PSC at the second 18 April 23 meeting. NSW Reconstruction Authority then approved this on 28 April 23. The draft Communication Plan is included in this report for final approval by the Board.

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### Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (TOR) was in development at the initial meeting with amendments made at the 18 April 23 meeting. The draft TOR is included in this report for final approval by the Board.

### Project Steering Committee Members

There were discussions around having the right people in the room for the PSC. It was recommended to include a representative from all tiers of government in relation to disaster. As the PSC already has representation from Local Emergency Management Officers (LEMOs), an invitation was extended to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and a Regional Emergency Management Officer (REMO) which has been accepted. The project sponsor, NSW Reconstruction Authority on the state level, has also requested membership. This takes the membership total to 18.

### Project Steering Committee Chair & Deputy Chair

Conversations were taken offline following the initial meeting. Jonathon Edgecombe, Lithgow City Council, has agreed to be Chair and in the spirit of collaboration NSW Reconstruction Authority in region as Deputy Chair.

### Standing Agenda Items

Standing agenda items were agreed to and the program manager will provide updates on these agenda items at each meeting. The PSC members will also contribute to these agenda items and the Chair will facilitate discussion and decisions:

- Engagement and support of the Program Manager;
- Program quality;
- Program communications;
- Program risk management;
- Procurement;
- Reporting, including against milestones;
- Shared learnings and opportunities;
- Budgeting;
- Evaluation;
- Emerging opportunities; and
- Reports to GMAC, Joint Organisation Board, and Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee (RRPAC).

### Needs Analyses Working Group

As mentioned in the Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations section above, CNSWJO sought approval from CRJO to lead the procurement process of the four aligned JO's for the Local and Regional Needs Analyses deliverable. At the 18 April 23 CNSWJO PSC meeting self-nominations were sought for a working group to support the development of the brief and membership of the evaluation panel. All tiers of government self-nominated and a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) has been developed to reflect the role members have in the development of the brief and the evaluation process. The TOR has been included in this report for final approval by the Board.

A brief for the needs analyses was developed and reviewed by the participating Joint Organisation's. This was then circulated to the Needs Analysis Working Group for review and discussion at the first meeting held 10 May 23. Attendance consisted of participating JO's, members of the working group and representation from the DRRF grants and risk teams. The brief was reviewed by the group with a follow up meeting scheduled for 16 May 23 to finalise the brief and go to tender.

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Next Meeting

The PSC meeting schedule was revised at the 18 April 23 meeting as various members had ongoing meeting clashes. The PSC took the opportunity to align the revised meeting schedule with the reporting schedule (GMAC, JO Board, NSW Reconstruction Authority). This was to ensure project quality allowing the PSC time to review the reports and provide feedback. This meeting schedule revision meant that the next meeting's lead up time was too short. The PSC felt that the project was in a good position to skip the next meeting with most of the work being procurement and establishment of RRPAC working groups, this was supported by NSW Reconstruction Authority. Because of this, the next scheduled PSC meeting is 14 June 2023. Work will continue to progress between meetings, and stakeholders will be updated via email and the shared MS Teams channel.

**Needs Analyses Working Group**

A working group has formed from the Project Steering Committee

**Key Reporting Areas (KRAs)**

Please find following a table updating on each KRA. All outputs, for example meeting agendas and minutes, presentations and reports, are available on request.

Key Reporting Area	Update
1. The needs analysis/capability and capacity assessment both at the local and regional levels.	<p>The KPIs achieved for this quarter are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee (RRPAC), please see update in prior section.</li> <li>The Board agreed on 23 February 2023 for CNSWJO to support procurement for the DRRF when appropriate. Recognising that JO's are at different points of the project regarding recruitment etc. CNSWJO offered the coordination and support to start the procurement process for the 5 JO's aligned with this piece of work. This is being progressed where the idea was well received at the JOEO meeting 3 April 2023. CNSWJO sought approval from CRJO to lead this procurement process and 4 of the 5 aligned JO's are collaborating. Specifications for this work were sought from CRJO and Hunter JO to inform the brief. A draft brief for the needs analyses was developed and reviewed by the participating Joint Organisation's. This was then circulated to the Needs Analysis Working Group for review and discussion at the first meeting held 10 May 23. Attendance consisted of participating JO's, members of the working group and representation from the DRRF grants and risk teams. The brief was reviewed by the group with a follow up meeting scheduled for 16 May 23 to finalise the brief and go to tender.</li> <li>CNSWJO met with Charles Sturt University (CSU) 24 February regarding DRRF collaboration. CSU held a Symposium: Connecting for Regional Disaster Resilience, Tuesday 7 March 2023 where Jenny Bennett &amp; Jen Webber attended. Since then, CNSWJO, the Chair and CSU held a meeting 5 April 2023 regarding potential collaboration on project aspects. CSU expressed a potential conflict of interest in the needs analysis, therefore the meeting closed while CSU determined their position with this project.</li> </ul>

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	<p>From this work the outputs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRPAC meeting outputs</li> <li>• Board meeting outputs</li> <li>• Procurement outputs are on track for needs analysis.</li> <li>• CSU symposium outputs</li> </ul> <p>Please request agendas, minutes and other outputs from the RRPAC and CSU Symposium.</p>
2. Working with member Councils to adapt and embed policy, systems and practices that are drawn from the outputs of the Canberra and Hunter JO's	<p>The KPIs achieved for this quarter are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CNSWJO Project Steering committee (PSC), please see update in section above.</li> <li>• Media release issued 16 March 2023.</li> <li>• As part of CRJOs funding deed, an RRP Monitoring &amp; Evaluation plan in output. CNSWJO offered the support of procurement, and this went out for RFQ in April. Both providers were rejected in late April based on price. The scope and price are currently in negotiation between the evaluation panel and the providers to secure a contract. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ See procurement report for further details.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>From this work, the outputs produced are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSC outputs</li> <li>• DRRF presentation</li> <li>• Draft communication Plan</li> <li>• Media release</li> <li>• CRJO M&amp;E RFQ on track</li> </ul>
2. Design and delivery of community workshops	<p>The above mentioned RRPAC DRRF Regional Resilience Working Group will inform the design and delivery of the community workshops and/or training, the initial meeting was held 3 May 23 and the TOR is being finalised.</p> <p>From this work, the outputs produced are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRPAC outputs</li> </ul>
3. Design and embedment of the IP&R program	<p>The initial meeting of the RRPAC DRRF IP&amp;R Working Group is scheduled for 23 May 23, this work will contribute towards achieving this KRA.</p> <p>From this work, the outputs produced are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRPAC outputs</li> </ul>
5. Greater consistency and collaboration across Council Boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Steering Committee meetings as per KRA 2.</li> <li>• Collaboration between CRJO for the procurement of the RRP M&amp;E.</li> <li>• Collaboration to create and procure for the Needs Analyses between participating JO's and the DRRF PSC formed working group.</li> <li>• CRJO and Hunter JO have shared RFQ documents of similar work they have done for the Needs Analysis work.</li> <li>• Collaboration and sharing in the newly formed RRPAC working groups.</li> <li>• Media release issued 16 March 2023 outlining the funding received and some key messages around the project.</li> <li>• Appreciation letter to CRJO.</li> <li>• From this work, the outputs produced are:</li> <li>• PSC outputs</li> <li>• CRJO and HunterJo needs analysis docs for RFT</li> </ul>

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6. Developing and embedding a state- wide approach to improving practice in disaster risk reduction	RRPAC working groups for aligned project outputs (needs analysis, community workshops, transport vulnerability, IP&R integration, Simtable, and disaster waste) will foster state-wide collaboration. One of the outputs will be a regional opportunities reports per JO. This will likely highlight state-wide opportunities to improve disaster risk reduction. From this work, the outputs produced are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRPAC outputs</li> </ul>
7. Codesigned project with Transport for NSW (TfNSW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first meeting of the RRPAC DRRF Transport Working Group is scheduled for 17 May 23 and will work towards achieving this KRA.</li> <li>• TfNSW, Rebel Thomson, presented to the Transport Technical Committee around a project seeking to identify vulnerable roads and communities. Pending the direction that the above mentioned RRPAC DRRF Transport Working Group goes with this work, this project by TfNSW may contribute to this KRA.</li> </ul> From this work, the outputs produced are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRPAC outputs</li> </ul>
8. Milestone reporting	<p>The KPIs achieved for this quarter are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milestone 1 reporting was finalised 28 February 23 with the payment of \$129,598 excl. GST being received late April.</li> <li>• Monthly progress report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. March 23 progress report submitted to NSW Reconstruction Authority on 29 March with supporting documentation from PSC meeting.</li> <li>2. April 23 progress report submitted to NSW Reconstruction Authority on 26 April 23 with supporting PSC documents, TTC project scopes and draft communication plan.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Quarterly financial report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submitted to NSW Reconstruction Authority by 19 April 2023.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>From this work, the outputs produced are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milestone 1 outputs</li> <li>• Monthly progress report outputs</li> <li>• Quarterly financial report outputs</li> </ul>

**Transport**

Australian, state and territory governments, in consultation with local governments and the private sector, should review supply chain risks, and consider options to ensure supply of essential goods in times of natural disasters - Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, 2020.

There is growing evidence that indicates that there will be longer, hotter droughts and bigger, more intense flooding events in this region. The DRRF project supports working towards a vision for efficient and resilient regional freight networks, in the face of climate impacts, and provide easy access to alternative transport modes.

There is an opportunity to leverage the strategic alignment of the DRRF project and the CNSWJO Technical Transport Committee (TTC) and work together in prioritising projects and resources to

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achieve long term goals for efficient and resilient regional freight networks in the face of extreme climate events.

### Strategic Alignment

#### **DRRF Objectives**

1. Effectively identify the gaps and needs in region to reduce and mitigate vulnerabilities across the built, social, natural and economic environments;
2. Build the capacity and share resources for evidence-based decision making and enable locally led and owned place-based disaster risk reduction efforts at both local and regional levels;
3. Build networks leading to a systems approach to disaster preparedness enabling greater consistency, efficiency, leading practice and lessons learned;
4. Embedment of disaster risk preparedness in Councils' Integrated Planning and Reporting framework; and
5. Develop systems, processes and tools to enable Councils

#### **CNSWJO Regional Transport Technical Committee Strategy 2023-2028**

Focus Area 1.3: Resilience, Planning for Emergencies and Disaster Response

Please request the GMAC Transport report that indicates and expands on priority projects that the TTC are currently exploring. These projects will inform and support components of the DRRF project.

### **Value for Members**

This project supports all member Councils with the aim to reduce existing disaster risk, minimise the creation of future risk and equip decision-makers with the capabilities and information needed to reduce disaster risk and manage residual risk. The position of the RRP further supports this through collaboration for the purpose of a larger reach to share and align benefits of strategic, targeted, place-based risk reduction projects, for sustainable and longer-term outcomes to be built upon in the future.

### **Financial Implications**

The funding covers all aspects of the DRRF project and has no implications for the JO or member Councils.

### **Attachment/s:**

8. PSC Draft Communication Plan
9. PSC Revised Draft Terms of Reference
10. Needs Analyses Working Group Draft Terms of Reference
11. DRRF Milestone 1 Report
12. DRRF Progress Report
13. Quarterly Financial Reports
14. 17 April 2023 Correspondence acknowledgement of support letter to Leanne Barnes at CRJO

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#### **h. Advocacy for Change to the Treasury Common Planning Assumptions**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	2: Regional Prosperity through better infrastructure and services
<b>Portfolio Mayor</b>	Cr B West
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	N Vu, S Loane, P Devery, C Butler, M Dicker

**Report by Jenny Bennett, dated 4 May 2023**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<p><b>That the Board note the Advocacy for Change to the Treasury Common Planning Assumptions report and;</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. continue advocate for changes to Treasury Common Planning Assumptions;</b></li> <li><b>2. provide feedback again to the Auditor General that their use generates a gross waste of public money and should be audited; and</b></li> <li><b>3. receive costing for an analysis of population projections.</b></li> </ol>

#### **Precis**

This proforma report calls for continued advocacy regarding Common Planning Assumptions including to the Auditor General. It has been provided to the JO Executive Officers network who are putting it to their respective organisations.

Riverina JO have undertaken an analysis of past population projections and it is commended that the Board undertake a similar approach with quotes to be sought.

#### **Reason for report**

This report seeks Board support to continue to advocate for changes to Common Planning Assumptions including correspondence to the Auditor General and the development of collateral.

#### **Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations**

State agencies must use Treasury Common Planning Assumptions when developing strategy in NSW.

Related risks from the Strategic Plan include:

**2** - Changing State and Federal government – support for JO priorities not continuing eg East West transport linkage into Sydney, Raising the Wyangala Dam Wall and Inland Rail.

**10** - Well intentioned State agencies design processes that waste JO and Councils' time.

Support has been garnered across the JO network for advocacy in this regard using the following advice adapted for each region.

## **Reports**

## Background

Councils have spent decades watching investment in strategy, infrastructure and services constrained by Treasury's Common Planning Assumptions. As a Cabinet directive, State agencies **must** use these assumptions. Both the State and Local Government find themselves investing in workarounds but ultimately spending time and money on strategies that plan for negative growth in a significant number of our communities and a lower level of growth than lived experience in others.

Plans recently affected by this Cabinet directive are:

1. [Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041](#)
2. Draft Regional Water Strategies
  - Macquarie-Castlereagh [Draft Regional Water Strategy: Macquarie-Castlereagh \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
  - Lachlan [Draft Regional Water Strategy: Lachlan \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
3. [Draft Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan](#)

Unfortunately for the communities of NSW the significant spend on strategy in region using population data that has historically proved wrong by up to 100% and in the current socio-economic climate is even more significantly wrong - has serious implications for government investment in region. For example, investment in infrastructure such as schools and hospitals will not be fit for purpose for the actual population growth. This leads to a consistent, serious and substantial waste of public money; beyond the waste of money on the plans themselves. Uneconomical, inefficient or ineffective use of resources, resulting in a serious and substantial loss of public funds also leads to a loss of public confidence.

One salient example is the Regional Water Strategies being progressed across the State. DPE Water are developing Regional Water Strategies that among other things makes long term plans for the water security of the region. Constrained by the rules on Common Planning Assumptions they are looking for alternatives using scenario planning to inform water infrastructure priority. Given the challenges in the recent drought it is imperative that the population data is correct.

Further, using incorrect population planning assumptions leads State agencies to lose confidence in their own plans. This leads to further work and expenditure to understand the real situation and at worst, writing strategies that become shelf ware. Example in region are:

- TfNSW work on Lithgow and their identified Lithgow to Orange growth corridor where Common Planning Assumptions show Lithgow declining and under reporting the growth in Orange and Bathurst.
- The growth anticipated in the Parkes Special Activation Precinct not reflected in the Common Planning Assumptions.
- DPE producing the Region Shapers Report showing 64,000 jobs to just support the construction task in the Central West and Orana for the next five years to try and get a better handle on the likely growth and plan for it.

It also generates frustration in region where consultation after consultation is taken up with advocacy on incorrect Common Planning Assumptions.

Arguably, the Common Planning Assumption stifle any attempt at genuine long-term planning by State agencies ultimately leading to poorer quality strategies planning for the wrong level of

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investment. Indeed, the current skills and housing crisis in regional NSW has been exacerbated by this poor and poorly informed planning.

A waste of public money on this scale is a matter for the Auditor General.

### **Financial Implications**

A quote will be sought on the costs to review the veracity of Common Planning Assumptions for the past decade.

**Attachments:** Ni

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## Priority five: Transport and Infrastructure

### i. Transport Report

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	5. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation
<b>Portfolio Mayor</b>	Cr Ken Keith OAM
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	K Boyd, S Loane, G Wallace and P Devery.

Report by Jenny Webber, dated 4 May 2023

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<p>That the Board note the Transport report and;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. encourage members to attend the workshop in Parkes 9 June 2023 to support planning for a route to the south of Bathurst;</li> <li>2. encourage representatives from members Councils to attend the workshop 9 June in Parkes planning for a southern route around Bathurst;</li> <li>3. adopt the Transport Technical Committee Terms of Reference and the Strategy;</li> <li>4. develop 'Fix Me' collateral to make the case for change to the framework for natural disaster road funding;</li> <li>5. note the project with the Grattan Institute on roads' funding being progressed through the Chair;</li> <li>6. note the advocacy through the Chair for extensions to funding periods for Fixing Country Road and Roads to Recovery given the impacts in region of natural disasters and ongoing skills shortages.</li> </ol>

### Precis

This report provides to the Board an update on Transport and Infrastructure Priorities and includes advice on:

- A workshop in Parkes 9 June 2023 to support planning for a route to the south of Bathurst;
- The Terms of Reference and the Central NSW Joint Organisation Regional TTC Strategy 2023-2028 considered at the Transport Technical Committee (TTC) meeting on 30 March 23.
- The TfNSW Vulnerability Assessment project in the future;
- The Grattan Institute project;
- 'Fix Me' collateral to support funding for roads affected by natural disaster;
- Road Rail Interface;
- Fixing Country Bridges funding; and
- the recent Central NSW Joint Organisation Integrated Transport Group meeting.

### Reason for the Report

This Transport and Infrastructure report provides to the Board an update on Transport and Infrastructure Priorities and;

- Seeks the Board approval for;

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- The Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Transport Technical Committee (TTC) Terms of Reference and Regional TTC Strategy 2023-2028 considered at the TTC meeting; and
- The development of the 'Fix Me' project to make the case for change to the framework for natural disaster road funding.
- Provides advice on developing projects, and other matters raised at the TTC meeting.

## **Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations**

The CNSWJO transport priorities are:

Priority One: Leveraging our successful collaboration

- 1.1 Driving efficiencies and effectiveness saving Councils money
- Building capacity across our Councils

Priority Two: Regional prosperity through better infrastructure and services

Priority Five: Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation

- 5.1 Transport connectivity planning
- 5.2 Infrastructure prioritisation including the Central NSW Joint Organisation Matrix
- 5.3 Natural disaster road funding

The risks identified in the CNSWJO Risk Management Strategy relevant to this priority are

- Political - Changing State and Federal government.
- Political - Well intentioned State agencies design processes that waste JO and Councils' time.
- Economic - Management of members contribution. Ensuring those who don't commit/ deliver don't compromise projects.
- Social - skills shortages reduce capacity of the region.
- Social - Turnover staff in councils who are working on JO projects; loss of corporate knowledge.
- Economic - Increasing costs to Councils of storms etc. more extreme events Councils will find themselves unable to plan and just be reactive Climate change. More storms and more drought; their impacts.
- Economic - Costs of building material or no supply at all.

## **Workshop 9 June in Parkes planning for a southern route around Bathurst**

The development of a road around Bathurst is identified in the priority projects for Central NSW.

Bathurst is planning a new road to go to the south of the town and have appointed Egis Oceania, who would like to meet with JO Council representatives. Egis have been consulting with the local Bathurst community and local freight operators, and also participated in a round table discussion with State Agency reps, so consultation with the wider region is the next logical step.

This preliminary work by Egis is just the beginning of an economic analysis to support a stage 1 submission to Infrastructure Australia and is not yet about route selection and business case, but there can only be benefit to regional Councils.

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The consultant is keen to meet with Board members and member Council representatives. Members are encouraged to attend.

### **Terms of Reference for the Transport Technical Committee (TTC)**

Please find attached Terms of Reference (TOR) for the TTC considered at the meeting 30 March 2023. These are modelled on the existing TOR.

### **Central NSW Joint Organisation Regional Transport Technical Committee Strategy 2023-2028**

Please find attached the CNSWJO Regional Transport Technical Committee (TTC) Strategy 2023-2028. This was developed from a workshop in July 2022 and has the following priorities:

Strategy 1: Collaboration in Planning For, Building and Maintaining the Road Transport Network

- Focus Area 1.1: Performance Reporting on Road Transport Infrastructure Assets
- Focus Area 1.2: Planning for and Prioritising of Road Transport Projects
- Focus Area 1.3: Resilience, Planning for Emergencies and Disaster Response
- Focus Area 1.4: Capacity Building, Resource Sharing and Training

Strategy 2: Advocating for Support from Other Levels of Government and Working on Issues of Shared Responsibility

- Focus Area 2.1: Informing a Regional Advocacy Plan for Road Transport

Given the Board's focus on funding for roads affected by natural disaster and the TTC's focus on funding, the following three priority projects are highlighted:

1. TfNSW Vulnerability Assessment Project
2. Grattan Institute Project
3. Collateral to support funding for roads affected by natural disaster

### **TfNSW Vulnerability Assessment Project**

Please find the attached Customer Journey Resilience Plan presentation presented to the TTC by Ms Rebel Thompson on 29 March 2023.

This project seeks to understand the customer journey before, during and after disruptions, and create plans across regional NSW that create and support a network approach, building these plans into long-term preparedness for the future. The project will do this by identifying vulnerabilities on the transport network; assessing the risk to customer journeys; developing solutions to address the risk and priorities; and embedding resilience into future investment plans and programs. Councils will be required to complete a pre workshop survey and spend time in region with TfNSW for the purpose of information gathering for the project.

Discussions following the presentation showed concern that the TTC do not have time to progress this work at this point. Therefore, it was recommended to the General Manager's to provide feedback to TfNSW that the vulnerability assessment project be delayed until the last quarter of this calendar year.

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## Grattan Institute Project

Please find attached a presentation that was provided through ALGA from the Grattan Institute who are seeking to do a deep dive in this region on roads funding with a view to supporting advocacy on better roads funding. Grattan Institute will publish a substantial report later in 2023, with recommendations to governments about how maintenance is funded and managed, and will publicise its findings in the media, with speeches, and with decision makers.

The presentation uses data from Victoria survey results, however the results for NSW survey is expected to be similar. Some of the presentation highlights are:

- Large road networks and small populations make regional Councils more reliant on Commonwealth funding
- Rural areas benefit more from Black Spot and Roads to Recovery funding
- The Victorian community rate road maintenance is highly important, but it performs poorly compared to other Council services
- Residents of regional Councils are particularly dissatisfied with their roads
- Most Victorian roads are maintained to Council-set standards

The Grattan Institute proposal is as follows:

*The Grattan Institute is an independent public policy thinktank, which is currently researching the issue of maintenance of local roads. Grattan Institute will publish a substantial research report later in 2023, with recommendations to governments about how maintenance is funded and managed, and will publicise its findings in the media, with speeches, and with decision-makers.*

*Grattan Institute is using data from a range of sources, including the National Local Roads Data System, data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, information in published accounts of individual councils, and observations and insights from stakeholders with an interest in the topic. Because the data on local roads and their management is patchy, Grattan Institute is planning to conduct a survey of councils' asset managers, asking about staffing for asset management, funding, maintenance and asset management practices, and costs.*

*Grattan would like to draw on the Central NSW JO to assist with the survey, as a short-term reference group of experts. They envisage that the JO experts would assist in two ways.*

1. *Grattan Institute would like to pilot-test the draft survey with a relevant person from each council, to ensure the questions make sense, are expressed in suitable language, and can be answered in a sensible way. They anticipate that it will take about twenty minutes for each person to complete the survey.*
2. *Once the survey has been run around the country, Grattan Institute would like to follow up with a relevant person from the councils within the JO. The follow-up could include:*
  - a. *Assistance with understanding any surprising or unexpected findings from the survey, and*
  - b. *Providing specific examples of issues such as how successive waves of disaster relief have worked, or how councils collaborate on particular aspects of maintenance, etc.*

*With the permission of the relevant council(s), Grattan Institute would use such examples in its report. If the JO agrees to participate, Grattan Institute would be happy to acknowledge the assistance of the JO in its report.*

This project is a good fit with existing advocacy and the TTC were very enthusiastic about providing support. As indicated in the attached CNSWJO scoping document, the start date for this project needed to be approved under the hand of the therefore this was put through the Chair.

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### **Collateral to support funding for roads affected by natural disaster**

Please find attached collateral developed by Canberra Region JO to secure funding for roads damaged by natural disasters. This piece of work was driven by the Terms of Reference from the Senate enquiry being:

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport will inquire into and report on the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural, and remote road network, with a particular focus on:

- Road engineering and construction standards required to enhance the resiliency of future road construction;
- Identification of climate resilient corridors suitable for future road construction projects;
- Opportunities to enhance road resilience through the use of waterproof products in road construction;
- The Commonwealth's role in road resilience planning; and
- Any related issues.



Photo Credit: Canberra Region Joint Organisation

Please see the attached CNSWJO scoping document for the Boards approval to develop a similar piece of work in house for member Councils.

### **Road Rail Interface**

There are two issues regarding Road Rail interface:

1. Maintenance by UGL of assets including removal of weeds (now trees) and other debris in storm water infrastructure; and
2. Land Access Agreements. While not referred to in the Interface Agreements it is understood that Councils will be asked to sign Land Access Agreements as part of a separate negotiation with UGL. The JO is following this up and will provide advice in due course.

### **Other matters raised at the Technical Transport Committee meeting**

- A matter was raised at the recent TTC meeting to investigate a way of getting Contractors to send back executed Contracts in a timely manner. A contracts returning portal was a suggestion.
- The draft strategic plan was discussed, and it was noted to include a financial focus on funding in the plan including a summary of underfunding across the region, adding comparative changed trend analysis. It was noted that a scoping document would be developed for this project for review at the next TTC meeting.
- The Chair of the TTC will raise at the next CNSW ITG meeting an issue regarding the obligation or otherwise of TfNSW to maintain formed open drains in the rail corridor.

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- Advocacy through the JO for extension of grants e.g. Fixing Country Roads and Roads to recovery; current and the next program.

### **Fixing Country Bridges**

An application for round two of the fixing country bridges grant was lodged in October 2022 to contract a qualified organisation to undertake load capacity assessments to determine the actual structural capacity, in accordance with AS 5100.7.2017. The application was lodged under Forbes Shire Council due to application restrictions and advice from the funding body, this advice noted that CNSWJO would be able to execute this grant on behalf of participating member Councils.

Notice was received 7 March 2023 that the grant has been successful, however the funding body issued Forbes Shire Council as the executer of the grant, rather than CNSWJO. The funding Deed has been amended for CNSWJO to be responsible for the project management and monthly reporting however, Forbes Shire Council will be responsible for claim submission to Infrastructure NSW (INSW). This is currently with INSW and the project will commence once approved.

### **Central NSW Integrated Transport Group**

This group is Chaired by Cr Ken Keith, Portfolio Chair of Transport for the JO and is administered by TfNSW. Minutes are attached and a summary of the updates and outcomes are:

- Live Traffic plan to have all Councils onboarded end August 2023 which is progressing well. Councils reported that there has been more management across multiple departments than expected but it seems to be working. TfNSW indicated that there are inconsistencies in data and that they are working with providers such as Google maps to rectify this. Councils are to give feedback directly via email for TfNSW to act. TfNSW to follow up early diversion warning opportunities;
- The Cowra Lines Reactivation project is awaiting determination by the new State Government;
- The Great Western Highway project funded and approved is progressing well, Bells Line is in early days of planning for \$100M in improvements;
- The GWH tunnels and future upgrades are currently on hold for two years;
- The Central West Orana Transport Plan is awaiting determination by the new State Government;
- CNSWJO Transport Technical Committee are to meet with TfNSW on the Master Access Deeds and Rail Interface agreements; and
- CNSWJO advocated for JOs to be the funding applicant for TfNSW programs at member request eg the bridge assessment program.

Please request all agendas minutes where greater detail on the CNSWJO support for transport is reported elsewhere in this agenda.

### **Value for Members**

Currently, the priority projects for the TTC have no financial implications as:

## **Reports**

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Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

- The Grattan Institute projects requires member Councils time in provided feedback on the survey.
- The collateral project will be produced in house with CNSWJO and member Councils.

The fixing country bridges project is 100% funded by the State and, pending negotiations, administered through Central NSW Joint Organisation.

**Attachment/s:**

15. Transport Technical Committee (TTC) Terms of Reference
16. Customer Journey Resilience Plan TfNSW presentation
17. Grattan Institute presentation
18. Collateral Scoping DOC
19. Grattan Institute Scoping DOC
20. 8 May 2023 CNSW ITG notes

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**Priority six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water****j. Regional Water Report**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	6:Regional Water Security and Productive Water 4.1 Regional Water network planning and best practice skills development 4.2 Productive Water
<b>Portfolio Mayors</b>	Cr David Somerville, Cr Robert Taylor, Cr Jason Hamling and Cr Craig Bembrick
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	K Boyd, D Waddell and G Rhodes

**Report by Meredith Macpherson, dated 16 May 2023**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<p><b>That the Board note the Regional Water Security and Productive Water report and;</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. endorse the Regional Water Loss Management (WLM) Centres' Project -WLM Maturity Audit Regional Opportunities Report;</b></li> <li><b>2. note the progress on the project to transition Local Water Utilities (LWU) Strategic Planning into the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&amp;R) framework including the draft consultant brief.</b></li> </ol>

**Precis**

The CNSWJO received funding of \$900k from the Department of Planning and the Environment (DPE) Water for a Regional Water Loss Management (WLM) Centres Project in June 2022. The project includes assessment of the maturity of member Councils in managing non-revenue water to target the delivery of programming to improve water loss in Council's water distribution networks through a training and embedment approach. This project is being co-designed and delivered in collaboration with the DPE Water Efficiency program staff and members of the Water Utilities Alliance. It is aligned with the NSW Government's approach to ensuring increased water efficiencies by optimising the operation of existing infrastructure.

This report provides advice about progress on the Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project and opportunities for Audit Risk and Improvement Committees to receive a presentation. It also seeks endorsement of the Regional Water Loss Management Centres' Project -WLM Maturity Audit Regional Opportunities Report.

Advice is also provided about progress on the project to transition Local Water Utility (LWU) Strategic Planning into the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework. This project, previously endorsed by the Board, builds on work by the CNSWJO through the Town Water Risk Reduction Program Phase 1 in supporting member Council's LWUs transition from Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) planning to IP&R with its associated effectiveness and efficiencies including cost savings and reducing duplication.

Information is also provided on the federal budget and advocacy by Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) on a renewed National Water Initiative where both have implications for the development of productive water policy.

## Reports

## Reason for the Report

This report is provided for information on the:

- Progress on the CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project;
- Progress on the project to transition LWU Strategic Planning into the IP&R framework; and
- Implications of the federal budget and WSAA advocacy on a renewed National Water Initiative for the development of productive water policy.

It seeks Board endorsement of the CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project – Milestone three - Mid Term Review and Regional Opportunities Report.

## Legislative Policy and Risk Considerations

### CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project Progress Update

#### Regional Water Loss Management Maturity Audit Regional Opportunities Report -March 2023

The first step in the WLM Centres Project has been the completion of WLM Maturity Audits for participating Councils.

In 2021 a water loss management maturity audit tool was developed by a University of Sydney Major Industrial Project Placement Scheme (MIPPS) student through a project hosted by CNSWJO member Councils Parkes, Orange and Bathurst. These councils were audited and benchmarked using this tool that was then gifted to DPE Water and adapted by DPE Water consultants, Isle Utilities, for an audit across other councils in regional NSW. This audit included the addition of quantitative measures and was rolled out by DPE Water through Isle Utilities to other CNSWJO member Councils including Cowra, Forbes and Lachlan. Orange and Parkes also participated. Lithgow has subsequently joined the CNSWJO Water Loss Management Program and has been audited.

Weddin and Blayney Council's water is supplied through Central Tablelands Water.

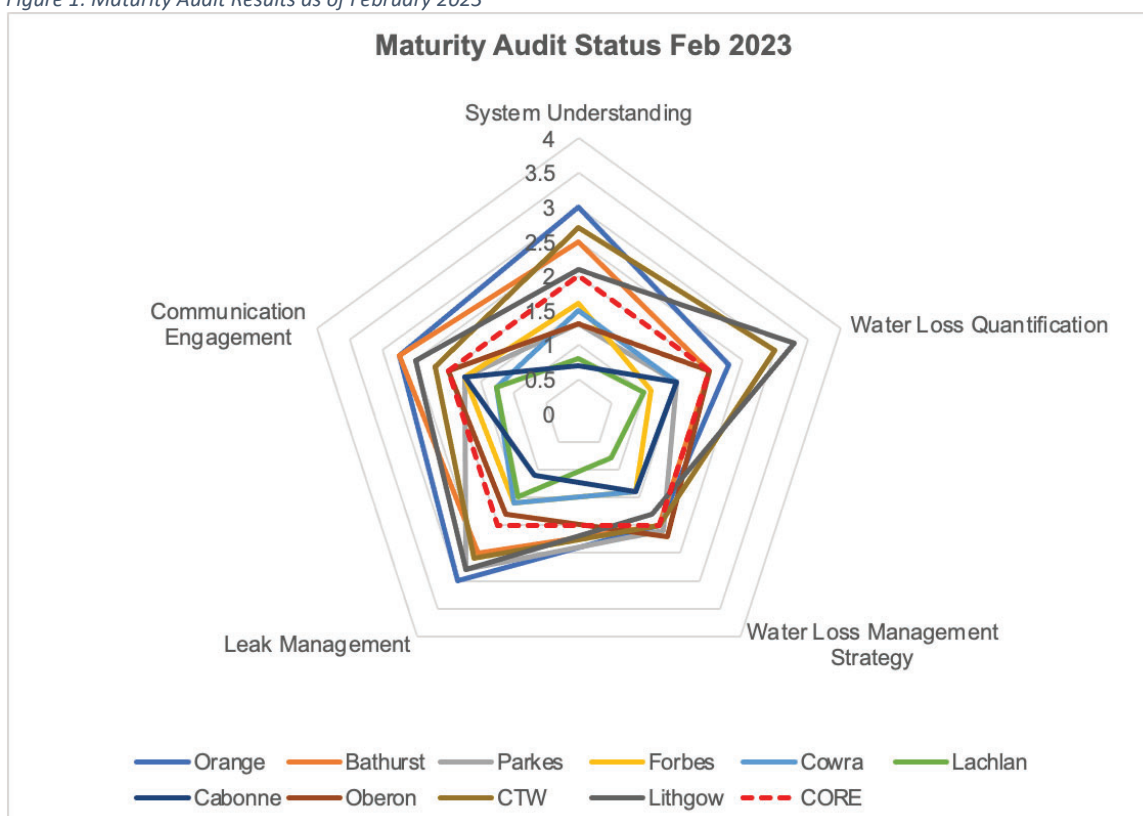
The audit and interviews with key Council staff form the basis of identifying projects that can be implemented as part of the CNSWJO WLM Program and provide case studies to develop training packages and resources for the development of a Water Loss Management Knowledge Hub.

All Local Water Utilities (LWUs) have now been audited and the results are presented in a Regional Opportunities Report. This report outlines the findings from the water loss maturity audits and identifies priority project areas for future implementation. A copy of this report is provided as an attachment.

The following slide summarises the audit results.

# Reports

Figure 1: Maturity Audit Results as of February 2023



#### Key Learnings from the Audits are as follows:

- A diversity of maturity is apparent with all councils needing improvement in different areas.
- 4 councils are all totally within the 'core' target limit due to resourcing, historical management of the systems and priorities.
- All councils have scope for improvement in different areas and this forms the basis for identifying a range of projects that the program can support.
- 3 areas for pilot projects are identified - pressure management, bulk metering, leak detection.
- Data management is a key area to improve for all Councils. In some cases, there is no known record of non-revenue water or real losses.
- Flexibility with programming through a co-designed approach and good governance will enable better outcomes.
- Embedment is emerging as a key priority for this program.
- Variation is required for a variety of reasons including natural disasters and council resourcing.

#### Summary of projects needed:

##### 1. Data Management

- All Councils would benefit from work on data management with poor data due to a lack of meters, data loggers and the need for hydraulic models to measure water balances in distribution systems.
- Metering and monitoring of water across the networks needs to improve to get more accurate definition of water use and assessment of flows in smaller, District Metered Areas (DMAs).

## Reports

## 2. Pilot Project Recommendations

Council	Pressure Management	Bulk Metering	Leak Detection DPE Pilot	Low Hanging fruit
Bathurst	Implementation of priority actions from MIPPS PMA	Fix some and install some. Define District Metered Areas (DMAs)	YES	Remote dataloggers on key existing network meters
Cabonne			TBD	Water loss dashboard development and data check
CTW	Systems installed could be used for monitoring and adjustment	Electromagnetic meters on bulk supply lines	TBD	Hydraulic model
Cowra	Pressure management Audit (PMA) required		Complete	Remote dataloggers on key existing network meters or connection to existing telemetry
Forbes	Not an issue, low topography	Installing bulk meters to future residential development zone Mar 23	Yes	Hydraulic model (being done by PWA)  Water loss dashboard development and data check
Lachlan	Not an issue, low topography	Installing on Condo WTP outlet, Lake Cargelligo	Complete	Meter calibration
Lithgow	PMA required in town of Portland		Complete	Data Gaps Survey
Oberon		Bulk meter on the supply from the Dam	TBD	Data Gaps Survey
Orange	Implementation of priority actions from MIPPS PMA		Yes	Remote dataloggers on key existing network meters
Parkes	Implementation of priority actions from MIPPS PMA		Yes	SCADA Calibration

### Next Steps

With all the maturity audits now completed, meetings are being held with Council staff across the region to identify and design projects that can be implemented as part of the CNSWJO WLM Project.

## Reports

This is a complex project where each Council requires measured design depending on site specific conditions. What the audits have shown is that there is much to be done across the region and that there is no one-size fits all here.

It is proposed that a first tranche of procurement currently being scoped will incorporate pressure management work identified through the MIPPS Student Project for Parkes, Orange and Bathurst. Assessments are being completed for CTW and Oberon to determine whether pressure management is applicable for any of their sites with any equipment needed to be included in the scope for tranche 1 procurement. Two Councils, Forbes and Lachlan have been identified as not requiring pressure management as their systems are low pressure due to their topography.

Assessments are underway by the Project Engineers in discussion with Council's operational staff regarding installation issues where it has now been identified that pressure management valves and metering equipment will need to be installed underground due to their exposure to cold temperatures in the Central NSW winter. Further, Councils are indicating that where this work may once have been completed inhouse, contractors may be needed for installation due to staff shortages and competing work demands. Quotes are being sought on the potential cost where pit construction and the associated form work is not a cheap item.

Further, procurement is being scoped for the purchase of data loggers, acoustic monitoring and ultrasonic monitoring devices required by all Councils. It is proposed that once purchased the Project Engineers will visit Councils across the region to assist with training of operators and installation of these devices with the emphasis on embedding their use into business-as-usual practices.

Broadly, the following have been identified as next steps in the project rollout:

- Focus on opportunities to embed water loss management into business-as-usual practices
- Identify procurement required.
- Prioritise expenditure both from the existing funding and for any future work outside the scope of this initial program. This prioritisation will be based on the following heads of consideration:
  - Impact on non-revenue water
  - Capacity of Council to pay
  - Project readiness

### **Project Costs**

Cost will of course vary from project to project depending on location, ground conditions, size of equipment required, and between different suppliers and contractors. Once the procurement scope is understood, the Project Control Group (Technical Committee) will make recommendations to the Project Steering Committee on the prioritisation of expenditure as detailed above.

Reports will be provided to individual Councils detailing the expenditure required and seeking commitment for contribution by Council towards the project once the full extent is understood.

### **Overall Project Progress**

The Program follows a process, simplified from the August 2022 CNSWJO Project Plan below:

- Steering Committee formed.
- MoU with Parkes Shire Council for project resources signed.
- Project resource engaged.
- Project Control Group (Technical Committee) formed.

## **Reports**

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

- DPE training in WLM coordinated in region to 26 LWU staff across 7 Councils.
- Maturity audits completed.
- Pressure management audits (at selected Councils) completed.
- Pilot projects identified and agreed upon – in progress.
- Projects scoped and procured- in progress.
- Projects implemented and recorded – in progress.
- Training materials developed from project implementation- in progress.
- System capability improved overall -in progress.
- Outcomes embedded and sustained to form the Knowledge Hub- in progress.

Progress along this process is reported to the Steering Committee (which includes DPE Water staff and the NSW Water Directorate) weekly and to GMAC, the CNSWJO Board and DPE Water management regularly using the following chart.

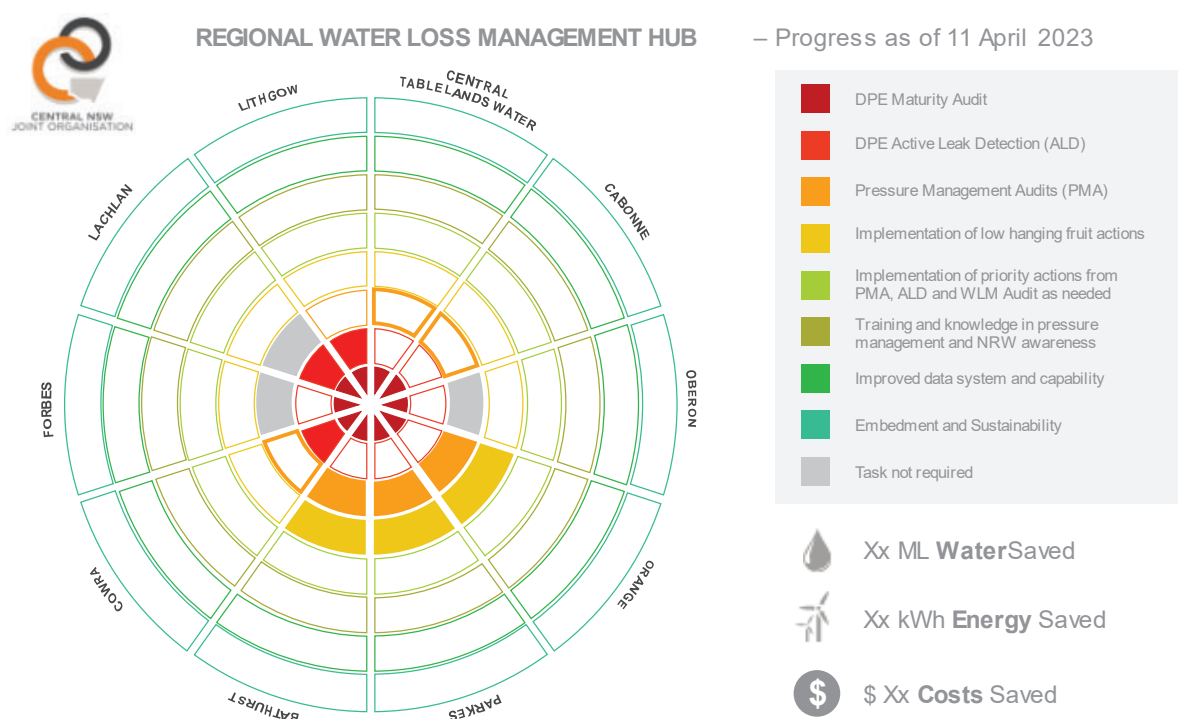


Figure 1: Project stages and progress

This is a complex project given the varying levels of maturity, range of projects needed and challenges with the availability of data as detailed.

In addition to this, moving forward will be on going challenges with resourcing at the Council level, given conflicting priorities, natural disaster recovery and staff shortages. The PSC is keeping a watching brief on this on a weekly basis.

The real value of this project is in the coordination of project work across member Councils and in efforts to embed this work as a legacy of the program. This is particularly important where the delivery by DPE Water is happening across multiple fronts.

## Reports

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

There remains a lot of work to do and while there is good engagement, collaboration and willingness of Department staff to work with the JO on this project, ensuring alignment of the project with other programming activities underway by DPE through the roll-out of their Water Efficiency Program and optimisation of these remains challenging.

It is notable that despite these complexities and challenges, DPE Water provided a very positive presentation on the project to the Ozwater conference in Sydney on 9-10 May.

Detail is provided in the *Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project -WLM Maturity Audit Regional Opportunities Report* included as an attachment.

Please request any documentation including the Communications Plan, Milestone Reports or PSC Meeting Minutes.

In the attachment to a letter sent to Council's ARICs via GMs the suggestion of their involvement in the Regional Asset Management Improvement Program is identified. A copy of this letter is provided as an attachment. The WLM Project Steering Committee has also identified the opportunity for ARICs to receive a presentation on the WLM project and asset management accountability.

### Mid Term Review & Variation Request - March 2023

As a result of flooding and the recovery effort compounded by staff shortages and competing pressures on Councils, the Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project Steering Committee (PSC) agreed to delay the mid-term review of the project delivery, originally due in December 2022, until early 2023.

On 14 March, in line with milestone 3 of the funding deed, the CNSWJO submitted a Mid-Term Review together with a request to vary the funding deed.

The variation to the CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project includes as follows:

- **Timeframe**  
extend from June 2023 to December 2023 – with potential for a further 6 months to be determined by progress on program rollout with changes to the funding deed to be discussed at a later date.
- **Budget**  
changes required from embedment/knowledge hub –suggest that this be increased to \$100k to allow for the brief as provided by VWA and potential other work as described in tranche 2. This is within budget including contingency.
- **Add Lithgow City Council into the program.**

DPE Water have approved the milestone 3 reports and have paid 10% of the project funding - \$90k (ex GST).

### Transitioning Local Water Utility Strategic Planning into the IP & R Framework - Progress Update

To recap, the aim of this project is for participating Local Water Utilities (LWUs) to have Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) recognised by the DPE Water as the framework of choice for LWUs to develop strategy in water and sewer.

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The objectives of this project are to:

- Support LWUs transition from Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) planning to IP&R with its associated effectiveness and efficiencies including cost savings and reducing duplication.
- Have Councils progress at their own pace with an opt in cohort Community Strategic Plan (CSP) ready for the next term of Council.
- Enable embedment through the Water Utilities Alliance; and
- Build relationships and capacity with key stakeholders including DPE.

Following Board approval at its February meeting for a project to transition what was Integrated Water Cycle Management Planning for Local Water Utilities into the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework report, a meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 29 March.

The purpose of this meeting was to follow up on the actions from the IP&R workshop on 3 February 2023 where next steps included:

1. *A Project Steering Committee be formed to work with JO staff, a Subcommittee of General Managers and DPE Water representatives to be responsible for the Terms of Reference and to guide the co-design of the project approach as well as project planning, implementation and reporting.*
2. *The CNSWJO develop a brief for a consultant to deliver two face-to-face workshops to co-design a pathway and toolkit to map the 12 elements of DPE Water's LWU Strategic Planning into the IP&R framework. This will be funded by the CNSWJO. Funding support will also be sought from DPE Water.*

Based on the IP&R Training Actions the meeting Agenda included discussion of the following:

1. Draft Project Steering Committee Terms of Reference
2. Draft Consultant Brief to deliver two face-to-face workshops to co-design a pathway and toolkit to map the 12 elements of DPE Water's LWU Strategic Planning into the IP&R framework.

**Summary of Actions from this meeting were as follows:**

1. CNSWJO to seek an OLG representative for membership of the PSC with support from DPE Water.
2. DPE representatives to discuss a suitably delegated officer to participate in the Project Executive Committee comprising Council GMs
3. CNSWJO to add advice about minority report to decision making section.
4. Prior to procuring a consultant- the CNSWJO coordinate (within a fortnight) an Inception Meeting with the PSC –to map out the data requirements between the Regulatory and Assurance and IP&R Frameworks to inform the consultant brief.
5. CNSWJO to draft a letter to DPE for potential funding from the SSWP.

At the time of writing a meeting with two of the State agency representatives with the most significant feedback has been held to inform the Consultant Brief which has now been released for quotation.

Correspondence was sent to the DPE Water Safe and Secure Water Program on 26 April seeking funding support of \$200k for this project. In an email response received on 28 April, DPE Water has advised that the CNSWJO eligibility for strategic planning co-funding is 75% (or pro-rata co-funding value of member Council if higher). Further advice is being sought from DPE Water where it would appear there is still a lack of understanding of the project and how it can be supported in the funding framework.

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## Advocacy Update

With the CSU Policy Lab considering productive water under its terms of reference the policy landscape, particularly at the Federal level, is aligning well with the Board's priority for work in this space. Commitments by the Federal Government in its 2023 Budget for agriculture and advocacy by Water Services Association Australia (WSAA) on a renewed National Water Initiative are all aimed at fostering thriving and prosperous regional communities through more climate smart sustainable practices. This includes putting communities at the heart of Murray- Darling Basin initiatives, recognising the real value of urban water to regional communities and encouraging inter-governmental and stakeholder collaboration on water management to better balance the needs of all water users in a future where we will need to do more with less water. Following is advice on these priorities.

### Federal Government's 2023 Budget

Notable at the time of writing is the Federal Government's 2023 Budget where it is stated that \$19.1 million from 2026–27 for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising and another water project will be deferred with a final decision on these projects made once planning is completed.

When the Wyangala Dam Wall project was announced in October 2019 the Federal and NSW Governments agreed to share the cost, which was estimated at \$650 million.

Recent advice from the NSW Government is that the final business case is on track to be submitted to the NSW Government for its review in the first half of 2023.

In its 2023 Budget, the Federal Government is investing in programs that aim to *support the agriculture sector to sustainably manage the impacts of climate change, including the challenge of increasing food production to meet global demand, while reducing the impact of agricultural production on the environment.*

The Government's Climate-Smart Agriculture package to *ensure its agricultural sector has a secure future and can continue to support thriving and prosperous regional communities* aligns well with this region's vision for productive water.

From a policy perspective, the CNSWJO Board commitment to productive water reflects the Government's budget commitments including to foster climate-smart, sustainable practices that:

- build climate resilience, increase market access and agricultural growth while supporting sustainability outcomes.
- support farmers to manage climate risks and invest in their on-farm natural capital and effective natural resources management while protecting their productivity.
- support the agriculture sector to transition to a low emissions future and foster sustainable agriculture, including climate adaptation practices and emissions reductions technologies, and tools and extension services that support greater engagement in carbon and biodiversity markets; and
- enable the implementation of practices that address local and regional natural resource management priorities and deliver long term sustainable agriculture outcomes.

The Government has set a target of a \$100 billion agriculture sector by 2030 and while this region has the potential to be a big contributor to this, continued advocacy will be needed on access to a more secure water supply and on new ways of managing and valuing water in a whole of catchment

## Reports

approach.

Advocacy messages for productive water currently in discussion with the CSU Policy Lab will need to include messaging aligned with the Government's policy objectives to look to international examples such as "the Dutch model" for how the Central NSW agriculture sector *can produce more food and fibre to meet global demand and improve their economic resilience with less water while building sustainability and demonstrating performance to consumers and trading partners.*

#### **Water Services Association of Australia – National Water Initiative Discussion Paper**

The Federal Government is committed to renewing the National Water Initiative (NWI). Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) continue to engage with Minister Plibersek, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and other key stakeholders on this matter.

As part of ensuring the voice of urban water is heard by key stakeholders and to maintain momentum around a new NWI, WSAA have prepared a discussion paper on the key opportunities from the renewal of the NWI. WSAA's advocacy is centred on communities wanting prosperity, jobs, action on climate change, and liveable cities. A NWI with an increased focus on water for communities, will be critical to meeting these goals.

WSAA have sent the ***Renewing the National Water Initiative: Securing the future of water for people and communities*** to Federal and State Ministers and stakeholders. They are calling on all state and territory governments to embrace the opportunity a renewed NWI presents and encourage discussion between the Federal Government and all stakeholders. WSAA also encourage key stakeholders to use the document for their own advocacy as appropriate and when meeting with relevant Minister/s.

Key messages are:

- all Government's need to work together. Water is constitutionally a state responsibility. Many urban water issues that can be improved without recourse to governments, are pursued through industry strategies. However, as in other high-value sectors like health, education and transport, some issues should be dealt with collaboratively by governments, nationally.
- Urban water is a major player in the national economy, and growing. Robust NWI provisions for urban water will not only satisfy communities, but help meet these national productivity objectives.
- the NWI has tended to focus on rural and Murray- Darling Basin issues. While these issues are important, with turnover of \$24 billion, the urban water sector is many times larger than the rural water sector. Our services underpin the future of Australian cities and regional and remote communities, and are worth focussing on.
- Urban water directly employs over 30,000 people. For every job created in our industry, another 4 jobs are created in the wider economy. Every dollar invested in urban water delivers an increase of \$2.40 in the economy.
- Interest rates are rising, at the same time as many long-life water assets need replacement. Resourcing and supply chain problems are increasing.
- Australia's urban water capital expenditure is expected to grow from \$6 billion per year to a baseline of \$9 billion.
- The low water bills of recent years will rise. Customers will want to know that governments are actively working to ensure this essential service provides good value.

## **Reports**

- After comprehensive 2017 and 2020 reviews of national water reform, the Productivity Commission recommended a renewed NWI should focus on:
  - o strengthening the capacity to deal with climate change and extreme weather events
  - o increasing Indigenous Australians' involvement/influence in water resource management
  - o improving provision of urban water services, with 'significantly enhanced' NWI coverage on urban water
  - o improving water monitoring, accounting and data
  - o improving regulatory, governance and management arrangements
  - o the use of best available information in decision making.
- The views of customers and communities are vital to shaping decisions around water in communities. The development of a new NWI needs open and transparent engagement to ensure optimal outcomes for the water sector and the communities it serves.
- A renewed NWI can unlock urban water's potential through:
  - o A definitive public statement of shared commitment between all jurisdictions
  - o Collective accountability and transparency on issues that all governments know matter to their communities
  - o Coordination where needed
  - o Efficiency benefits in developing shared approaches, instead of 8 separate approaches Shows leadership and intent to communities
  - o It will crystallise concrete, achievable steps forward on issues where changes to government policies, settings, structures and legislation will deliver progress.
- State and Territory Governments should also commit to defining and ensuring access to a basic level of service for all Australians.
- National collaboration is a vital element in Closing the Water Gap.
- Water utilities can provide much more than water and wastewater services;
  - o They can help other industries solve broader problems eg carbon emissions, waste management, renewable energy generation
  - o Investment in water delivers flow-on benefits in jobs, manufacturing, training
  - o Water services have remained affordable over time.
- Water has a growing role to play in energy generation including through hydrogen production - without a national water strategy, there is no national hydrogen strategy.

Key Opportunities of a new NWI include:

**1. Water supply security in a changing climate:**

- o A national framework and metrics to measure water security and assist governments make the best investment choices on augmenting water supplies.
- o All options on the table must be the guiding principle, clearly spelt out within the NWI, with a national approach to engaging local communities with facts and evidence, not politics, for sustainable and supported local solutions.

**2. Closing the First Nations water Gap:**

- o All Australian communities must have access to safe clean drinking water to meet the Closing the Gap targets and Sustainable Development Goals – SDG6 in particular.

**3. Building productive, liveable cities:**

- Ensure a national and systemic approach to implementing blue green grids and Integrated Water Management, embed policies for valuing all water investment benefits including public health and ecosystem protection and regeneration.
- Revolutionise the management of stormwater and drainage for waterway health, water recycling options and public health benefits.
- Nationally consistent principles for developer charges will help deliver cool green cities and help defray growth costs.
- Nutrient offsetting frameworks will save costs in infrastructure upgrades.

**4. Unlocking circular economy potential:**

- Create policy and regulatory settings for the urban water industry to lead, support and facilitate renewable energy, green hydrogen, biochar for soil improvement and carbon sequestration, energy from food, garden and liquid waste and recovery of other resources from waste and water.
- Change product stewardship policies to avoid the issues that PFAS, microplastics and other contaminants have created for the water industry to fix.

**5. Cost recovery and economic regulation:**

- Ensure economic regulation meets best practice principles to protect the long-term interest of customers.
- Set out a national framework of minimum standards for price setting and regulation for each state and territory to enact to enable price smoothing and avoid price spikes for customers.

**6. A transparent and open industry, using data for improved services and good decision making:**

- Commitment by all levels of government and across all parts of the industry to:
  - public reporting of performance including commitment to improving the National Performance Report, and collection of data for Closing the Gap and Sustainable Development Goals to promote transparency of the industry
  - the development of cross sector data ecosystems for diverse and high priority benefits including water system security, identification and assistance of customers experiencing vulnerability, planning and delivery of infrastructure.

**7. Skills and training:**

- A national taskforce to address the skills uplift and resourcing required for the most essential of the essential services.
- First Nations peoples to co-design training frameworks, to empower communities with skills and improve capacity.

**8. Research and innovation:**

- Targeted support and co-investment in urban water research.
- A national approach to innovation support to enable the industry to commercialise leading practices that could compete on a global market.

**9. Improving water efficiency:**

- Expand the Smart Approved Water Mark certification and related initiatives to enhance the co- benefits with WELS and to further boost efficient outdoor water use providing more savings of water and money for families and businesses.

**10. National supply chain security:**

- Safeguard a secure national supply chain for the water sector for critical chemicals and assets to ensure public health is always maintained through functioning water and sanitation systems.

It is understood a State Ministers' meeting will be held sometime in June to consider the renewal of the NWI.

A briefing of water portfolio Mayors and GMs is scheduled for 22 May to discuss key advocacy messages. Where many of the WSAA messages are aligned with existing CNSWJO Regional Water advocacy messages, opportunities to inform productive water policy development through the CSU Policy Lab and the existing communique with Lachlan Valley Water will be discussed.

**Value to Members**

Work by the CNSWJO in the regional water portfolio supports member councils in the planning and management of quality, secure water and sewer services for central NSW communities. The work of the collaborative Water Utilities Alliance supports the Board's key advocacy priority for Local Government ownership and management of Local Water utilities in regional NSW.

**Financial implications**

Nil at this time.

The WLM Project Control Group (Technical Committee) is currently prioritising expenditure both from the existing funding and for any future work outside the scope of this initial program. This prioritisation will be based on the following heads of consideration:

- Impact on non-revenue water
- Capacity of Council to pay.

Any additional funding requirements will be discussed with individual Councils based on costings for Pilot Projects.

A variation of the OLG Capacity Building Stage 2 of \$25k is being sought for the project to Transition Local Water Utility Strategic Planning into the IP & R Framework. Based on advice from DPE Water, funding will also be sought through the Safe and Secure Program.

**Attachment/s:**

21. Central NSW Joint Organisation Water and Sewerage Performance Reporting: Regional Findings Report
22. Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project -WLM Maturity Audit Regional Opportunities Report
23. Draft Consultant Brief for the project to Transition Local Water Utility Strategic Planning into the IP & R Framework
24. 27 January 2023 correspondence via GMs to Councils ARIC Working Group' TOR and current program welcoming any feedback.

**Priority Seven: Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future****k. Energy Report**

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	7: Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future 7.1 Energy Efficiency and Emissions Reduction 7.2 Circular Economy 7.3 Environment 7.4 Understanding our energy (fuel and electricity) security, capacity and scalability
<b>Portfolio Chairman</b>	Cr Mark Kellam
<b>Sponsoring General Manager/s</b>	B Byrnes, P Devery, G Tory and D Waddell

Report by Kate Barker, dated 15 May 2023

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<p><b>That the Board note the Energy Report and;</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. approve the draft project plan for the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) Program;</b></li> <li><b>2. endorse the Southern Lights NSW submission on Essential Energy's 2024-2029 Pricing Proposal in relation to public lighting pricing;</b></li> <li><b>3. endorse the CNSWJO submission on Essential Energy's 2024-2029 Pricing Proposal;</b></li> <li><b>4. endorse the CNSWJO submission to the NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change on Going Circular in Clean Energy;</b></li> <li><b>5. endorse a regional application to ARENA's Community Batteries Funding Round 1 program for interested councils and eligible sites; and</b></li> <li><b>6. adopt the revised Energy Advocacy Plan.</b></li> </ol>

**Precis**

This report provides advice on:

- OECC Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) project
- Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund
- Southern Lights, including two submissions to the AER on the 2024-2029 pricing determination
- ARENA's community battery program
- Revised Energy Advocacy Plan.

**Reason for the Report**

This report seeks the Board's approval of the draft JONZA project plan, endorsement of two submissions in relation to the AER's 2024-2029 pricing determination, endorsement of a regional grant application for batteries, and adoption of the revised Energy Advocacy Plan. The balance of the report is provided for information.

**Legislative Policy and Risk Considerations**

Related risks from the Strategic Plan are reviewed quarterly and include:

- 1. Failure of the JO Network**

# Reports

7. Despite the efforts by the OLG subsequent to the JO Review, all Councils in the JO footprint do not engage
14. Review recommendations to “bring the State to the table” do not deliver network sustainability
19. Long term viability and financial sustainability.
20. Turnover staff in councils who are working on JO projects – loss of corporate knowledge.

### **OECC Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program**

As reported previously, CNSWJO has been successful, along with eight other Joint Organisations, in receiving \$155K from the NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change for the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) program. The funding is for the engagement of a dedicated resource to progress net zero activities and initiatives for the JO’s member councils. CNSWJO has redeployed existing resources to deliver the JONZA program, and backfilled other areas of the Operational Program Manager’s role, particularly in relation to procurement.

While CNSWJO has developed a net zero action plan which aligns with the strategic priorities, there are 15 of these activities which will be delivered under the JONZA program. The remaining activities are longer term or are business as usual, so were not included in JONZA. Many of the activities are funding dependent.

An attachment to this report outlines the 17 activities to be delivered under JONZA. This project plan is in draft form and is a work in progress, which is expected to be finalised by the end of May. The 17 key activities include:

1. Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) for the renamed CNSWJO Regional Net Zero Group (NZG) shows progress on a least one item for every Council
2. Terms of Reference for the CNSWJO Energy Group is reviewed to align with this project and this group becomes the CNSWJO Regional Net Zero Group
3. Update procurement Policy to incorporate Social and Sustainability Procurement elements.
4. Emissions Reduction Plans for each Council for scopes 1 and 2
5. Tool for Councils to track emissions
6. Identify training opportunities and provide training in use of the tool, and develop an accountability framework to enable embedment within the JO including NZOPM support if required.
7. Develop an implementation plan for the CNSWJO Emissions Reduction Plan: Regional Opportunities
8. Develop a business case for the change of ownership of streetlights
9. Develop a business case for renewable street lighting/other external community lighting
10. A fleet transition plan for each Council
11. Annual network tariff review for each council
12. Deliver emissions reduction through the water loss management program.
13. Develop business case for regional revolving energy fund
14. Direct Metering Agreement in place for councils small sites
15. Regional opportunities report for Virtual Power Plants for member councils
16. Review policy for transition to renewable energy future on the social licencing issues, and develop advocacy plan
17. Develop policy and advocacy plan with regard to biodiversity, urban environments during climate change including tree canopy, and waste and landfill emissions.

## **Reports**

CNSWJO has also recently applied for funding under LGP's Capability Fund to attend sustainable procurement training which related to activity 3. The application was also on behalf of 4 other Joint Organisations.

### **Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Funding**

As previously advised, CNSWJO has been successful in receiving around \$1M under Regional NSW's Business Case and Strategy Development Fund for *Priority investments in the nexus between emissions reduction and energy security in Central NSW*.

A Steering Committee has been formed and includes representatives from:

- CNSWJO
- Member councils (Bathurst, Cabonne, Cowra, Lachlan and Orange)
- Department of Regional NSW, including
  - Regional Development and Programs
  - Regional Growth and Development Corporation (RGDC)
  - Invest in Regional NSW
- NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change
- Essential Energy
- Endeavour Energy (Lithgow region)
- NetWaste

Representation is also being sought from TransGrid.

The Terms of Reference form an attachment to this report.

The Deed and the first milestone payment have been received for the program. The deadline for the development of the business case is 30 September 2023.

### **Southern Lights**

Every 5 years, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) makes a determination on the charges for network providers, such as Essential Energy. These processes are very important as it is the customer's only opportunity to have any say in the pricing of services, and once the prices are set, they are in place for the following 5 years.

The Southern Lights Group has been working collaboratively on submissions, as has been done in previous determinations. Essential Energy was required to submit their pricing in January 2023, and a submission was sent to the AER on 12 May in relation to the pricing proposal. The submission is found as an attachment to this report.

A summary of the outcome of this process will be provided in due course, where previous determinations saw savings of millions of dollars for councils through the advocacy of the Southern Lights Group.

Dubbo City Council recently joined the Southern Lights Group, and CNSWJO is also in the process of seeking for other JOs in the north of the state to also join, where the work is important for all regional councils in EE's footprint.

## **Reports**

Further to this work which only considers the streetlighting component of the determination, the JO sought external consulting support to develop a submission to other parts of the EE pricing proposal where members are reporting various issues in this space. This submission is also attached to this report.

It is recommended that the Board endorse the two submissions in relation to the Essential Energy pricing proposal.

## Circular Economy

In March 2022, CNSWJO provided a submission to the NSW OECC's request in relation to its Going Circular in Clean Energy Issues Paper. The JO's main comments throughout the submission were:

- Barriers to adopting a circular economy for clean energy are:
  - Insufficient funding
  - Poor coordination
  - Transport costs and emissions
  - Skills and training gap
  - Regulatory and legal frameworks
- Opportunities include:
  - Leveraging JOs
  - Piloting new and emerging technologies
  - Leveraging Special Activation Precincts
  - Investing in place-based strategies

The submission can be found as an attachment to this report.

## ARENA Community Battery Program

In April, ARENA announced the release of its Community Battery Program, which firstly consists of an EOI process, followed by a full application for those successful in the EOI round.

The objectives of the program are to fund Activities that contribute to one or more of the following Outcomes:

- a. improve the economics of community battery projects through the reduction in, or removal of, barriers to large-scale deployment;
- b. build industry capacity to deploy community batteries at scale; and
- c. support the Budget Measure by:
  - putting downward pressure on household electricity costs;
  - contributing towards lowering emissions;
  - providing a net benefit to the electricity network, having regard to matters such as network constraints; and
  - enabling storage of distributed solar energy for later use or sharing and supporting further distributed solar installations

The program consists of two streams. The first is only open to Distributed Network Service Providers (e.g. Essential Energy), and the second is available to organisations not included in the first stream. A total of \$60M has been allocated to each stream.

The scope of the funding is as follows:

# Reports

- a. batteries between 50 kW to 5000 kW nameplate capacity, connected in the Distribution Network.
- b. The amount of Grant Funding requested will range from \$3 million to \$20 million and ARENA's funding will not exceed 100% of Battery Capex Cost.
- c. Proposals will deploy at least five (5) batteries.
- b. Proposals may be co-located with other generators or loads; however, Grant Funding would only be provided for the community battery component.

Interest has been expressed through the JONZA program, and the OEC is supporting JOs with applications as either standalone applications by a single JO, or applications across JO footprints. The interest from CNSWJO members in participating has been high, so it is expected that CNSWJO will have sufficient sites to meet the requirements of the EOI within Central NSW alone.

At the recent Net Zero Group meeting, members agreed that the target for the regional application should be water and sewerage treatment plants where there is typically high consumption and also some have peaky loads, meaning that the consumption is not consistent throughout the day. Some sites are on a 'demand tariff' which sees high network charges, and it is possible that batteries at these sites could provide significant cost savings, with or without being co-located with solar as they enable councils to 'smooth the load' and reduce the demand charges.

It is anticipated that the OECC will support JOs through providing access to consultants to assist with sizing and costing the batteries, and determining which ones best meet the guidelines, and also to engage a grant writer to pull together the submission.

Members have been requested to advise interest and site details by Friday 19 May. Noting councils around the region broadly are under resourced at the moment, CNSWJO will provide support in data collection to inform the grant. Council staff will be requested to provide minimal information.

Should the JO be successful in the EOI round, a full application is due by March 2024.

It is recommended that the Board endorse a regional application submitted by CNSWJO for ARENA's Community Batteries Funding Round 1 program for interested councils with eligible sites, due by 30 June 2023.

### **Energy Advocacy Plan**

In November 2021, the Board adopted the Regional Energy Advocacy Plan. In light of feedback from members and changes in Government since the plan was adopted, changes have been made in relation to community consultation and other minor changes. The action plan which was included towards the back of the plan has also been removed due to it becoming outdated, and the actions are now incorporated in and being progressed through the JONZA program.

The revised Energy Advocacy Plan forms an attachment to this report.

#### **Attachment/s:**

- 25. JONZA project plan - draft
- 26. Business Case Steering Committee Terms of Reference
- 27. Southern Lights NSW Submission on Essential Energy's 2024-2029 Pricing Proposal – Public Lighting
- 28. CNSWJO Submission on Essential Energy's 2024-2029 Pricing Proposal
- 29. Submission to OECC on Going Circular in Clean Energy
- 30. Energy Advocacy Plan

## **Reports**

## 9. Quarterly review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022 -2025

<b>Regional Strategic Priorities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leveraging our successful collaboration</li> <li>2. Regional Prosperity through better infrastructure and services</li> <li>3. Advocate for better infrastructure and services in health and ageing</li> <li>4. Telecommunications</li> <li>5. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation</li> <li>6. Regional Water Security and Productive Water</li> <li>7. Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future</li> </ol>
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**Report By Jenny Bennett, Kate Barker, Carolyn Griffin Verity Page, dated 11 May 2023**

<b>Recommendation/s</b>
<p><b>That the Board note the Quarterly review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022 –2025; and</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. encourage members’ staff to attend a cybersecurity round table in Bathurst 31 May 2023;</li> <li>2. endorse the submissions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Response to Statutory review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</li> <li>b. Bank closures in Regional Australia; and</li> <li>c. Blackheath to Little Hartley Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. endorse the report for the Implementation Review to OLG written by Jenny Bennett on behalf of the NSW JO regarding NSW JO Financial sustainability and Boundaries; and</li> <li>4. note the responses received from the Member for Orange regarding Essential Energy service.</li> </ol>

### Precis

This report provides advice on:

- Risks to the JO and their management;
- Progress of the OLG review of JOs;
- Submissions:
  - Response to Statutory review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
  - Bank closures in Regional Australia
  - Blackheath to Little Hartley Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Progress on the Office of Local Government Capacity Building Funding;
- A cybersecurity round table in Bathurst
- Working with the Regional Leadership Executive (RLE);
- Status of funding applications;
- Acknowledgement of the representation on our behalf regarding Essential Energy service levels;
- Come Out We’re Open Campaign and other PR advice from the region’s destination marketing;
- Value of the JO to members.

A table providing advice on progress of every action identified in the Strategic Plan is provided as an attachment.

## Reports

## Reason for this Report

The Central NSW JO approved its Strategic Plan (the Plan) 24 November 2022. Seven priorities were identified for action. This report provides advice on progress on the Plan. Reports requiring more detailed advice to inform decision making are provided separately. These reports would include those reporting on challenges and opportunities identified as the Plan is delivered. Advice on progress of past resolve can be found in Matters in Progress. A table providing advice on progress of every action identified in the Strategic Plan is provided as an attachment.

## Legislative Policy and Risk Considerations

Regarding risk, risks are reviewed each quarter, please request the Risk Register. There are six Very High Risks identified for the Joint Organisation of 39 risks overall.

#	Category	Risk	Consequence	Risk treatment	Rating
1	Political	Failure of the JO Network	State will not engage leading to failure of the broader aspiration of JOs.	CNSWJO leads collaboration of JOEO network with focus on JO sustainability. Chairs Forum focus on sustainability	Very High
9	Political	Review recommendations to "bring the State" to the table" do not deliver network sustainability	Potential funding implications and relationship damage. Possible advocacy failure.	Communications Plan in place. Board monitoring relationship strengths on quarterly basis – however this is not within the ambit of the Board's control so the risk remains high.	Very High
10	Political	Well intentioned State agencies design processes that waste JO and Councils' time.	JO and member Council resources are taken away from delivering member value in efforts to work with State agencies that "just don't get it"	Communications Plan in place. Reporting to other tiers of government systematic. Measurement of impact of programs defined and tested for robustness. Formal agreements with major stakeholders that clearly defines roles and responsibilities and enables two way communication.	High
12	Political	Confused messaging on what JO does.	Board approved Communication Plan that clearly defines who is delegated to speak on behalf of the JO	Communications Plan in place. Strategic Plan in place and reviewed annually. Council roadshows. Stakeholder engagement directly with key government agencies. Work with Councils to get messaging to communities out.	High
14	Political	Miss opportunity to see how collaborations could work effectively.	Opportunity to engage differently with the NSW and Federal Government on how they want to engage may compromise the effectiveness of the JO. Use the process as a means to refresh engagement and understand stakeholder business better.	Communications Plan in place. Specific program to determine how stakeholder WANT to be engaged and to learn about their strategies in order to see how they align with the JO's objectives.	Very High

## Reports

19	Economic	Long term viability and financial sustainability.	JO can't get sufficient funding to be able to meet liabilities.	Work with other JOs and relevant State agencies on a sustainable funding framework for the JO network and advocate as necessary.	Very High
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The existential risk to the JO from network sustainability as outlined in the above Risks is now happening and will have greater impact despite the mitigations in place. There is not much more this JO can do to mitigate the risk and it is noteworthy that the Chairs of JOs Forum is tackling the issue.

Please request all associated minutes and agendas from the NSW JO Chairs Forum meetings.

The growing regulatory burden, patchiness of JO capacity and lack of State funding for core business is likely to significantly impact the sustainability of the broader network. Central NSW continues to put up business cases for funding, provide advice on the value proposition of JOs to State entities and work with other JOs to provide support for their sustainability. This work is very slow and showing some positive responses. Please see advice further into this report on two successful funding programs across the regional NSW network.

Current status of JOs is as follows:

Joint Organisation	Staff support and status
Canberra	EO FT plus support staff
Hunter	EO FT plus support staff
Illawarra	EO FT plus support staff
Far North West	EO PT
Far South West	In hiatus
Namoi	EO resigned, awaiting election results to progress next steps
New England	In hiatus
Northern Rivers	EO PT
Mid North Coast	EO PT (going to recruitment) plus project manager PT
Orana	In hiatus
RAMJO	EO PT plus support staff
Riverina JO	Resolved to put JO in hiatus and progress as a ROC as of June 30 2023

### Progress on the OLG Joint Organisation Review (the Review)

CNSWJO welcomed the opportunity to be engaged in the Review recommendations which were to be implemented within twelve months where this region suggested that a codesigned approach will lead to better outcomes. Since the review was published in late 2021 a State agency group excluding JOs was progressed through the OLG.

At a meeting 5 September 2022 with Executive Officers of JOs and State Agencies, the first Agency/JO Implementation Plan, three key pieces of work were identified. These were based on the four themes of the Implementation Plan circulated 27 July 2022 for “codesign.” These are as follows where membership is being sorted and status is currently at:

#### 1. Theme - Governance, promotion and communication

- Project - Develop a JO coms strategy to promote JOs to member Councils and provide a mechanism to engage JOs with agencies.
- Project lead - OLG

## Reports

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

- Members: Steve Wilson (Hunter JO), Warwick Bennett (CRJO), Jenny Bennett (CNSWJO), Anna Wyllie (DRNSW), Amanda Chadwick or delegate (DPE - Water Sector Reform), Simon Wallace Pannell (DPE – Sustainable Councils)
- First meeting held Monday 7 November. TOR under development.

## 2. Theme - Accountability and performance

- Project - Develop a list of key performance indicators for JOs to report against
- Project lead - Roger Stephan
- Members - Joe James (Hunter JO), Louise McMeeking (DRNSW), Nicola Gleeson Coopes (RAMJO)
- Discussion paper near completion

## 3. Theme - Financial sustainability and boundaries

- Project - Removing barriers to investment in JOs
- Project lead: Transferred to CNSWJO 24 November 2022
- Members - Warwick Bennett (CRJO), Roger Stephan (ISJO), Gary Hopkins (DPE - Planning), Gerry Collins (DRNSW), Joe James (Hunter JO) Jenny Bennett (CNSWJO), Simon Wallace Pannell (DPE – Sustainable Councils)
- Discussion paper complete. Several meetings have been held. Final report complete and attached to this meeting for adoption. In summary the report finds time has moved on since the inception of the Joint Organisation Review and enthusiasm for the process has waned. Over this period two significant things have happened:
  1. A small but growing number of JOs are either seeking to disband or go into hiatus; and
  2. A growing number of State agencies and programs are recognising the value of JOs, for example the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program (JONZA - 9 JOs working collaboratively with the State) and the Disaster Risk Reduction Program (8 JOs working collaboratively with the state.) JOs are leading this coordinated approach and are consistently giving consideration to further opportunities as part of the fortnightly collaboration of the JOEOs.

The following recommendations are made in the report:

1. *Form an ongoing interagency/JO Working Party including State Government membership a senior level to progress the balance of the recommendations in this report with its Terms of Reference codesigned with JOs;*
2. *Review the Local Government Act to both remove red tape and better enable JO's to represent member Councils effectively from a regional perspective;*
3. *Create or identify a Partnerships Director in the appropriate State Government Department whose role includes supporting NSW Government agencies and Councils to showcase JOs as a strong and respected partner for the NSW Government;*
4. *Create governance and other support arrangements around the Partnerships Director to further refine and promote the value stack identified by the Subcommittee;*
5. *Reinvigorate the Department of Premier and Cabinet policy for state agency alignment within planning boundaries in NSW;*
6. *The Department of Premier and Cabinet give consideration to:*
  - a. *Direct funding of Joint Organisations of \$250Kpa reflecting the value of their role in reducing costs and driving other efficiencies for the NSW Government in their partnership arrangements with local government and;*
  - b. *A root and branch review of the competitive funding framework for Local Government to recognise and realise the value of Joint Organisations in the context of enabling better overall outcomes.*

## Reports

A copy forms as an attachment for endorsement.

## Submissions

Please find at the following links to CNSWJO submissions:

- [Blackheath to Little Hartley Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\) – March 2023](#)

This submission supports the upgrade of this section of the Great Western Highway including the use of tunnels.

- [Bank closures in Regional Australia](#)

This submission suggests that banks have a community service obligation to conduct business in communities rather than close branches.

- [Statutory review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#)

A majority of the response in this submission expressed unhappiness with the Biodiversity Offset Scheme.

## OLG Stage 2 funding Project Plan Milestone Report

The approved OLG Stage 2 funding Project Plan has milestone reporting based on GMAC and Board business papers. The report was due 30 April. Please see attached.

The four projects being funded by the OLG are in energy, Community Strategic Planning (CSP), a tourism campaign and water. Please request past reports in this regard.

Progress is as follows:

- Please see previous Energy Reports for progress on the broader DPIE collaborative project. Funds are used to match DPIE funding or fill gaps as the project continues. Funding of \$50,933 has been expended.
- The CSP project has been completed and fully expended. Based on its success a second round is underway in collaboration with the RLE.
- The \$35,000 spend on the marketing campaign for the region which was designed under the messaging “The Long Long Weekend” has been fully expended.
- Given the state of flux for water training and the priority for funding for transitioning LWU strategy to IP&R mentioned elsewhere in this business paper, a variation has been sought from OLG for the \$25K to be transferred to supporting this initiative. Please find more detailed reporting elsewhere in this agenda.

## Cybersecurity Round Table in Bathurst 31 May

Members are encouraged to send staff to the Cyber Security Round Table in Bathurst 31 May. A survey has been developed and provided to members to help inform the Round Table.

The purpose of the Round Table is to provide advice to members on the free service offering by Cyber Security NSW and ID Support NSW and to seek feedback from members on how these services could be better tailored to meet Council cyber security needs.

# Reports

There will be an online option and calendar invitations have been issued to General Managers and IT staff.

### **Working with the RLE**

The RLE in the Central West is working well with the JO. Current projects are:

- Spare Capacity in Housing
- Growing RLE capacity in understanding water
- CSP Project

A meeting was held between RLE and CNSWJO for 2 May to go through both organisations strategies and programs to optimize regional delivery, 9 May for the Water specifically. Ms Olivia West will be present at this meeting and available for a verbal update.

### **Essential Energy Service levels**

Members will recall Essential Energy addressed the November 2022 meeting online, a report was provided in February that gave specific advice from Essential energy to our concerns raised.

Subsequently it was resolved to make representation to the Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Energy and Local Government Ministers and local Members expressing our frustration, despite raising ongoing concerns directly with Essential Energy, and remaining unresolved.

Representation was made on our behalf by Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke to the Office of Energy and Climate Change and copy of the response is attached. Member for Orange Phil Donato also made representation to Essential Energy Group Head of Network Investments and Maintenance, the response forms and attachment and a portion is below.

Mr Shepherd advises that he investigate CNSWJO's concerns about specific projects that have been impacted by delays to determine the cause and undertake any necessary remedial actions.

Members are asked to continue to advise of any matters that remain outstanding and further follow up will be undertaken.

### **Status of funding applications**

Members will be aware that there are a significant number of opportunities for Local Government, including JOs to participate in competitive grant rounds. Many members are seeking support letters from the JO, and these are provided upon request. The JO has or is making application under the following:

- Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Program (successful – please see reporting elsewhere in this agenda);
- The Regional NSW Regional Business Case Program (successful – please find advice in the Energy Report);

## **Reports**

- Fixing Country Roads Bridge and Route Load Assessment Stream (negotiating Deed);
- Joint Organisations Net Zero Acceleration Grant (JONZAG) (successful – please find advice in the Energy Report).
- Funding is being sought from the OECC on a case by case basis for members and for regional programming. Please see more detail in the Energy report.

A majority of members have sought funding through the JO for a project to support compliance with Modern Slavery Legislation. At the time of writing the application is being lodged for up to \$25K. Please see the procurement report.

The opportunity for members for the ARENA community battery program EOI is being explored and a verbal update can be provided to members. Advice has been provided to members and deadlines will be tight. There has been good support from the Energy Team for a batteries project behind the meter at water treatment and sewer treatment plants. The batteries will be fully funded however Councils have to opt in to bear the balance of expenses. Funding support is being provided through the JONZA program to develop the EOI.

### **Building Surveyors Working Group Update**

This report is provided as an update on the progress being made in the skills shortages area where this is a new priority for the JO.

A Skills Shortages Advocacy Plan has been developed and has been circulated to the Sponsoring General Managers, Human Resources Managers and the Building Surveyors Working Group for comment. The Advocacy Plan has been put to this Board meeting for adoption in a separate report.

LGNSW attend the meetings of the Building Surveyors Working Group and will be commencing work on developing a bank of building surveyor stories and push them out at no financial cost to the Group and a longer-term strategy may be dependent on the financial decisions made in the coming months.

Members have nominated a range of Building Surveyors across the region who will be interviewed for social media campaigns on Careers at Council. LGNSW's intent is to build a small bank of stories to profile the role, council, and career history of individuals working in building surveying in local government. Examples of employees in other roles are here - <https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/news/>.

LGNSW will then create LinkedIn posts to raise awareness of these stories/roles/councils amongst their 23,000+ LinkedIn followers - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/careers-at-council-local-government/posts/?feedView=all>

A Survey Monkey was designed and distributed to HR Managers in 2022 to capture the skill shortages issues Councils face across the Building Surveyor industry and staff were asked to consult with their Health & Building Surveyor staff when addressing the questions.

The results of this Survey Monkey indicated that there is an interest to share building surveying staff resources across other Councils and advice will be sought from Department of Fair Trading regarding the accreditation requirements and working across the various LGAs.

## **Reports**

There is also significant interest for a networking group to be formed to support the building surveyors and CNSWJO staff will assist with this. During the recent meeting/s discussions around the Environmental Development and Allied Professionals (EDAP) Group took place as this Group may also be one that can offer support. EDAP is a free membership group of building surveyors, health surveyors, town planners and environmental health officers (but mostly health and building surveyors) and also does include private building surveyors. The next annual conference of EDAP is being hosted by Bogan Shire Council on 17-19 May 2023 and this information has been distributed.

The Working Group are awaiting the Smart & Skilled funding announcement in mid-May 2023. It is hopeful that RTOs who have the Advanced Diploma of Building Surveying qualification on their scope will be on the list as the Working Group are very supportive of no-cost training.

### **Come Out – We’re Open Campaign**

Central NSW Joint Organisation launched the “Come Out, We’re Open” campaign to encourage people to wrap their arms around local businesses needing the support of visitors. The aim was to encourage locals to get out and holiday makers to return and enjoy the region at its greenest and the campaign includes digital, social media and public relations.

Although some parts of Central NSW had been impacted by flooding, many were not, and most accommodation and businesses across the region are open and ready to welcome people. Visitors are encouraged not to cancel or hesitate their travel plans. Come to Central NSW to enjoy the lush scenery, food and wine, boutique stores, cooling rivers and pick your own from orchards. Across social media people are being encouraged to share positive stories of support at #unearthcentralnsw.

Up to \$25,000 was approved under the hand of the Chair to fund the campaign. A further \$125,000 has been provided by Destination NSW and includes direct funding to Councils for social media boosting of events.

The source markets for this campaign were Sydney Metro, major NSW regional hubs including Canberra, Newcastle, Wollongong and key regional NSW towns and villages.

The campaign ran from March to April 2023 to capture the Easter travelling market and the NSW school holiday period. It is aimed at the 25-60 age group including couples and groups of friends seeking short breaks with an interest in culture, arts, heritage, boutique places to stay, food and wine plus drive destinations.

Through the Media Partners below, the execution details of the campaign included:

- Sydney Morning Herald Traveller print ads
  - 18 March – Oberon, Bathurst, Blayney, Orange, Cabonne
  - 25 March – Lithgow, Cowra, Forbes, Grenfell, Parkes, Lachlan
  - 8 April – bonus run of Full Page ad to be published by Traveller with no charge (negotiated by Gabrielle Brewer)
- Prime 7 TV – will reach at least 360,000 viewers each week with a minimum of 1.6m viewers over the 4 week campaign (see links below)
  - The 3 ads will feature 11 LGAs as equally as possible

## **Reports**

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

- Urban List – 1.3m Sydney page in Jan and for this campaign it will reach 150k across the site, social (Facebook and Instagram) and EDM will ensure a guaranteed 10k page views benchmark was achieved
  - The article will include all 11 LGAs
- Social Media Boost – each LGA received \$5k to boost an event.

In collaboration with Geagle Productions, two ads were produced – 2 x 15 second ads plus 1 x 30 second ad which were on rotation for the month. The ads featured the “Come Out, We’re Open” campaign creative content for a series of ads featured on Prime 7 TV.

Below are the links to the Prime 7 TV ads for the campaign:

30s - <https://vimeo.com/808517214/a0001b6e88>

15s x 1 - <https://vimeo.com/808567523/970e580d91>

15s x 2 - <https://vimeo.com/808567628/eca43035f8>

The ads aired on over 200 spots across the network for the month and included ads within Seven News, Better Homes & Gardens, The Chase, Farmer Wants a Wife and Home and Away.

The social media campaign boost of \$5k was an event focus during March/April 2023.

The campaign is also featured on the front page of the Visit Central NSW website:

<https://www.visitcentralnsw.com.au/11-amazing-autumn-adventures-in-central-nsw/>

Below are the website statistics provided on 11 April 2023:

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
<a href="#">Apr 2023</a>	4691	4179	876	344	2376	1182490	3446	8766	41798	46919
<a href="#">Mar 2023</a>	3709	3132	753	256	6022	2889056	7948	23353	97093	114990
<a href="#">Feb 2023</a>	2564	2267	587	203	4036	1805823	5687	16453	63495	71812
<a href="#">Jan 2023</a>	2936	2622	516	209	4598	1986175	6485	16010	81299	91037
<a href="#">Dec 2022</a>	2811	2457	520	208	4113	1987360	6453	16125	76168	87150
<a href="#">Nov 2022</a>	2422	2054	547	222	6302	1867378	6672	16411	61640	72676
<a href="#">Oct 2022</a>	1560	1376	322	144	3910	1225618	4488	10008	42662	48368
<a href="#">Sep 2022</a>	3098	2781	512	228	5699	2404048	6846	15372	83444	92959
<a href="#">Aug 2022</a>	2503	2189	516	208	5557	1816528	6461	16022	67885	77609
<a href="#">Jul 2022</a>	2281	1982	458	208	5758	1605514	6455	14227	61450	70722
<a href="#">Jun 2022</a>	2352	2092	497	193	5304	1990305	5798	14919	62789	70573
<a href="#">May 2022</a>	2423	2024	553	199	5571	1964960	6199	17153	62764	75119
<b>Totals</b>						<b>22725255</b>	<b>72938</b>	<b>184819</b>	<b>802487</b>	<b>919934</b>

## Reports

Below is a copy of the final SMH Traveller ad that went to print. A third run of the promotion was provided for free through the negotiations of Gabrielle Brewer:

**UN EARTH CENTRAL NSW**

# AUTUMN IN CENTRAL NSW

**Grenfell - Sunset views**  
credit Destination NSW

**Oberon - Mayfield Garden**  
credit Destination NSW

**Condobolin - Utes in the Paddock**  
credit Pat Corden

**Cowra - Japanese Garden in Autumn**  
credit David Roma

**Parkes - New cycling routes**  
credit Mattie Gould

**Canowindra - International Balloon Challenge**  
credit Mattie Gould

**Bathurst - Historic centre in Autumn**  
credit David Roma

**Lithgow - Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area**  
credit Kristin Cunningham

**Blayney - Villages cycling**  
credit Mattie Gould

**Forbes - Sculpture down the Lachlan**  
credit Monique Lovick

**Orange - Food and wine**  
credit Kristin Cunningham

**Now is the time to plan a short break to Central NSW as an explosion of beautiful golden colours transforms the landscape, it is the best season to enjoy the region's arts, culture, history, food and wine.**

Explore world-renowned gardens, forage for food, cycle to vineyards, marvel at outdoor art trails, bushwalk through National Parks, and indulge your tastebuds on local produce. The region is teeming with boutique places to stay, from hotels and motels to glamping and farm stays. Take the back roads to lesser-known towns and villages, indulge in some retail therapy, and stay a little longer.

**There is so much to see, do and taste.**

**COME OUT, WE'RE OPEN**

Central NSW includes the Local Government Areas of Oberon, Lithgow, Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Orange, Parkes and Weddin.  
Unearth your Central NSW at [www.visitcentralnsw.com.au](http://www.visitcentralnsw.com.au)

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

The digital content for the campaign is still live until end May and the LGAs have until the end of May to complete their promotions. Gabrielle Brewer will collate all the results from partners and provide an activity report in June 2023.

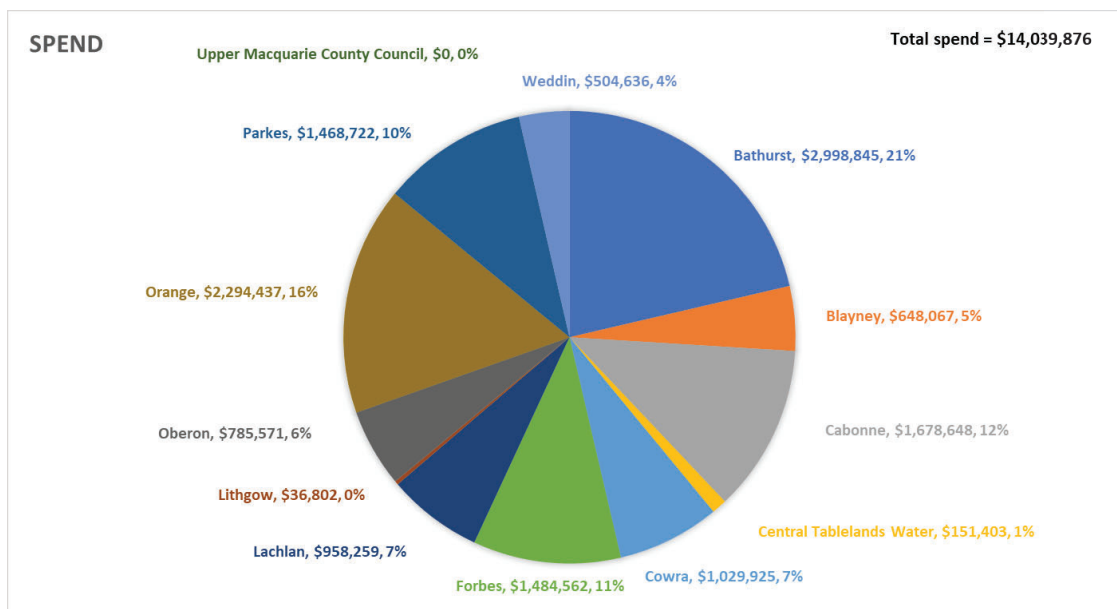
### Spend, Cost Savings and Funding

The following tables have been updated to reflect the spend, cost savings and grant funding through the Joint Organisation for the 2022/2023 financial year and are reported on a quarterly basis. Cumulative spend and cost savings for previous financial years are available on request.

#### Spend

The following table reflects the spend by each member Council under the various JO contracts for the 22/23 financial year to date, noting that there are still a number of providers yet to provide their spend data.

SPEND	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	IT contracts	Supply contracts	Roads/ Transport contracts	Energy contracts	RDOCS contracts	Other contracts	Training	Total
Bathurst	\$7,900	\$59,146	\$12,681	\$0	\$1,421,915	\$0	\$1,455,453	\$41,750	\$0	\$0	\$2,998,845
Blayney	\$6,700	\$12,891	\$0	\$0	\$528,883	\$0	\$94,666	\$4,928	\$0	\$0	\$648,067
Cabonne	\$7,000	\$26,599	\$280	\$0	\$1,536,381	\$0	\$108,388	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,678,648
Central Tablelands Water	\$6,700	\$604	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$139,099	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$151,403
Cowra	\$14,323	\$29,620	\$13,905	\$0	\$657,514	\$0	\$308,462	\$0	\$0	\$6,100	\$1,029,925
Forbes	\$7,000	\$28,843	\$0	\$0	\$1,086,170	\$0	\$331,421	\$27,878	\$0	\$3,250	\$1,484,562
Lachlan	\$7,000	\$23,292	\$0	\$0	\$831,511	\$0	\$67,103	\$0	\$0	\$29,353	\$958,259
Lithgow	\$7,000	\$9,802	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$36,802
Oberon	\$7,000	\$13,084	\$0	\$0	\$696,046	\$0	\$52,112	\$15,764	\$0	\$1,565	\$785,571
Orange	\$55,068	\$70,144	\$5,467	\$0	\$762,442	\$0	\$1,358,900	\$17,081	\$0	\$25,335	\$2,294,437
Parkes	\$7,000	\$24,570	\$0	\$0	\$1,074,866	\$0	\$316,507	\$31,534	\$0	\$14,245	\$1,468,722
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Weddin	\$17,416	\$1,129	\$0	\$0	\$376,702	\$0	\$106,643	\$2,745	\$0	\$0	\$504,636
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,107</b>	<b>\$299,724</b>	<b>\$32,334</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,972,430</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,338,753</b>	<b>\$166,680</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$79,848</b>	<b>\$14,039,876</b>



#### Savings

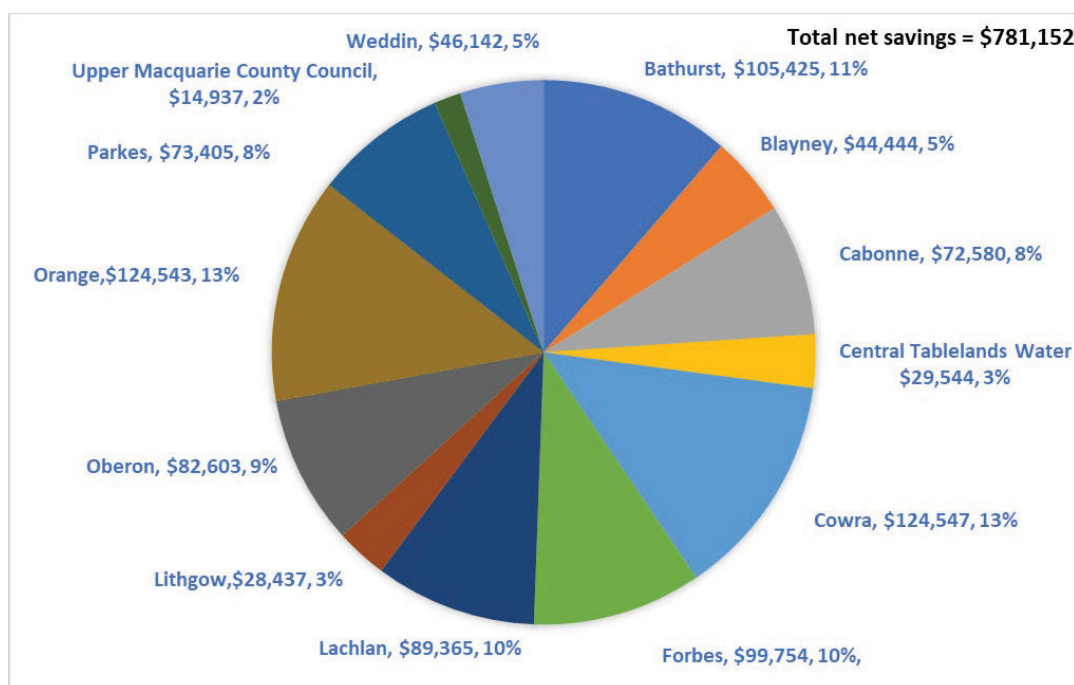
The following table shows the savings achieved by member Councils through aggregated procurement and programming. An explanation of the meaning of each column has been reported previously and is available on request. The table reflects savings in the 22/23 financial year to date.

## Reports

## Central NSW JO Board Meeting 24 May 2023

The cost to members is calculated on a percentage of each CNSWJO staff member and their corresponding workload on procurement and contract management. This figure is updated quarterly in line with the cost savings.

SAVINGS	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	IT contracts	Supply contracts	Roads/Transport contracts	Energy contracts	RDOCS contracts	Other contracts	Training	Legal advice re Procurement	Participation in regional procurement	Total
Bathurst	\$1,500	\$47,222	\$12,681	\$0	\$18,775	\$0	\$0	\$10,309	\$0	\$0	\$4,937	\$10,000	\$105,425
Blayney	\$1,500	\$12,007	\$0	\$0	\$9,130	\$0	\$0	\$870	\$0	\$0	\$4,937	\$16,000	\$44,444
Cabonne	\$1,500	\$12,016	\$280	\$0	\$32,161	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,686	\$4,937	\$16,000	\$72,580
Central Tablelands Water	\$1,500	\$107	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,937	\$21,000	\$29,544
Cowra	\$1,500	\$23,874	\$13,905	\$0	\$45,806	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,525	\$4,937	\$31,000	\$124,547
Forbes	\$1,500	\$12,704	\$0	\$0	\$45,356	\$0	\$0	\$6,920	\$0	\$10,115	\$4,937	\$12,000	\$99,754
Lachlan	\$1,500	\$21,418	\$0	\$0	\$26,255	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,256	\$4,937	\$25,000	\$89,365
Lithgow	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,937	\$16,000	\$28,437
Oberon	\$1,500	\$19,529	\$0	\$0	\$26,620	\$0	\$0	\$3,017	\$0	\$0	\$4,937	\$27,000	\$82,603
Orange	\$1,500	\$69,173	\$5,467	\$0	\$24,735	\$0	\$0	\$3,014	\$0	\$5,718	\$4,937	\$10,000	\$124,543
Parkes	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$34,047	\$0	\$0	\$5,447	\$0	\$7,474	\$4,937	\$16,000	\$73,405
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,937	\$10,000	\$14,937
Weddin	\$1,500	\$199	\$0	\$0	\$10,539	\$0	\$0	\$484	\$0	\$5,482	\$4,937	\$23,000	\$46,142
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$222,249</b>	<b>\$32,334</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$273,423</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$38,061</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$48,255</b>	<b>\$64,181</b>	<b>\$233,000</b>	<b>\$929,502</b>
												Cost to members	\$148,350
												<b>Total</b>	<b>\$781,152</b>



## Grant Funding

The following table details the grant funding received to date in the 22/23 FY.

GRANT FUNDING - 22/23 FY	Water	Training/HR/ WHS	IT	Supply	Roads/Transport	Energy	RDOCS	Tourism	Other	Total
Bathurst	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$91,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$154,767
Blayney	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$99,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$162,767
Cabonne	\$18,750	\$5,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$159,467
Central Tablelands Water	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$99,472	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$118,222
Cowra	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$85,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$148,767
Forbes	\$18,750	\$11,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$175,167
Lachlan	\$18,750	\$5,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$101,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$170,467
Lithgow	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$124,372	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$187,667
Oberon	\$18,750	\$2,850	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$98,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$164,617
Orange	\$18,750	\$14,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$107,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$185,017
Parkes	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$101,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$164,767
Weddin	\$18,750	\$2,850	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$98,472	\$0	\$11,364	\$33,181	\$164,617
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$42,750</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,198,562</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$364,995</b>	<b>\$1,956,307</b>

## Reports

**Value for members**

Please see below the value to members for this financial year to date and a summary of the previous years.

VALUE FOR MEMBERS	FY 2019/ 2020	FY 2020 /2021	FY 2021/ 2022	FYTD 2022/ 2023	ACTIVITY THIS QUARTER 24/2/2023 – 24/5/2023
SUBMISSIONS	20	23	16	13	110423- CNSWJO Response to Statutory review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 310323- Bank closures in Regional Australia 020323- OECC on Going Circular in Clean Energy 010323- Blackheath to Little Hartley Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 110523- AER ON Essential Energy 24-29 Pricing Proposal
PLANS, STRATEGIES AND COLLATERAL	26	12	3	9	Regional Water Loss Management Opportunities Report
GRANTS SEEKING	3	3	1	\$200k	Applied for Safe and Secure Water Program stream 2 funding.
GRANT FUNDING AWARDED	\$215k	\$736k	\$738k	\$2.8m	\$560K Bridge Capacity Assessments \$125K Destination NSW \$28K NSW Health Water Unit was provided to the operators who attended the NSW Health Fluoride Operator training delivered in Parkes by Murray Thompson
COMPLIANCE	13	9	11	15	260423 – Information session with Lithgow City Council on the online WHS Induction portal 18+19 April 2023, the NSW Health Fluoride Operators training course was delivered at Parkes by Murray Thompson & Belinda Green. 14 operators from across 4 member councils (Cabonne, Forbes, Lachlan & Oberon) and 2 non-member councils (Mid-Western & Dubbo) registered to attend the training. Murray & Belinda conducted the training and NSW Health provided an online presentation to the Group. *Murray & Belinda conducted the training, NSW Health provided an online presentation to the Group and <i>provided a subsidy payment of \$2k per person.</i>
DATA	6	3	1	14	Nil this quarter
COST SAVINGS	\$1.87m	\$2.2m	\$2.1m	\$800k	See previous pages for more detail
REPRESENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES COUNCILS HAVE BEEN AFFORDED	147	159	210	111	230223- CNSWJO Board – Forbes 240223- CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management Project Technical Committee 270223 – EO JO network meeting 280223 – HR Managers Meeting – Forbes 280223- CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management PSC 010323 – Planners Group Meeting 020323 – Tourism Managers Campaign meeting 060323- JO EO fortnightly meeting 060323- CNSWJO Energy Priority Portfolio Mayor 070323- CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management PSC

**Reports**

					070323 – CNSWJO WHS/RM Group Meeting – Forbes 090323- Water Directorate Executive Com Meeting 090323- Central West Orana and Far West Regional Recovery Committee 090323 – CNSWJO TLD Working Group Meeting – online 160323- NSW JO Chairs Forum – Online 200323- EO JO network meeting 220323 – Building Surveyors Working Group Meeting – online 220323- Disaster Risk Reduction Fund - Initial Project Steering Committee Meeting 270323- Steering Committee for energy nexus business case 290323 -Copyright info session 290323 – Transport Technical Committee Orange 300323 - Performance Monitoring Audit Presentation of Regional Findings online 030423_Southern Lights Meeting 030423 – EO JO network meeting 050423- Copyright info Session 120423 – Remuneration Tribunal 170423-JO EO fortnightly meeting 190423- CNSWJO Health Priority Portfolio Mayors 18+190423 – NSW Health Fluoride Operators Training Course 270423- GMAC updates from NBN and MBA Consulting 010523- JO EO fortnightly meeting 020523 – Building Surveyors Working Group Meeting – online 030523- DRRF Working Group Regional Resilience 030523- CNSWJO Water Utilities Alliance Meeting 030523-Planners meeting 040523- Water Directorate Executive Committee 050523- Reference Group Workshop 1 - Valuation of costs and benefits of Water conservation initiatives 080523- CNSW Integrated Transport Group 080523- Southern Lights Family Meeting 100523 – Net Zero Group meeting 120523- CNSWJO Regional WLM Project Meeting with Project Control Group 150523- JO EO fortnightly meeting 160523 – CNSWJO HR Managers Group Meeting – Parkes 170523- Regional IT Managers Group Meeting
MEDIA INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA	13	18	25	28	110523 – Explore and Indulge in Country NSW this Winter (produced by Gabrielle Brewer) 170523- Emergency Services Levy is the latest disaster 100523 – Central NSW Mayors welcome Minister’s commitment to fair and equitable access to water 100523 - The eleven Mayors of the region take their ideas to Canberra 010523 - CNSWJO Chair welcomes collaborative approach to better Health and Social Care for our Communities 180423 -Charles Sturt continues to put regional Australia first: new Local Government Policy Working Group

## Reports

					<p>040423 - CNSWJO Chair welcomes the recently announced NSW Cabinet</p> <p>240323-Central NSW Councils say no to bank closures in regional Australia</p> <p>160323- Central NSW Joint Organisation have secured \$647K for their member Councils in Central NSW for the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund</p> <p>070323- Lithgow Proclaimed as a member of the Central NSW Joint Organisation</p> <p>020323-Saving every drop is harder than you think</p> <p>270223- Central NSW Joint Organisation receives NSW Government grant to help councils work together towards net zero</p> <p>220223 – Oberon’s Field to Forest Festival, a Wild Food Adventure</p> <p>A few results regarding Oberon’s Field to Forest Festival follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Grazier.com.au</b> – included in their Grazier Weekly newsletter</li> <li>2. <b>AustralianTraveller.com.au</b></li> </ol> <p>❖ <b>E Global Travel Media</b> -  <a href="https://eglobaltravelmedia.com.au/2023/02/15/oberons-field-to-forest-festival-a-wild-food-adventure/">https://eglobaltravelmedia.com.au/2023/02/15/oberons-field-to-forest-festival-a-wild-food-adventure/</a></p> <p>130323 – 11 Amazing Autumn Adventures in Central NSW</p> <p>‘Come out, We’re Open’ Campaign – digital articles with supported digital brand ads (of various sizes across platform) and boosts via social media have been launched on <b>SMH Traveller</b> and <b>Urban List in the past week</b>. This supports the TV ads on 7 Prime and a full-page ad in the ‘<i>Sydney Morning Herald Traveller</i>’ which was published on Saturday 8 April 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sydney Morning Herald Traveller – ‘Seasoned traveller: an awesome autumn escape is just around the corner’ - <a href="https://www.smh.com.au/traveller/inspiration/seasoned-traveller-an-awesome-autumn-escape-is-just-around-the-corner-20230406-h2b2wo.html?ref=rss&amp;utm_medium=rss&amp;utm_source=rss_feed">https://www.smh.com.au/traveller/inspiration/seasoned-traveller-an-awesome-autumn-escape-is-just-around-the-corner-20230406-h2b2wo.html?ref=rss&amp;utm_medium=rss&amp;utm_source=rss_feed</a></li> <li>• Urban List, Sydney – ‘11 Adventures In Country NSW To Discover With Your Lover This Autumn’ - <a href="https://www.theurbanlist.com/sydney/a-list/central-nsw-romantic-autumn-getaways">https://www.theurbanlist.com/sydney/a-list/central-nsw-romantic-autumn-getaways</a></li> </ul> <p><u>Social Media followers as at 11 May 2023:</u></p> <p>Facebook – 629</p> <p>Twitter – 929</p> <p>Instagram (CNSWT) – 6,234</p> <p>CNSWT Facebook – 15k</p>
PR VALUE OF TOURISM	\$1.5m	\$2.4m	\$1.9m	tbc	These figures are provided Annually.
MEDIA PR VALUE	35	102	101	51	During 2021/2022 the PR generated articles produced tourism editorial content to the value of \$640k+ and \$1.9m in advertising value.

## Reports

				<p>These figures from Gabrielle Brewer Public Relations are provided annually at the end of each financial year.</p> <p>Visit Central NSW Website Update: The <a href="http://www.visitcentralnsw.com.au">www.visitcentralnsw.com.au</a> website has been updated with supporting content on what to see and do – particularly regarding the “Come Out We’re Open” campaign (website statistics provided in the update above)</p> <p>PR Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Qantaslink</b> – ‘15 of the Best Winter Escapes in NSW’ – a feature sponsored by Destination NSW features <b>Bathurst’s Wilga Station</b> <a href="https://www.qantas.com/travelinsider/en/explore/australia/new-south-wales/best-winter-accommodation-nsw.html">https://www.qantas.com/travelinsider/en/explore/australia/new-south-wales/best-winter-accommodation-nsw.html</a></li> <li>2. <b>Escape, The Sunday Telegraph</b> and all News Ltd papers – ‘99 new travel sensations’ around the world features <b>Orange’s Basalt</b> at number 3! <a href="https://www.escape.com.au/top-lists/99-mindblowing-new-travel-experiences/image-gallery/9805bb760e5aa1f680b548f9ee95ab68">https://www.escape.com.au/top-lists/99-mindblowing-new-travel-experiences/image-gallery/9805bb760e5aa1f680b548f9ee95ab68</a> - (this was also in print across the Escape insert interstate)</li> <li>3. <b>Country Style Magazine</b>, April issue – <i>Oberon’s Field to Forest Festival</i> featured in the April events calendar</li> <li>4. <b>Country Style Magazine</b>, April issue – Bathurst’s new <i>Wool Store</i> boutique accommodation featured in the Weekend Away section</li> <li>5. <b>City News</b> – Central NSW featured on a road trip travel story - <a href="https://citynews.com.au/2023/prepare-to-discover-magical-destinations-close-by-2/">https://citynews.com.au/2023/prepare-to-discover-magical-destinations-close-by-2/</a></li> <li>6. <b>Australian Traveller</b> – well done Orange for being named the first ‘<i>Prettiest Towns to visit in Australia in Autumn</i>’- <a href="https://www.australiantraveller.com/australia/prettiest-autumn-towns/">https://www.australiantraveller.com/australia/prettiest-autumn-towns/</a></li> <li>7. <b>The Daily Telegraph</b> – ‘<i>Quirky Getaways with Star Power</i>’ travel feature on bush getaways includes Bathurst’s Wilga Station</li> <li>8. <b>The Sydney Morning Herald, Traveller</b> – ‘<i>Six of the best country homestead stays</i>’ Mayfield Vineyard Estate in Orange featured as a result of hosting Sue Wallace recently.</li> <li>9. <b>The Age, Traveller</b> - ‘<i>Six of the best country homestead stays</i>’ Mayfield Vineyard Estate in Orange featured as a result of hosting Sue Wallace recently</li> <li>10. <b>Traveller.com.au</b> - ‘<i>Six of the best Australian country homesteads you can stay in</i>’ includes Mayfield Vineyard</li> </ol>
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## Reports

					<p>Estate in Orange  <a href="https://www.traveller.com.au/six-of-the-best-australian-country-homesteads-you-can-stay-in-h2alky">https://www.traveller.com.au/six-of-the-best-australian-country-homesteads-you-can-stay-in-h2alky</a>  Sue Wallace visited for Explore, yet to be published, so this is a bonus piece</p> <p>11. <b>Escape, Sunday Telegraph</b> – Travel News – ‘<i>Sky High Challenge</i>’ Ballooning in Canowindra for the International Balloon Challenge</p> <p>(a) This ran across the Escape newspapers in Courier Mail QLD, Herald Sun VIC, Sunday Mail SA and in Tasmania</p> <p>12. <b>E Global Travel Media</b> – ‘11 Amazing Adventures in Central NSW’ -  <a href="https://eglobaltravelmedia.com.au/2023/03/16/11-amazing-autumn-adventures-in-central-nsw/">https://eglobaltravelmedia.com.au/2023/03/16/11-amazing-autumn-adventures-in-central-nsw/</a></p> <p>13. <b>Vacations and Travel Magazine</b> – ‘On the Road Again’ NSW Road Trips feature includes the Central West</p> <p>14. <b>E Global Travel Media</b> – ‘Extend the Summer in Country NSW’-  <a href="https://eglobaltravelmedia.com.au/2023/01/10/extend-the-summer-in-country-nsw/">https://eglobaltravelmedia.com.au/2023/01/10/extend-the-summer-in-country-nsw/</a></p> <p>15. <b>Urban List</b> – ‘Top Winter Getaways’ features Orange  <a href="https://www.theurbanlist.com/sydney/a-list/winter-getaways-nsw">https://www.theurbanlist.com/sydney/a-list/winter-getaways-nsw</a></p> <p>16. <b>Urban List</b> – ‘Best glamping in NSW features Orange’s Nashdale Lane’ ‘<a href="https://www.theurbanlist.com/sydney/a-list/best-glamping-nsw">https://www.theurbanlist.com/sydney/a-list/best-glamping-nsw</a></p>
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### Reporting to the Strategic Business Plan

Please find following an update on progress on the Strategic Business Plan adopted 24 November 2022. The update will be provided as an attachment going forward.

### Attachment/s:

31. Update on progress on the Strategic Business Plan
32. Report to the OLG Capacity Building Fund for Stage 2
33. Report to OLG Financial Sustainability and Boundaries Subcommittee #3 tasked with reporting on removing barriers to investment in JOs

## Reports