

Agenda to the Board Meeting Wednesday 23 August 2023

Voting Delegates

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

Associate member delegates and others attending

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

It is advised that the next meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board will be held Wednesday 23 August 2023 beginning at 12.30pm in the LGNSW Boardroom, Level 8, 28 Margaret Street Sydney.

Dinner Wednesday 23 August 6.30pm has been booked at the Jounieh Restaurant Pier 6/7 Promenade Foreshore, Shop 2/17 Hickson Rd, Dawes Point.

Thursday 24 August 2023, will be held at NSW Parliament House, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney hosted by the Hon Steph Cooke, Member for Cootamundra, who will address the Board at 9.00am. A separate schedule will be circulated.

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

Agenda

Agenda

1. Welcome

2. Acknowledgment to Country: Gadigal (Sydney)

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. Speakers

- a. Cr Darriea Turley AM, President of Local Government NSW will dial in at 1.00pm
- b. Mr Brett Whitworth Deputy Secretary, Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment

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10. Late Reports

11. Matters raised by Members.


Blayney and Orange seeking support for ORAG & Bathurst Bullet and Faster Rail – please see advice in the report updating advocacy page 18

12. Speakers to the next meeting

13. Next Meetings:

GMAC: 26 October – Forbes

Board: 23 November - Lachlan - Country Mayors in Sydney 24 November – a new date or location may be needed



Jenny Bennett

Executive Officer

Central NSW Joint Organisation

Agenda

6. Minutes**a. Confirmation of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 24 May 2023****Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 24 May 2023 held in Canberra CSU****In Attendance***

Cr R Taylor	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr M Statham	Lithgow City Council
Cr D Somerville	Blayney Shire Council	Cr M Kellam	Oberon Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	Cr J Hamling	Orange City Council
Cr B West	Cowra Shire Council	Cr K Keith OAM	Parkes Shire Council
Cr C Roylance	Forbes Shire Council	Cr C Bembrick	Weddin Shire Council
Cr J Medcalf OAM	Lachlan Shire Council		

Mr A Jones	Bathurst Regional Council	Mr G Rhodes	CTW
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Ms R Fagan	RDACW
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Ms O West	Regional NSW
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Ms J Bennett	CNSWJO
Mr S Loane OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms J Webber	CNSWJO
Mr C Butler	Lithgow City Council	Ms G Quinton	CNSWJO
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms V Page	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council		
Mr B Hayes	Parkes Shire Council		
Ms N Vu	Weddin Shire Council		

*Voting members in bold

Meeting opened at 12.39 pm by Chair Cr Kevin Beatty

1. Acknowledgement of Country

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 ‘

2. Welcome from the Chair Cr Kevin Beatty**3. Apologies applications for a leave of absence by Joint Voting representatives**

Cr P Miller, Cr S Ferguson, Mr D Sherley, Mr K Boyd, Cr A McGibbon, Mr T Johnson and Ms K Barker.

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf/Cr M Kellam
That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 24 May 2023 listed above be accepted.	

4. Conflicts of Interest

Resolved	Cr C Bembrick/Cr M Statham
Nil declared	

5. Minutes**Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 February 2023 held online**

Resolved	Cr K Keith/Cr J Medcalf
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board confirm the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 February 2023 held in Forbes	

6. Business Arising from the Minutes – Matters in Progress

Resolved	Cr M Kellam/Cr R Taylor
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.	

7. Reports on Statement of Regional Strategic Priority**Priority One: Inter-Council Co-operation****a. Financial Report**

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr M Kellam
That the Board note the Financial Report.	

b. Compliance Report

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr M Kellam
That the Board note the Compliance Report	

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

Resolved	Cr R Taylor/C K Keith
That the Board note the Budget considerations 2023/2024 and revision of the CNSWJO Charter report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. adopt the Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget; 2. adopt the revised CNSWJO Charter with the amendment that the increase to the payment of the Chair be the same as the percentage increase set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. 	

d. The CNSWJO Governance and Advocacy Report

Resolved	Cr C Bembrick/Cr J Medcalf
That the Board note the CNSWJO Governance Advocacy Report and	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 8. note the advice on meeting frequency for the CNSWJO; and 9. write to the new Health Minister about the pending decision on the Rural Health Advisory Committee and more local government representation. 	

e. Regional Procurement and Contracts

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr K Keith
That the Board notes the report on the Regional Procurement and Contract Management Report and that it:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approve the changes to the Procurement Policy where the material changes include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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; 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; 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; e. the approvals for variations to existing CNSWJO contracts be the same as the delegations for approving to conduct a procurement process; 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; g. amend the delegations register accordingly; 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; and 3. report all use of the delegations above to the next Board meeting. 	

Priority two: Regional Prosperity through better Infrastructure and Services**f. Opportunities for Screen in Central NSW Report**

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

g. Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Program report

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf/Cr K Keith
That the Board note the Disaster Risk Reduction Program (the Program) report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. adopt the Program's Communication Plan; 2. adopt the Program's Project Steering Committee Terms of Reference; and 3. adopt the Program's Needs Analyses Working Group Terms of Reference; and 4. seek to have Weddin included in the Central West State boundary for Disaster Recovery. 	

h. Advocacy for Change to the Treasury Common Planning Assumptions

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr D Somerville
That the Board note the Advocacy for Change to the Treasury Common Planning Assumptions report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. continue advocate for changes to Treasury Common Planning Assumptions; 	

2. provide feedback again to the Auditor General that their use generates a gross waste of public money and should be audited; and
3. receive costing for an analysis of population projections.

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

Resolved	Cr K Keith/Cr J Medcalf
That the Board note the Transport report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. encourage representatives from members Councils to attend the workshop 9 June in Parkes planning for a southern route around Bathurst; 2. adopt the Transport Technical Committee Terms of Reference and the Strategy; 3. develop 'Fix Me' collateral to make the case for change to the framework for natural disaster road funding; 4. note the project with the Grattan Institute on roads' funding being progressed though the Chair; 5. 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; and 6. invite Mr Damian Pfeiffer to the next meeting to discuss the future priorities and corridor work TfNSW are undertaking in region. 	

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

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

Ms Olivia West arrived at 1.38pm

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

Resolved	Cr M Kellam/Cr C Bembrick
That the Board note the Energy Report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approve the draft project plan for the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) Program; 2. endorse the Southern Lights NSW submission on Essential Energy's 2024-2029 Pricing Proposal in relation to public lighting pricing; 3. endorse the CNSWJO submission on Essential Energy's 2024-2029 Pricing Proposal; 4. endorse the CNSWJO submission to the NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change on Going Circular in Clean Energy; 5. endorse a regional application to ARENA's Community Batteries Funding Round 1 program for interested councils and eligible sites; 6. adopt the revised Energy Advocacy Plan; and 7. a report be provided on the issues with State Significant Development approvals including but not limited to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. concerns regarding poor engagement with community and its impacts; b. funding for Councils to manage the costs of community response including legal and other expert advice; c. minimising sterilisation of agricultural land including allowing grazing below panels. 	

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

Resolved	Cr M Kellam/ Cr K Keith
That the Board 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"> 1. encourage members' staff to attend a cybersecurity round table in Bathurst 31 May 2023; 2. endorse the submissions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Response to Statutory review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 b. Bank closures in Regional Australia; and c. Blackheath to Little Hartley Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 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; 4. note the responses received from the Member for Orange regarding Essential Energy service; and 5. advocate to the relevant Ministers on issues regarding the ESL Levy, red fleet and seeking the extension of the Active Kids Vouchers. 	

10. Confidential Reports

Resolved	Cr M Statham/Cr B West
That the Board:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. move into closed session to consider business identified; 2. pursuant to section 10A(1)-(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A(2) as outlined above; and 3. correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access. 	

Central NSW JO Staff left the room

a. CNSWJO Executive Officer Performance Review 2021-2022 and Extension of Contract

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf/Cr M Kellam
That the Board note the report regarding the performance management of the Executive Officer and that the performance was better than satisfactory; and	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the reappointment, upon expiration of her current contract of employment of Ms Jenny Bennett to the position of Executive Officer for a period of five (5) years; and 2. endorse the Executive Officer's Performance Review Panel consists of the Chair, Deputy Chair, a Mayor (Board Member) nominated by the Executive Officer to be facilitated by the Chair of GMAC. 	

b. Executive Officer Transition Report

Resolved	Cr K Keith/Cr J Medcalf
That the Board note the Executive Officer Transition Report and	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note that internal systems and workloads are being reviewed and strengthened; 2. accept that the Executive Officer, Ms J Bennett, will be spending a growing proportion of her time in Forster noting she is able to work remotely; 3. note that for the next period of leave of the Executive Officer in June/July of this year Ms Kate Barker will be the Acting Executive Officer for the CNSWJO; 4. note that to manage the risk to the broader JO network CNSWJO has had a lead role in advocacy and JO coordination and that other options for this support outside of CNSWJO be canvassed; and 	

- | |
|---|
| 5. receive a report on implementing one salary system and restructuring options for the transition period including a 2IC model where the EO takes on a reduced role. |
|---|

2.06pm Central NSW JO Staff returned to the room

c. Tender for the Business Case for the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf/Cr M Kellam
That the Board note the confidential report for the Tender for the Business Case for the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction in Central NSW and enter into a contract with Ernst & Young for the delivery of the services; and	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. delegate the signing of contracts to the Executive Officer; and 2. advise all tenderers of the decision in accordance with clause 179 of the Regulation. 	

Resolved	Cr J Hamling/Cr M Kellam
That the Board resumes open session.	

11. Late reports – Nil

12. Matters raised by Members

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr M Statham
That	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the CNSWJO supports Cabonne Council in regard to Cabonne communities' flood recovery efforts in particular the village of Eugowra; 2. the CNSWJO expresses concerns raised by member Councils regarding the support from Federal and State governments with flood recovery from the 2022 flooding events and write to the Premier, Prime Minister and relevant Ministers and invite them to visit the affected regions; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. advise LGNSW of the concerns seeking support, b. seek support from Country Mayors; and c. issue media accordingly. 	

The meeting was suspended to hear from the Guest Speaker at 2.35pm

Professor Mark Evans, CSU Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research) launched future Policy Lab collaboration, in Health and Water Security.

It is suggested that the first meeting also includes Social Media use and threats.

There was interest in working with CSU on affordable Housing and the Planning Assumptions issue.

Professor Evans left at 3.22pm

Lachlan Shire Council Left the meeting at 3.35pm

The meeting resumed at 3.37pm

Resolved	Cr D Somerville/ Cr B West
That the Board	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. advocate regarding the local government water ownership; and 2. CNSWJO supports an extension to the current protection from privatisation be extended to Water NSW and Local Water Utilities. 	

Resolved	Cr B West/Cr M Kellam
That the Board	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide advocacy support to Lithgow Council for the community of the Wolgan Valley who will have no reasonable road access for four years; and2. This support include amendments to disaster relief criteria.	

Regional NSW Director Oliva West updated the Board on a MOU Regional NSW has with ACT and offered to provide a report to the next meeting.

11. Speakers to the next meeting.

Damien Pfeiffer – TfNSW

12. Next meetings:

GMAC: 27 July – Orange

Board: 24 August - State Parliament - TBC

Meeting closed 3.48pm

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7. Matters in Progress

Please note that numbering will not always align with Minutes they originally came from as they are provided for navigation.

Action	By	Update
290519-8b-Drought Sub-committee - Progressing the recommendations of the Drought Issues Paper 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	290519-8b-- Progressing the recommendations of the Drought Issues Paper 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. https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/future-ready-regions There has been a 2023 update on progress Future Ready Regions 2023 Update (nsw.gov.au) Further the funding programs for drought have been evaluated with the findings being positive. Drought Measures – Strategic Evaluation (nsw.gov.au) While it is pleasing that the work this region has been undertaking is recognised by the NSW Government 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. 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. 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

Matters in Progress

Action	By	Update
		<p>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 Draft Implementation Plan for the Macquarie Regional Water Strategy contemplates this structural arrangement.</p>
<p>271119-P4-b-Regional Water Report.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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); b. Ownership and management by LG of any such infrastructure built to transfer emergency water between towns across the region for critical human needs; c. On-going operational costs for emergency water infrastructure; d. A multi-source approach to the supply of emergency water that enables options to be switched on or off as 	MM	<p>While a Regional Water Committee of member councils met in April 2020, strategic work on a.to d. has been driven by the NSW 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 councils have been actively pursuing water security solutions and enabling policy and structures through these programs, the RWSs have been subject to long delays and are yet to be finalised. Further, feedback from councils is that in trying to progress infrastructure solutions they 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>These challenges have been raised with the Water Portfolio Mayors at meetings on 22 May and 12 July and it has been agreed that advocacy collateral be developed.</p> <p>See the Regional Water Report for detail of recent advocacy.</p>

Matters in Progress

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

Action	By	Update
needed with these to be linked to State and local based triggers		
41220-9m-Western Link Work with TfNSW on aligned messages on road safety.	JB	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.
030621- Progressing a Western Link Event 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. Hawkesbury Council
240222 -9b- Review of the CNSWJO Advocacy position for a safe, swift link between Central NSW and Sydney Hold a workshop to revitalise strategy connection to the east coast, inviting TfNSW and including rail.	JB	Please see advice in advocacy report for an update Suggest deletion
121022 -7g-Report from Regional Australia Institute event Regions Rising Canberra 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 are 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. Notably RDACW have joined the RAI and advice that there will be an event in region 16 November including Minister Moriarty. c. special water famil held for Rose Jackson, State Shadow Minister for water 30 November 2022. Minister Jackson met with various Council representatives June 26 and follow up meetings with members have been coordinated. 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. This precinct concept has morphed away from agriculture to <i>The program will also be the mechanism for delivering all future regional partnerships to</i>

Matters in Progress

Action	By	Update
		<p><i>help regions move towards net-zero emissions, a decarbonised economy and sustained regional growth.</i></p> <p><i>The program will invite proposals nationally from State, Territory and Local Governments, as well as not-for-profit organisations, to come together in genuine collaboration to apply for a Precinct Partnership.</i></p> <p><i>In this context, precincts are 'places with a purpose' – defined geographic areas or community clusters – like shires, districts or regions – with initiatives shaped around a specific shared need or theme.</i></p> <p><i>Information on program guidelines, eligibility criteria and the application process will be provided in due course.</i></p> <p>Regarding the Dutch Model, a meeting between Minister McBain and representatives of the region is being coordinated.</p> <p>3, 4 and 5 Underway</p>
<p>241122-7-Matters raised by Members. Lachlan has raised the need for advocacy regarding this flooding event</p> <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"> 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"> a. one source of truth; b. effective and known communication pathways, governance arrangements and messaging; c. a known support package including rates relief and business support tailored to the impacted engine 	JB and JW	<p>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.</p> <p>Ken Harrison has provided the following advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>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.</i> • <i>Combat agencies are responsible for After Action Reviews, after each event. (focusing on the response phase)</i> • <i>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</i>

Matters in Progress

Action	By	Update
<p>industries of the community; and</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. There ought to be known escalation points to support the local effort including use of the military.</p> <p>3. CNSWJO, through its Disaster Risk Reduction Program, prepare a tool that systematises mutual support between Councils for natural disasters.</p> <p>4. CNSWJO ensure coordination of a debrief with affected Councils and key agency representatives to inform the above tool where this includes elected representatives.</p> <p>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 of the continued La Nina event. This recognition should include;</p> <p>a. Supporting Country Mayors and LGNSW in their advocacy on their State-wide Roads Emergency declaration</p> <p>b. Extension of funding deadlines allowing Councils reprioritisation of resource from other infrastructure funding programs to the roads' effort; and</p> <p>c. An ongoing plan for roads recovery that recognises that this effort will take years.</p>		<p><i>LEMC reps may have been involved in this process.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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.</i> <i>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.</i>
<p>241122-8n-Regional Asset Management</p> <p>commend to members a Regional Asset Management Improvement Program coordinated by CNSWJO comprising:</p>	MM	<p>Procurement has been completed and a contract signed between the CNSWJO and the University of Newcastle for asset management audits and the provision of asset management improvement plans for: Blayney,</p>

Matters in Progress

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

Action	By	Update
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. the development of Asset Management Improvement Plans for each Council informed by the Asset Management Audits; and 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. 		<p>Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Parkes and Weddin.</p> <p>Bathurst, 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>Suggest deletion</p>
230223- f- Advocacy Plan for Regional Prosperity through better Infrastructure and Services Report review content regarding housing giving consideration to opportunities with the Federal Government.	JB	<p>See report to this meeting on the Spare Capacity in Housing Project which includes advice on opportunities.</p> <p>Suggest deletion</p>
230223- h - Health Advocacy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note the balance of the advocacy advice will be provided to the next Board meeting; Seek to have the Health and Social Profiles developed by the Western Area Local Health District's Health Intelligence Unit updated; Seek feedback from Mr Richard Colbran on advocacy. 	JB	<p>This is being progressed through the Portfolio Mayors for Health. Please see advice provided in a separate report on advocacy to this meeting.</p> <p>Please note through the Portfolio Mayors Minister Park has been invited to the region.</p>
230223-I-Regional Water Security and Productive Water <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	MM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Policy Lab working group have advised that this will be the second Policy Lab either late this year or early next year. CNSWJO nominees for this are: Cr Bill West, Cr David Somerville, Mr Kent Boyd, Mr Daren Sturgiss (Bathurst) and Mr Garry Styles. The Water Portfolio Mayors- Cr David Somerville, Cr Jason Hamling and Cr Robert Taylor met on 22 May and 12 July

Matters in Progress

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

Action	By	Update
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"> the finalisation of the Regional Water Strategies and the co-design of the Governance and Implementation Plans for these. 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>and have recommended the development of advocacy collateral. This is underway.</p> <p>See the Regional Water Report for detail of recent advocacy.</p>
230223- 9. Quarterly review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022 -2025 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.	JB	<p>Negotiations continue where at the time of writing discussions are in play with the new Director of RDACW in taking the lead here as RDA has just become a member.</p> <p>It is understood that there will be an event in Orange 16 November with Minister Moriarty in attendance.</p>
240523- 7c- Budget considerations 2023/2024 and revision of the CNSWJO Charter 1. adopt the Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget; 2. adopt the revised CNSWJO Charter with the amendment that the increase to the payment of the Chair be the same as the percentage increase set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.	JB	The procedure for enabling remuneration of the Chair is being progressed and will form an update to the Policy Review and Procedures review.
240523-7d-The CNSWJO Governance and Advocacy Report 1. note the subcommittee monthly meeting update to progress advocacy strategy; 2. 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; 3. write to the new Health Minister about the pending decision on	JB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> See report to this meeting where this subcommittee will be reporting to each Board meeting. See advice in the Advocacy Report where this is underway. Please see advice in the advocacy report where a response has been received saying the Advisory Committee will continue.

Matters in Progress

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

Action	By	Update
the Rural Health Advisory Committee and more local government representation.		Suggest deletion
240523-7e -Regional Procurement and Contracts 1. approve the changes to the Procurement Policy as per Minutes 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; and 3. report all use of the delegations above to the next Board meeting.	KB/GQ	1. Procurement Policy has been updated to reflect material changes. Suggest deletion 2. See report to this meeting where procurement processes, as per the underway are outlined as per the regional procurement plan for 2023/2024. Please see advice for additional procurement processes to be added to the 2023/2024 procurement plan. 3. See report to this meeting where all use of the delegations between meetings are reported.
240523-f -Opportunities for Screen in Central NSW Report 1. formally request a photoshoot in region by Screen NSW; and 2. approach RDACW to progress a briefing of members on the opportunities of screen for Economic Development Officers in the region	CG/JB	1. Underway 2. Underway
240523-7g -Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Program report 1. adopt the Program's Communication Plan; 2. adopt the Program's Project Steering Committee Terms of Reference; and 3. adopt the Program's Needs Analyses Working Group Terms of Reference; and 4. seek to have Weddin included in the Central West State boundary for Disaster Recovery.	JW/JB	1-4 Complete. Weddin is now included in the Central West State boundary for Disaster Recovery. Suggest deletion
240523-7h-Advocacy for Change to the Treasury Common Planning Assumptions	JB	1. Ongoing 2. Ongoing 3. Please see report on advocacy. Suggest deletion

Matters in Progress

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

Action	By	Update
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> continue advocate for changes to Treasury Common Planning Assumptions; provide feedback again to the Auditor General that their use generates a gross waste of public money and should be audited; and receive costing for an analysis of population projections. 		
240523-7i -Transport Advocacy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> encourage representatives from members Councils to attend the workshop 9 June in Parkes planning for a southern route around Bathurst; adopt the Transport Technical Committee Terms of Reference and the Strategy; develop 'Fix Me' collateral to make the case for change to the framework for natural disaster road funding; note the project with the Grattan Institute on roads' funding being progressed through the Chair; 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; note feedback to TfNSW that the vulnerability assessment project be delayed until the last quarter of this calendar year; and invite Mr Damian Pfeiffer to the next meeting to discuss the future priorities and corridor work TfNSW are undertaking in region. 	JB/JW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Completed suggest deletion Completed suggest deletion In progress. All 11 councils have sent approvals. Parkes Council are liaising with the consultant and a meeting is being organised for week of 14/8. Completed. Update: As of 21 June 2023, there have been around 120 responses. The Institute are very happy with these responses and have stated that they have a "rich set of information to work with in writing the report". It has been mentioned that they may reach out to councils to clarify any findings in the survey, to gain a local perspective. The plan to publish the report toward the end of the year is currently on track and member councils will be notified once this is available. Suggest deletion <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Emailed Gary Estcourt and Rebel Thomson 6/6/23 suggest deletion Confirmed the next GMAC meeting.
240523-7k -Energy Report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A report be provided on the issues with State Significant 	KB	Underway

Matters in Progress

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

Action	By	Update
<p>Development approvals including but not limited to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> concerns regarding poor engagement with community and its impacts; funding for Councils to manage the costs of community response including legal and other expert advice; minimising sterilisation of agricultural land including allowing grazing below panels. 		
<p>240523-9 -Quarterly review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022 -2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> encourage members' staff to attend a cybersecurity round table in Bathurst 31 May 2023; 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; advocate to the relevant Ministers on issues regarding the ESL Levy, red fleet and seeking the extension of the Active Kids Vouchers. 	JB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All CNSWJO member councils were represented either face-to-face or online at the cybersecurity round table in Bathurst 31 May 2023. The report has been provided to the LG Minister and adopted by the JO Chairs' Forum. Correspondence and media have been sent. NSW Govt. has announced the vouchers will reduced to \$50 and continue to 1 Feb 2024 with a new Voucher scheme that will be means tested to begin then.
<p>240523-10b -Executive Officer Transition Report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receive a report on implementing one salary system and restructuring options for the transition period including a 2IC model where the EO takes on a reduced role. 	JB	Underway
<p>240523 - 12-Matters raised by Members regarding Flood recovery</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the CNSWJO supports Cabonne Council in regard to Cabonne communities' flood recovery efforts in particular the village of Eugowra; the CNSWJO expresses concerns raised by member Councils regarding the support 	JB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence has been sent. There have been various Ministers who have visited the region. Copies sent to LGNSW Underway Media drafted however the timing was not good.

Matters in Progress

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

Action	By	Update
<p>from Federal and State governments with flood recovery from the 2022 flooding events and write to the Premier, Prime Minister and relevant Ministers and invite them to visit the affected regions;</p> <p>2. advise LGNSW of the concerns seeking support,</p> <p>3. seek support from Country Mayors; and</p> <p>4. issue media.</p>		
<p>240523- Motion regarding Water</p> <p>1. advocate regarding the local government water ownership; and</p> <p>2. CNSWJO supports an extension to the current protection from privatisation be extended to Water NSW and Local Water Utilities.</p>	MM	<p>At the LGNSW Water Management Conference, NSW Water Minister Rose Jackson announced a joint select committee for a parliamentary inquiry into the governance systems and regulatory and assurance framework for local water utilities. See the Regional Water Report for detail.</p> <p>Suggest deletion</p>
<p>240523- Motion Lithgow City Council</p> <p>1. Provide advocacy support to Lithgow Council for the community of the Wolgan Valley who will have no reasonable road access for four years; and</p> <p>2. This support includes amendments to disaster relief criteria.</p>	JB/JW	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Suggest deletion</p>
<p>240523-11- Speakers to the next meeting</p> <p>Damien Pfeiffer – TfNSW</p>	JB	<p>Given the operational focus of his presentation, attending GMAC</p> <p>Suggest deletion</p>
<p>240523-APH- Roundtable Discussions with Ministers</p> <p>Follow-up actions from the round table are:</p> <p>1. The Mayors of the region will provide follow-up representation to the Ministerial Advisor for Water Michael Wrathall;</p> <p>2. A briefing on the Dutch Model be coordinated through The Hon Kristy McBain's Office;</p>	CNSWJO	<p>1. Held 26 July – complete – suggest deletion</p> <p>2. Letter sent, follow-up underway</p> <p>3. Complete – suggest deletion</p> <p>4. Response from Laura Manton Deputy Chief of Staff for Emergency Management Office of Senator Murray Watt</p> <p><i>Serrated tussock is a substantial problem across many parts of Australia. The government understands market supply is related to commercial decisions of the chemical producers, rather than barriers within the supply chain. As such government options to address the immediate supply of</i></p>

Matters in Progress

Action	By	Update
<p>3. Circulate a briefing note of the national disaster funding with a view to seeking Federal downward pressure on State funding. Follow-up with an online briefing session with the Ministerial Advisor for emergency services including on the insurance issue;</p> <p>4. Follow-up with the Ministerial Advisor for Agriculture on the fluoro-propanol issue;</p> <p>5. Receive a report on Murray Darling Basin Plan #2;</p> <p>6. Seek further advice on suicide prevention; and</p> <p>7. Seek further advice on the aging copper network and its impacts.</p>		<p><i>flupropanate products are very limited. I note that there are 5 APVMA approved sources of flupropanate-sodium, the active constituent in flupropanate products. There are 19 currently registered flupropanate products. At this stage, the APVMA has not been contacted directly in relation to supply issues, or the need to approve an additional source of flupropanate. Where a critical supply issue is identified, the APVMA is able to prioritise assessments as appropriate, noting the need to ensure that the safety, efficacy and trade criteria, as set out in the legislation, are appropriately addressed. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will also engage with trade sections across government to raise the prominence of this issue and act on any other opportunities that may exist to address this problem.</i></p> <p><i>In the interim, and recognising that in many instances these may not be as appropriate, our office has suggested users are directed to the range of other registered products for the control and management of serrated tussock. The APVMA website provides a comprehensive list. – suggest deletion</i></p> <p>5. Underway</p> <p>6. Correspondence has been sent</p> <p>7. Mr Steve Bowman, the new Director of RDACW, is providing advice on telecommunications opportunities.</p>

Matters in Progress

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

Regional Strategic Priorities	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
Portfolio Mayor	Cr K Beatty and Cr J Medcalf OAM
Sponsoring General Manager/s	Mr G Tory, Ms N Vu, Mr B Byrnes and Mr C Butler

Report by Ann Thomas and Jenny Bennett, dated 15 August 2023

Recommendation/s
That the Board note the Financial report.

Precis

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

- The anticipated net profit/loss at 30 June 2024 against the budgeted profit; and
- The anticipated surplus at 30 June 2024.

Reason for report

This report is procedural.

Legislative Risk and Policy considerations

This report presents the financial accounts at 15 August 2023. This report anticipates a full year profit of \$2,072 at 30 June 2024 against a budgeted profit of \$2,072. Taking into account prior year surpluses carried over it is anticipated that the surplus at 30 June 2024 will be \$315,734. As it is so early in the new financial year the carry over surplus amount from 2022/2023 has not been audited yet and may be subject to variation.

At the date of this report we are only six weeks into 2023/2024 so no variations to the budget are anticipated at this stage. The membership fees for 2023/2024 have been invoiced to the JO's members with most fees already received.

The 2022/2023 financial accounts have been drafted internally and handed over to the external accountant (Findex Dubbo) for review and to be prepared for final audit. The interim audit was conducted in May 2023 with no issues being identified.

Attachment/s: Nil

Reports

Central NSW Joint Organisation

Financial Position at 15 August 2023

Financial Position at 15 August 2023	Budget 2023/2024	Actual 15/08/2023	Anticipated 30/06/2024
Income			
CNSWJO Membership Fees	359,208	359,208	359,208
CWUA Best Practice Program	324,649	324,649	324,649
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group	119,020	106,491	119,020
CNSWJO Operational Membership	122,364	122,364	122,364
WRAS	11,341	10,001	10,001
	\$936,582	\$922,713	\$935,242
Grant - JONZA	\$62,000		\$62,000
Grant - Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF)	\$323,995		\$323,995
Grant - RNSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund	\$208,665		\$208,665
	\$594,660	\$0	\$594,660
CWUA -Smart Approved Watermark	19,767		19,767
	\$19,767	\$0	\$19,767
HR - Regional Training Service	200,000	55,580	200,000
HR - Online Training & Other HR Modules	100,000		100,000
	\$300,000	\$55,580	\$300,000
Management Fees - Contracts	130,000		130,000
Management Fee - LGP	42,500		42,500
	\$172,500	\$0	\$172,500
Copyright Licence	20,000		20,000
Vehicle Lease Back - Net Zero and Operational Programs Mgr	5,000		5,000
Interest	15,000	3,943	15,000
	\$40,000	\$3,943	\$40,000
Total Income	\$2,063,509	\$982,236	\$2,062,169

Reports

Expenditure			
Executive Officer Costs	190,000	1,822	190,000
Executive Officer Vehicle Costs & Depn	10,000	187	10,000
Net Zero and Operational Programs Manager (incl vehicle)	72,000	1,227	72,000
Finance Manager	77,500		77,500
Project Officer - Procurement	97,000	4,550	97,000
Project Officer - Operations	65,000	3,970	65,000
Executive Support Officer	73,000	3,970	73,000
CWUA Program Manager & Program costs	186,927		186,927
CWUA Assoc. Memberships & Benchmarking Program	137,722	13,500	137,722
CWUA - Smart Approved Watermark	19,767		19,767
Grant - JONZAG	62,000		62,000
Grant - Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF)	323,995		323,995
Grant - RNSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund	208,665		208,665
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group	119,020	393	119,020
Remuneration of the Chair	10,000		10,000
WRAS	11,341		10,001
HR - Training Service Costs	195,000	46,961	195,000
HR - Online Training & Other HR Modules	100,000		100,000
Regional Medical Student Scholarship	15,000		15,000
Advocacy	15,000	943	15,000
Accounting/Audit/Financial Services Support	28,000		28,000
Bank Fees and Sundry costs	2,500	291	2,500
Computer Software/Licences	2,000		2,000
Copyright Licence	20,000		20,000
Depreciation (excl vehicles)	3,000		3,000
Internet Cloud	10,000	1,366	10,000
Legal	3,000	3,192	3,200
Printing/Stationery/Postage	1,000	60	1,000
Zoom Conferences	1,500		1,500
Website Hosting and costs	1,500	36	1,300
Total Expenditure	\$2,061,437	\$82,468	\$2,060,097
Net Profit/Loss	\$2,072	\$899,768	\$2,072

Reports

Non-Budgeted Expenditure**CNSWJO Reserves from 2022/2023 and previous years**

Asset Revaluations for Buildings and Operational Land	64,000	20,000	64,000
BPAP - Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement	150,000		150,000
Community Engagement Surveys	73,300		73,300
CWUA Best Practice Program	238,721		238,721
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group	2,238	2,238	2,238
Energy Project	32,145		32,145
Energy - Regional Energy Program - Council Contributions	22,615		22,615
Energy - Smart Sensors Trial BRC	1,887		1,887
Grant - RNSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund	794,069		794,069
Grant - OLG Capacity Building Fund Stage 2	27,145		27,145
Grant - CNSWJO Water Loss Management Program	810,000		810,000
Grant - Destination Central West NSW	30,000		30,000
Grant - Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF)	271,875	4,912	271,875
Grant - JONZA	33,901	535	33,901
Grant - Spare Capacity in Housing Project (V2)	45,000		45,000
Inter-Council Cooperation Reserve - Procurement	15,617	5,000	15,617
	\$2,612,513	\$32,685	\$2,612,513

Net Profit/Loss after Non-Budgeted Expenditure	\$867,083	-\$2,610,441
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CNSWJO Accumulated Surplus at 30 June 2023	UNAUDITED	\$2,926,175
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Anticipated Surplus at 30 June 2024	\$315,734
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b. Compliance Report

Regional Strategic Priorities	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
Portfolio Mayor	Cr K Beatty and Cr J Medcalf OAM
Sponsoring General Manager/s	Mr G Tory, Ms N Vu, Mr B Byrnes and Mr C Butler

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

Recommendation/s
That the Board note the Compliance report.

Precis

This report includes an update on the annual calendar of compliance and reporting requirements for 2022-24

CNSWJO is compliant with the annual calendar provided by the OLG for the 2023-2024 calendar year.

Reason for report

This report is procedural.

Legislative Risk and Policy considerations

The OLG Council 2023-2024 Joint Organisations Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements refers to key deadlines and statutory reporting.

- The Tcorp form for the proposed borrowing return was lodged 15 August.
- The report to the NSW Ombudsman on Public Interest Disclosures was lodged 24 July 2023

An update on the Annual Compliance Calendar

Please find following the Annual Compliance Calendar for the JO.

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JO Calendar of Compliance & Reporting Requirements 2023-204

	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024 – May 2024	June 2024
Finance	Financial statements to be audited within 4 months [LGA s416(1)]			17 Request for extension to lodge financial statements due in writing to OLG [LGA s416(2), Code]		5 Last day for financial statements to be presented to the public [LGA 418(2)]			
	7 Proposed borrowing return to be submitted to TCorp			31 Financial Statements to be audited [LGAs416(1), Code] and lodged to OLG [LGA s417(5)] with Financial Data Return					
Governance	30 Public Interest Disclosures Report due to NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA]		30 Written returns of interest due for voting representatives and designated persons who held office at 30 June [MCC cl4.21(b)] to be lodged	30 Annual Report of obligations under GIPA due to the Minister and the Information Commissioner [GIPA s125]	30 Annual Performance Statement is to be prepared [Checklist is available on the OLG website]	30 Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics to be reported to Board [MCC 11.1]. Collection form due to OLG [MCC 11.2]	30 Public Interest Disclosure Report due to the NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA]		30 Last day to adopt Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget 2023-24 [LG Reg cl 397I]
		EO to table returns at next JO Board meeting [MCC cl 4.25]		30 Annual Report of obligations under PIDA due to the Minister and Ombudsman [PIDA s31]		30 Annual Performance Statement is to be placed on the JO website			

Reports

c. The CNSWJO Governance and Advocacy Report

Regional Strategic Priorities	1.1 Governance arrangements enable inter-council co-operation Advocacy for all 7 priorities
Portfolio Mayors	All Portfolio Mayors
Sponsoring General Manager/s	All Sponsoring General Managers

Report by Jenny Bennett, dated 16 August 2023

Recommendation/s
<p>That the Board note the CNSWJO Governance Advocacy Report and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the Advocacy Subcommittee update; 2. note the advice from the Health and Aging Portfolio Mayors' Subcommittee; 3. adopt the MoU the Rural Doctor's Network; 4. adopt the Plan on a Page for the Planners' Group; 5. adopt the Terms of Reference for the Spare Capacity in Housing Project; 6. adopt the Plan on a Page for the Spare Capacity in Housing Project; 7. endorse the submission to IPART on the council rating methodology; 8. endorse the submission on the monitoring the NSW Biodiversity Credits Markets – IPART; 9. endorse the Response on the Biodiversity Assessment Method review, Department of Planning and Environment; 10. adopt the Current and Historic Population Projections for Local Government Areas in the Central NSW Joint Organisation; 11. lodge a submission to the Inquiry into the Implementation of Recommendations Relating to Workforce Issues, Workplace Culture and Funding Considerations for Remote, Rural and Regional Health within existing policy; 12. lodge a submission to the Draft Community Engagement Rules for Major Transmission Projects within existing policy; 13. note that a date is being sought for a meeting in Hawkesbury to progress a policy position on a safe, swift and secure link between Central NSW and Sydney; 14. update the Transport Advocacy Plan to support; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Bathurst Bullet being extended to Orange, including Opal Card ticketing; b. a morning day-return service from Dubbo to Sydney via Orange using Bullet 2 pathway and timetable; and c. Staged Faster Rail track upgrades to reduce travel time from Orange and Dubbo; and 15. for the two days of meetings that are concurrent with parliamentary visits, the Board meeting be held on the Friday.

Precis

Advocacy under the leadership of the Portfolio Mayors is progressing with the exception of telecommunications. At the time of writing discussions are being held with Mr S Bowman recently appointed as Director of RDA Central West. Mr Bowman has extensive insights into the telecommunications sector and more advice in this regard is provided in the body of the report.

Reports

Precis continued

This report

- updates the Board on progress on advocacy;
- provides advice on the Spare Capacity Housing Project;
- provides advice on the anticipated MoU with the Rural Doctor's Network;
- seeks adoption of the Plan on a Page for the Planners' Group;
- provides advice on a review of population projections on an LGA by LGA basis;
- provides advice on lodged and anticipated submissions;
- seeks to have the Transport Advocacy Plan amended to include requests from Blayney and Orange on Fast Rail; and
- provides options for alternative arrangements for Board meetings concurrent with parliamentary visits.

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

Subsequently meetings have been held or are being coordinated with the various Portfolio Mayors. These meetings inform a broader advocacy update below. The report also seeks adoption of various governance arrangements and strategy for projects identified or aligning with the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority.

For advice on the meeting with Mr Michael Wrathall, Federal Ministerial Advisor for Water 26 July 2023 please see the Water Report.

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.

Reports

Advocacy Update

The opt in Advocacy Subcommittee of Mayors met Friday 28 July. Please find the notes attached.

Present were Cr B West Cr M Kellam Cr K Beatty and Ms J Bennett. The Subcommittee is keen to refocus efforts on the Safe Swift and Secure link between Sydney and Central NSW. An update was provided to the Board on subsequent activities 9 August including progressing a meeting with western Sydney Mayors in Hawkesbury. A date for this meeting is currently being sought.

Advice will be provided to the next meeting of the Advocacy Subcommittee on freight collateral and fast rail advocacy where there are two types of fast rail:

1. Very Fast Rail being contemplated between Sydney and Newcastle at 200kph; and
2. Faster rail reducing speed times by better track alignment, as is being contemplated in this region including between Bathurst and Orange.

Concerns were also raised about the differences between the State and Federal business case modelling and the extent to which this is either an opportunity or a barrier for Councils. Draft policy advice will be developed at the Board's direction.

Regarding the anticipated impacts in community of the energy transition, a piece of work was requested on Voluntary Planning Agreement and enabling an enduring legacy for example renewable energy royalties looking for significant compensation – not tokensim. This work will include developing a regional policy position on the impacts of development of renewables in the region in the context the neighbouring Renewable Energy Zone.

Meeting with Ministers to Discuss Flood Recovery.

Members were invited to a confidential meeting held in Forbes Tuesday 8 August to discuss flood recovery, in attendance were:

- The Hon Paul Scully, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and Advisor
- The Hon Jihab Dib Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice and Advisor
- Member for Orange Phil Donato and Advisor

Mayors from the region attending were Cr K Beatty, Cr P Miller, Cr B West, Cr R Taylor, Cr J Hamling, Cr K Keith and Cr J Medcalf.

Meeting of the Portfolio Mayors for Health and Ageing

The Health and Ageing Portfolio Mayors (HAPM) have been meeting online regularly to progress the Community Awareness, Understanding and Engagement Project with the Rural Doctors Network (RDN).

The Project aims to create knowledge-sharing engagement activities for local communities through local government and community influencers enabling greater literacy regarding health system and workforce models suitable for rural communities.

As part of stage 1, RDN has developed a Podcast series called the Health Interpreter podcast. The podcast series will be hosted on an online Community Hub platform

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Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

www.communitysolutionshub.com developed by RDN. This Hub will also enable case studies and tools to improve health literacy for community leaders and influencers. The RDN will continually expand and grow this online platform.

At the meeting of the HAPM 10 August the anticipated draft MoU between RDN and CNSWJO was reviewed and commended to the Board for adoption and forms an attachment to this report.

The role of the MoU is to provide a framework for the parties to operate within including;

- MoU governance and relationship management;
- collaborative activity planning and workplan/s, Program development;
- supporting community health system understanding and workforce literacy;
- policy and advocacy; and
- joint promotion.

Adopting the Plan on a Page for the Planners' Group

Please find following the "Plan on Page" for the Planners' Group for the period of the JOs Statement of Strategic Regional Priority. The page identifies the following priority area of activity:

1. Population Projections
2. Planning Portal and other advocacy
3. Supporting the Central West and Orana Regional Plan
4. Biodiversity legislation capacity building
5. LSPS' – getting ready for the next round

Vision		Development in Central NSW is Optimal		
PROBLEM/ OPPORTUNITY	DELIVERY	OUTCOME		
		Council planning services to the community are leading practice		
	INPUTS	WORK STREAMS	OUTPUT YR 1	
a. Population Projections	Consultation	Population Projections	Data Register Scope of works proforma reports Subcommittee output as determined	
b. Planning Portal and other advocacy	Planners meetings			
	Agendas	Planning Portal and other advocacy	Working Group development for Council Admin Staff outputs Advocacy Plan and other output as determined by working group	
c. Supporting the Central West and Orana Regional Plan	Good governance			
	Training	Regional Plan Implementation	Bi Annual meeting with DPIE outputs Implementation Sub Committee outputs	
d. Biodiversity legislation capacity building	Council staff support including Subcommittees			
	Councils CSPs LSPS	Biodiversity Legislation	Awaiting feedback form Mick Callan for further development with Tim Collins	
	Treasury Common Planning Assumptions			
e. LSPS – getting ready for the next round to make life easier for everyone	Central West and Orana Regional Plan	LSPS	Advice from DPE on next round Workshop 2 nd half of year. Post workshop advice	

Reports

Current and Historic Population Projections for Local Government Areas in the Central NSW Joint Organisation Prepared by Regional Development Australia Riverina

The Board will recall approving at the May meeting an analysis to be prepared by RDA Riverina on Common Planning Assumptions. Please see attached the work by RDA Riverina on our planning data which has been reviewed by both the Advocacy Subcommittee of Mayors and the Planners' Group.

The advice is on an LGA by LGA basis.

Looking backwards, there has broadly been gradual improvement in accuracy on behalf of DPE on population projections and then Common Planning assumption in most LGAs in Central NSW over the past decade and more. However, there are some glaring errors for example according the 2022 NSW Common Planning Assumptions the current population according to the Census for Blayney will not be reached until 2030. For Oberon the 2022 Common Planning Assumptions never reach the current population.

State agencies being compelled to use Common Planning Assumptions "looking backward to plan forward" has had some significant challenges for ensuring the requisite service and infrastructure. This is particularly exacerbated at the moment given the significant construction task across the region and the impacts of the construction in the neighbouring REZ. Work by DPE showed the need for 64,000 jobs in region over a five-year period. Ironically, DPE was unable to publish this advice in the Central West and Orana Regional Plan as it was at odds with the mandatory Common Planning Assumptions.

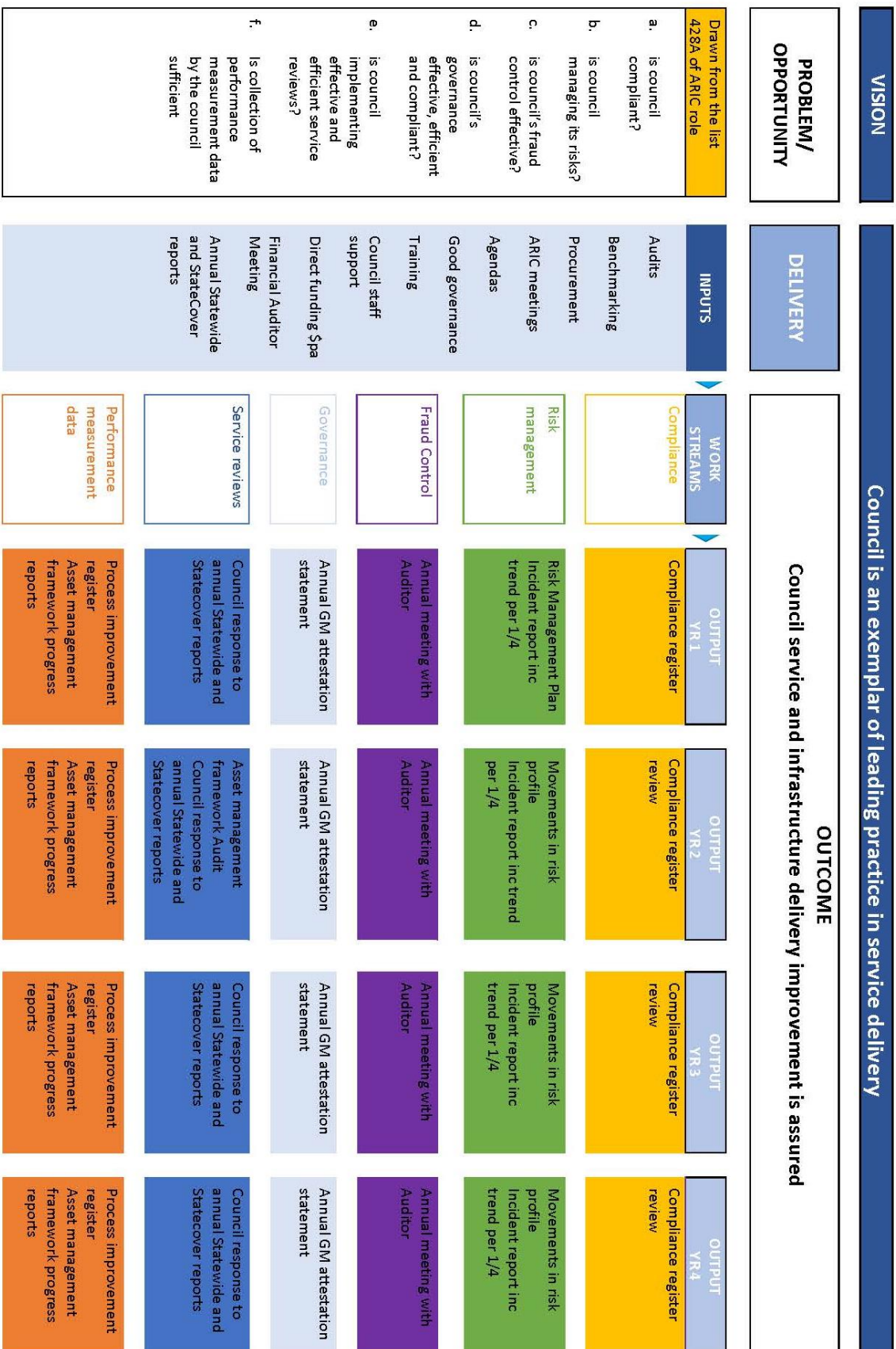
DPE Planning in the Western Region is tackling this issue looking for the cumulative impacts of forward development. While welcomed, it is remarkable it has taken so long for the State agency to look forward in this way. Further, there is an opportunity for planning in the region to have a conversation about the level of growth it would like to enjoy and then plan for that. It is anticipated that this will be the next steps and scoping will be undertaken with the Planners' Group.

Spare Capacity in Housing Project

Please find attached the Terms of Reference and below the Plan on a Page for the Spare Capacity in Housing Project (SCHIP). These have been developed by Regional NSW, Orange 360 and CNSWJO.

Funding by Regional NSW of \$50,000 will see the following Plan on a Page progressed. This Plan on a Page seeks adoption from the Board.

Reports



Submissions

Please find at the following link to CNSWJO submissions in line with Board policy:

1. [Submission to IPART on the Rate Peg Methodology Review](#)
2. [Monitoring the NSW Biodiversity Credits Markets – IPART Please see the full response on the website.](#)
3. [Biodiversity Assessment Method review – Department of Planning and Environment](#)

CNSWJO intends on lodging two submissions at member request.

1. Inquiry into the implementation of recommendations relating to workforce issues, workplace culture and funding considerations for remote, rural and regional health.

The Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health is conducting an inquiry into the implementation of Portfolio Committee No. 2 recommendations relating to workforce issues, workplace culture and funding considerations for remote, rural and regional health. The inquiry terms of reference are on the Committee's [webpage](#).

The closing date for submissions is Friday 22 September 2023.

At member request CNSWJO will be lodging a submission.

2. Responding to Draft Guidelines for Community Engagement Rules for Major Transmission Projects

A response to the Draft Guidelines for Community Engagement Rules for Major Transmission Projects (the Guidelines) is due 28 September 2023. Given the developing policy position raised in region on community concerns about both the impacts and poor engagement; a submission is recommended. For more information on the Guidelines please go to:

https://www.aemc.gov.au/news-centre/media-releases/aemc-releases-draft-community-engagement-rules-major-transmission-projects?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=AEMC-Update-10-August-2023&utm_content=aemc.gov.au%2Fnews-centre%2Fmedia-releases%2Faemc-releases-draft-community-engagement-rules-major-transmission-projects&utm_source=cust49597.au.v6send.net

Transport Advocacy Plan Amendments to Include Requests from Blayney and Orange on Fast Rail

The Orange Rail Action Group is approaching councils in region to progress extension of the Bathurst Bullet to Range. Subsequently Orange City Council resolved as follows:

1. That the Bathurst Bullet be extended to Orange, including Opal Card ticketing;
2. A morning day-return service from Dubbo to Sydney via Orange using Bullet 2 pathway and timetable; and
3. Staged Fast Rail track upgrades to reduce travel time from Orange and Dubbo.

The current CNSWJO advocacy position regarding faster rail is to prioritise the proposed Sydney to Parkes line as first in NSW with the linkage between Bathurst and Orange being where work might start. This policy is based on the work done by the previous NSW Government on Very Fast Rail. This State work has led to the Sydney/Newcastle link being the first priority for the State.

Reports

It is important to note that there is a lot of confusion around what “fast rail” means. The 220kph vision being touted by the previous NSW Government where Sydney to Parkes was being investigated is not what the Orange City Council resolve is calling for. Instead, this resolve seeks to extend existing services and reduce travel times on an incremental basis.

Members may have a view about whether the rail link to Dubbo becomes the priority for faster rail where this approach is likely to be more achievable. Given the pausing of the upgrades to the Great Western Highway, rail connection becomes more important.

It is recommended that the Transport Advocacy Plan be amended to include item one of the resolve of Orange.

Meeting Times for the CNSWJO

Lachlan Shire Council has advised there is a clash with meeting times when the Board meets over two days when advocating in Canberra and Sydney.

Alternative options are as follows:

1. The Board meets Thursday/Friday – this could work well with members who want to extend a stay in Sydney or Canberra over the weekend. It is notable that question time in Sydney has moved to the morning so this is an opportunity to potentially have the Board meeting as part of the one day in Sydney. Lachlan have advised this is their preference.
2. The Wednesday meeting being “Committee of the Whole” with the resolve coming to the Thursday meeting later in the day for resolve as the Board. This would enable the Board to amend the Minutes based on discussion with various Ministers and Lachlan to have input.

Attachment/s:

1. Notes from the Advocacy Subcommittee meeting 28 July 2023
2. MoU with the Rural Doctors Network
3. Terms of Reference for the Spare Capacity in Housing Project
4. Current and Historic Population Projections for Local Government Areas in the Central NSW Joint Organisation Prepared by Regional Development Australia Riverina

d. Procurement and Contract Report

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

Report by Grace Quinton and Kate Barker, dated 10 August 2023.

Recommendation/s
<p>That the Board notes the report on the Regional Procurement and Contract Management Report and that it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the procurement activities that have occurred between Board meetings; 2. approve the additional procurement processes added to the CNSWJO regional procurement plan for 2023/2024;

Precis

This report provides advice on:

1. the procurement activities that have occurred between board meetings;
2. procurement processes added to the procurement plan for 2023/2024 as requested by member councils; and
3. the Modern Slavery Risk Assessment Project; and
4. the Sustainable Procurement Training.

Reason for the Report

This report seeks Board approval for one additional procurement process added to the procurement plan for 2023/2024 as requested by member councils. The report also provides an update on the procurement activities that have occurred between board meetings, as per the revised changes to the CNSWJO Procurement Policy. The report provides an update on the Modern Slavery Risk Assessment Project and provides information about Sustainable Procurement Training that two CNSWJO staff will be participating in.

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:

Reports

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 the JO does.

19 – Long term viability and financial sustainability.

Procurement Activity Report

At its May meeting, the Board approved changes to the Procurement Policy to enable doing business between Board meetings. The following are the procurement processes that have been approved to proceed to contract between board meetings:

Transitioning Local Water Utility Strategic Planning into the Integrated Planning and Report Framework

CNSWJO conducted a regional procurement process for the service of co-designing a regional approach to strategic planning for the Central NSW Councils Local Water Utilities.

The contract is held between Karen Legge Consulting and CNSWJO on behalf of member councils and is underway.

Asset Management Maturity Audit

CNSWJO conducted a regional procurement process for the service of completing Asset Management Maturity Audits for participating Councils.

The contract is held between the University of Newcastle and CNSWJO on behalf of member councils and the work is underway.

Disaster Risk Reduction Fund - Local and Regional Needs Analysis

CNSWJO conducted a procurement process on behalf of Joint Organisations across New South Wales for the service of undertaking Local and Regional Needs Analysis' and Opportunities Reports as part of the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Program.

The contract is to be held between GHD and CNSWJO, with each participating Joint Organisation holding their own contract with the preferred provider. The work is to be underway in the coming weeks.

Procurement Processes Underway

The following table details the procurement processes that are currently underway:

Contract	Contract holder	Model	Estimated Value	Management fee %	Timeframe	Status
Supply and Delivery of Road Signs	Participating councils	RFX	\$400-500K per year	5%.	Contract to commence on 1 January 2024	Procurement live.

Reports

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

CCTV, Smoke Testing and Pipe Relining of Sewer Lines – annual rolling procurement process for package of work in the next financial year	Participating councils	RFX	Dependent on uptake by members, where currently most councils have expressed interest in this approach, however, spend is not yet known.	Up to 5%. 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.	Process to commence in coming weeks.
Water Loss Management Equipment and Installation	CNSWJO	RFQ	Approx. \$50k	Up to 5%		RFQ has closed and is in the Evaluation stage. Expected to commence September 2023.
Learning Management System	Participating Councils	RFQ	TBC	5%	Contract to commence 1 September 2023	Following an EOI process, 5 member councils (Lachlan, Cowra, Orange, Oberon and Weddin) requested a quote from their preferred provider. This is being facilitated by the JO.

Approvals for Procurement Plan for 2023/2024

The following table details the procurement processes that are seeking approval to be added to the procurement plan for 2023/2024:

Supply and Installation for Guard Rail and Wire Rope Safety Barrier Regional Procurement Process	Participating Councils	RFQ/T	TBC	Up to 5% - depending on estimated spend and usage.	Scoping underway.
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Modern Slavery Risk Assessment Project

The Modern Slavery Risk Assessment Project aims to take a regional approach to assess the suppliers of goods and services currently working with Councils against Modern Slavery requirements. Where Councils use many of the same suppliers and contractors throughout the region, conducting a regional process is an efficient model.

Reports

As per the [OLG Circular](#) each council is required to publish in their annual report a statement of the action taken by the council in relation to any issue raised by the Anti-slavery Commissioner during the year concerning the operations of the council and identified by the Commissioner as being a significant issue, and a statement of steps taken to ensure that goods and services procured by and for the council during the year were not the product of modern slavery within the meaning of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW).

At its July meeting, GMAC resolved:

1. members participate in a regional approach to a risk assessment of current suppliers in relation to Modern Slavery to be coordinated through CNSWJO;
2. CNSWJO to pay 50% of the Modern Slavery risk assessment project costs from the Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement budget, and the remainder of the approximately \$18k to be split amongst participating members councils on a number of contractors basis;
3. members to advise participation in the project and their total number of current contractors to be included in the risk assessment;
4. members to advise interest in a regional training program for council staff on Modern Slavery; and
5. note LGP's Modern Slavery Toolkit available to member councils and advise any interest in seeking a regional quotation.

CNSWJO has distributed communication to members to seek approvals and participation based on the above recommendation. Once participation is finalised the project will move forward.

Sustainable Procurement

The JO has recently received funding from LGP under the Procurement Capability Program for 2 staff members to attend Sustainable Procurement training in Sydney. The application submitted by CNSWJO also includes 9 people from 4 other JOs as part of the Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator (JONZA) Program.

As part of this funding, the JO will also be developing a Sustainable Procurement Policy which will be provided to the Board for adoption in due course. It is intended that the policy will be able to be used by other JOs and councils should they choose to do so.

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 partly absorbed (50/50) by the provider.

Attachment/s: Nil

Reports

e. Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Program report

Regional Strategic Priorities	1.2 Building capacity across our Councils 5.3 Natural disaster road funding
Portfolio Mayors	1. Leveraging our successful collaboration: Cr Kevin Beatty as Chair and Cr John Medcalf 5. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation: Cr Ken Keith
Sponsoring General Manager/s	1. Leveraging our successful collaboration: Greg Tory, Noreen Vu, Brad Byrnes, Craig Butler 5. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation: Kent Boyd, Steve Loane, Gary Wallace and Paul Devery

Report by Jenny Webber, dated 9 August 2023

Recommendation/s
<p>That the Board note the Disaster Risk Reduction Program report and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the approval by NSW Reconstruction Authority of the extension of Milestone 2 from 30 September to 11 November 2023, with the ultimate project deadline of 30 June 2024 remaining the same; 2. note the approval by NSW Reconstruction Authority of the collaborative variation under the Regional Resilience Program to allocate an additional spend of \$4,000 from Central NSW Joint Organisation for the Regional Resilience Program Monitoring and Evaluation plan, led by Canberra Region Joint Organisation; 3. recommend to councils they consider entering into new data sharing agreements with Spatial Services; and 4. endorse the submission for the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding reviewed by the Central NSW Joint Organisation Transport Technical Committee.

Precis

This report provided to the Board provides an update on the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund program and provides advice on:

- upcoming consultations in the region;
- details of two separate variations approved by NSW Reconstruction Authority to support the Regional Resilience Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and the upcoming Needs Analysis work;
- the possibility of commencing the Transport for NSW Customer Resilience Journey Plans project in September to October;
- progress on the needs analysis project;
- Key Reporting Areas progress including on procurement, media, and Milestone reporting; and
- the submission for the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding on behalf of the region both supports this program and the CNSWJO Transport Technical Committee.

Councils may have existing data sharing agreements with Spatial Services that are restricted for that organisation's use only. In working towards a one source of truth for spatial data, it is suggested the Board recommend to members they consider entering into new data sharing agreements to allow neighbouring councils, organisations, or the public to access spatial data. This can be tailored to the council's needs with data categorised in to open, shared or restricted data arrangements.

Reports

Reason for this Report

Please see advice in the body of the report on progress and governance. This report will be provided as a deliverable to the funding entity.

Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations

26 - Increasing costs to community of storms etc – more extreme events communities will find themselves unable to plan for and just be reactive. Climate change - more storms and more drought – their impacts

43 - Extreme weather events impact

Also, initiatives delivering cost savings assist with Council financial sustainability.

Upcoming Consultations

Transport for NSW Vulnerability Assessment

A deliverable of this project is a transport vulnerability assessment which will inform the balance of the transport work for this project. It has been identified that Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are currently planning to undertake this work in region, which may support this critical piece of work. At the time of writing this report, conversations are being held between the:

- CNSWJO Executive Officer;
- CNSWJO Disaster Risk Reduction Program Manager;
- Chair of the CNSWJO Transport Technical Committee;
- Chair of the CNSWJO Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Project Steering Committee; and
- TfNSW

to understand if this work aligns with the objectives of this project and the needs of member councils, noting that this was previously resolved by the GMs in April to delay the work with TfNSW through the CNSWJO Transport Technical Committee. If this work does align, this work may commence through the sponsoring general managers and the Chair in September. This would be to meet the planned TfNSW schedule and support the DRRF in delivering on the transport vulnerability assessment.

Needs Analysis

At the time of writing this report, the commencement of the needs analysis project is imminent with the contract signed by CNSWJO and waiting for the counter signed contract from the preferred provider. This work has a very tight delivery schedule of approximately 3 months from commencement to final reports due. As this work is foundational for the rest of the DRRF project it is important that councils begin to prepare and allocate resources in anticipation of the upcoming consultation period. This will ensure the service provider has access to the information required to produce final reports in the delivery timeframe specified.

To support this work, NSW Reconstruction Authority have formally approved the extension of the Milestone 2 timeframe from 30 September 2023 to 11 November 2023 with the ultimate deadline of 30 June 2024 remaining the same.

Reports

Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

Please see the procurement report for further information on the procurement status.

NSW Reconstruction Authority

NSW Reconstruction Authority are planning engagement with councils and communities in the coming months regarding the following.

- State Disaster Mitigation Plan
- Disaster Adaptation Plans
- NSW Recovery Plan
- Draft Protocols

Further information is available in the attached email.

Project Update

Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee Update

The Regional Resilience Program (RRP) Monitoring & Evaluation consists of seven of the eight jointly DRRF funded Joint Organisations (JOs). The RRP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan is a Fund-level Program Level Evaluation that seeks to understand the overall effectiveness and impact of the DRRF program in meeting the below objectives and will inform future decision making around grant programs:

- Take action to reduce existing disaster risk;
- Minimise creation of future disaster risk; and
- Equip decision makers with the capabilities and information they need to manage and reduce disaster risk.

The monitoring and evaluation of the RRP aims to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, appropriateness, and sustainability of the integrated projects across the seven Joint Organisations; and will also contribute to the broader DRRF evaluation findings.

The contract for the Regional Resilience Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan led by Canberra Joint Organisation has been entered into with University of Technology Sydney. A formal variation has been approved by NSW Reconstruction Authority for an additional spend of \$4,000 for this work.

Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee – Working Groups

There are 3 Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee (RRPAC) Working Groups that were established by Canberra Region Joint Organisation as part of their funding arrangements to support collaboration and information sharing across JOs and facilitate partnerships across relevant government organisations.

- Regional Resilience, IP&R, Disaster Waste
- Transport
- Technology

Reports

Please request agendas and minutes for these meetings.

Project Steering Committee Update

The Project Steering committee (PSC) continue to meet monthly with consistent attendance by councils. Meetings consist of the following standing agenda items, please request meeting agenda and minutes for more detailed updates and reports:

- engagement and support of the Program Manager
- program quality
- program communications
- program risk management
- procurement
- reporting, including against milestones
- shared learnings and emerging opportunities
- budgeting
- valuation
- reports to GMAC, Joint Organisation Board, and Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee (RRPAC).

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> <p>Procurement</p> <p>At the time of writing this report, the commencement of the needs analysis project is imminent with the contract signed by CNSWJO and waiting for the counter signed contract from the preferred provider. This work has a very tight delivery schedule of approximately 3 months from commencement to final reports due. As this work is foundational for the rest of the DRRF project it is important that councils begin to prepare and allocate resources in anticipation of the upcoming consultation period. This will ensure the service provider has access to the information required to produce final reports in the delivery timeframe specified.</p> <p>Please see the procurement report for further information.</p> <p>Regional Resilience Working Group</p> <p>Frequent meetings have occurred with the Regional Resilience Working Group (RRWG) and monitoring of the Needs Analysis procurement process. The RRWG will also assist in managing the contract, risk, and quality of the project moving forward once a contract has been finalised.</p>

Reports

	<p>Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee</p> <p>The Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee (RRPAC) consisting of the 8 jointly funded Joint Organisations (JO) and NSW Reconstruction Authority continue to meet monthly with the following meeting topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updates and discussion led by NSW Reconstruction Authority of emerging issues informed by a synthesis of members' Monthly Progress Reports • JO progress report discussion led by NSW Reconstruction Authority • opportunities for coordination and collaboration including. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ aggregated procurement activities ○ engagement with NSW Government agencies ○ stakeholder communication • round robin project update from each JO <p>From this work the outputs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs Analysis procurement on track • Regional Resilience Working Group outputs • Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee outputs <p>Please request agendas, minutes and other outputs from the Regional Resilience Working Groups and the Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee.</p>
<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 JOs</p>	<p>The KPIs achieved for this quarter are:</p> <p>Integrated Planning & Reporting Working Group</p> <p>JOs held an Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) workshop in Sydney Thursday 13 July to begin to understand and identify ways of embedding Disaster Risk Reduction into IP&R.</p> <p>Canberra Region and Hunter Joint Organisation</p> <p>At the IP&R workshop (above), Canberra provided an introduction to their Blueprint for a Resilient Southeast NSW so that JOs can begin to explore how this will fit in with their councils and how to integrate this with current IP&R structures.</p> <p>At a recent IP&R working group, Hunter Joint Organisation presented their previous and current IP&R work to the JOs. This information sharing and lessons learnt will assist in developing IP&R embedment strategies.</p> <p>Canberra Region and Hunter Joint Organisation have also shared their learnings with Simtables and discussed the opportunities and barriers to this technology. Spatial NSW presented to the JOs around this and other technology.</p> <p>CNSWJO Project Steering Committee</p>

Reports

	<p>The Project Steering committee (PSC) continue to meet monthly with consistent attendance by councils. Please see update in the body of this report for more information.</p> <p>From this work, the outputs produced are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP&R working group outputs • Canberra Region and Hunter Joint Organisation outputs • CNSWJO Project Steering Committee outputs <p>Please request agendas, minutes and other outputs from the Regional Resilience Working Groups and the CNSWJO Project Steering Committee.</p>
3. Design and delivery of community workshops	<p>Needs Analysis and Transport Vulnerability Assessment</p> <p>The needs analysis and the transport vulnerability work will inform this KPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work is on track to commence work on the needs analysis. • TfNSW is working closely with CNSWJO in understanding their transport vulnerability work. If this aligns, it is recommended through the sponsoring GMS and the Chair to commence this work in September to October. <p>These projects, along with the Regional Resilience Working Groups and the CNSWJO Project Steering Committee will inform the design and delivery of the community workshops and/or training. PSC members have already mapped the footprint of relevant combat agencies to begin planning for how these stakeholders will be engaged for these workshops/training.</p> <p>From this work, the outputs produced are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs analysis procurement outputs • TfNSW outputs • Regional Resilience Working Groups outputs • CNSWJO Project Steering Committee outputs <p>Please request agendas, minutes and other outputs.</p>
1. Design and embedment of the IP&R program	<p>Integrated Planning & Reporting Working Group</p> <p>JOs held an Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) workshop in Sydney Thursday 13 July to begin to understand and identify ways of embedding DRR into IP&R.</p> <p>Canberra Region and Hunter Joint Organisation</p> <p>At the IP&R workshop (above), Canberra provided an introduction to their Blueprint for a Resilient Southeast NSW so that JOs can begin to explore how this will fit in with their councils and how to integrate this with current IP&R structures.</p>

Reports

	<p>At a recent IP&R working group, Hunter Joint Organisation presented their previous and current IP&R work to the JOs. This information sharing and lessons learnt will assist in developing IP&R embedment strategies.</p> <p>Canberra Region and Hunter Joint Organisation have also shared their learnings with Simtables and discussed the opportunities and barriers to this technology. Spatial NSW presented to the JOs around this and other technology.</p> <p>From this work, the outputs produced are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP&R working group outputs • Canberra Region and Hunter Joint Organisation outputs <p>Please request agendas, minutes and other outputs.</p>
5. Greater consistency and collaboration across Council Boundaries	<p>All the work outlined above demonstrates the extensive work occurring across the Central NSW region councils, as well as across the eight JOs regions. This initial collaboration and information sharing is crucial in being able to develop the necessary frameworks and systems across regional NSW, which is one of the visions of this project. To summarise without repeating, collaboration and information sharing is occurring across the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement The Regional Resilience Program Monitoring and Evaluation plan across JOs and the NSW Reconstruction Authority. The needs analysis work is spread across 7 JOs and 60 LGAs. Collaboration has been from councils, JOs, NSW Reconstruction Authority (state and in region), Regional NSW, Regional and Local Emergency Management Officers, and the National Emergency Management Agency. • Regional Resilience Working Groups Collaboration across the 8 jointly funded JOs, NSW Reconstruction Authority, and state agencies i.e., Spatial NSW, TfNSW. • Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee Collaboration across the 8 jointly funded JOs and the NSW Reconstruction Authority. • Canberra Region and Hunter Joint Organisation: Information sharing across JOs. • CNSWJO Project Steering Committee Collaboration has been from the 11 member councils of CNSWJO, NSW Reconstruction Authority (state and in region), Regional NSW, Regional and Local Emergency Management Officers, and the National Emergency Management Agency. • Transport Vulnerability Assessment Collaboration across the 8 jointly funded JOs and TfNSW. • State Government Stakeholders

Reports

	<p>Collaboration across the 8 jointly funded JOs, NSW Reconstruction Authority, and state agencies i.e., Spatial NSW, TfNSW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media release A media release has been developed in anticipation of the needs analysis procurement process being complete highlighting the need for the work and the spread across 60 LGAs. <p>From this work, the outputs produced are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement outputs • Regional Resilience Working Groups outputs • Regional Resilience Program Advisory Committee outputs • Canberra Region and Hunter Joint Organisation outputs • CNSWJO Project Steering Committee outputs • Transport Vulnerability Assessment outputs • State Government Stakeholder outputs • Media release output <p>Please request agendas, minutes and other outputs.</p>
6. Developing and embedding a state-wide approach to improving practice in disaster risk reduction	<p>All the work outlined above demonstrates the extensive work occurring across the Central NSW region councils, across the eight JO regions, and with relevant state government stakeholders. This initial collaboration and information sharing is crucial in being able to develop the necessary frameworks and systems across the state to be able to design and embed a statewide approach to improving practice in DRR.</p>
7. Codesigned project with Transport for NSW (TfNSW)	<p>Transport Vulnerability Assessment with Transport for NSW</p> <p>Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are planning to complete a Transport Vulnerability Assessment in the regions, a key deliverable of each of the JO projects and this KPI. Please see update in the body of this report for more information.</p> <p>Transport Working Group</p> <p>TfNSW have been engaged as an external stakeholder and as mentioned, are working closely with the CNSWJO to deliver their transport vulnerability assessment in line with this project. Mapping for the scope of the works has commenced and will be decided after more discussions with TfNSW.</p> <p>From this work, the outputs produced are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TfNSW outputs • Transport Working Group outputs
8. Milestone reporting	<p>The KPIs and outputs achieved for this quarter are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monthly progress reports for April to June • Quarterly financial report for Q4 <p>Please request monthly progress reports and Q3 financial report.</p>

Data agreements between Council and Spatial Services

Reports

Spatial Services recently presented to the Technology working group on:

- the Emergency Information Coordination Unit (EICU) and Emergency Services Spatial Information Library (ESSIL);
- Live NSW and Digital Twins; and
- data sharing agreements.

Spatial Services are currently planning regional Road Shows to demonstrate Live NSW and provide information on other aspects of their services.

Emergency Information Coordination Unit and Emergency Services Spatial Information Library

The Emergency Information Coordination Unit team is part of Spatial Services' Customer and Emergency Management Services business unit. This team manages the Emergency Services Spatial Information Library (ESSIL) that houses 350 state-wide layers of GIS data. This, importantly for this project, cannot only be accessed by emergency personnel in an emergency but can be accessed for disaster planning and preparedness via a clause in a Formal Data Sharing Agreement.

Live NSW and Digital Twins

Live NSW is a system of data, platforms, infrastructure, and governance arrangements that allows local and state governments, utilities, industry, and the community to search, discover, access, and visualise NSW spatial information data, products, and services. Specific for this project, this may allow different government areas and initiatives to share planning data, eliminating communication gaps. This acts as a single source of truth for spatial data for infrastructure and the environment. Digital Twins is a virtual representation of its physical counterpart which adds a holistic, dimensionally accurate and location-based representation to the model which may be useful in disaster planning and preparedness.

Data sharing agreements

Councils may have existing data sharing agreements with Spatial Services which restricts the data for the EICU's use only. By Councils entering into new data sharing agreements;

- Councils can provide data that could be used by neighbouring councils, organisations, or the general public.
- Councils can make their data Open, Shared, or Restricted
 - Open Data is discoverable and available to anyone under creative commons licensing.
 - Shared Data is discoverable to everyone but only accessible by those parties that Councils determine.
 - Restricted Data is not discoverable and is only available to emergency management organisations or other bodies that the councils want to restrict data to.
- Councils may enter into an API agreement
 - Councils have ultimate control of their data and Spatial Services receives the latest data that the councils have.
 - Though, there may be development costs on Council's side if an API method is chosen for data provision. This would depend on the council's capability.

Based on this information, and in working towards a one source of truth for spatial data, it is asked of the Board to recommend to councils they consider entering into new data sharing agreements

Reports

with Spatial Services. This will greatly improve the data available in disaster planning and preparedness.

Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

With the severity, intensity and frequency of natural disasters increasing; Australia must improve its overall recovery and response capability and encourage greater investment in disaster risk reduction, consistent with National Priority 3 of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

The Review will consider all Australian Government disaster funding to ensure its investment in risk reduction, resilience, recovery and response is effective and offers maximum benefit to Australian communities and the economy.

The Review will support a strategic pathway for the Australian Government to:

- incentivise investment in risk reduction;
- provide value for money, including the thresholds at which Commonwealth support starts and the level of cost sharing and eligibility for accessing assistance;
- ensure consistent, equitable and well targeted delivery; and Promote confidence in the disaster management system.

Former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mr Andrew Colvin AO APM will lead the Independent Review commissioned by the Australian Government and the Deloitte Review Team will support this. This team will be reaching out to member Councils soon to schedule deep dive workshops which will provide an opportunity for participants to provide in-depth insights into challenges and opportunities associated with disaster funding arrangements.

Please see the attached "*Submission Indp Review Comm Disaster Funding*" to review the submission by CNSWJO.

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:

5. NSW Reconstruction Authority – Upcoming plans and council engagement email
6. Submission Independent Review Commonwealth Disaster Funding

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Priority two: Regional Prosperity through Better Infrastructure and Services**f. “Come Out, We’re Open” – Post Campaign Report**

Regional Strategic Priorities	2: Regional Prosperity through better infrastructure and services 2.1: Initiatives to grow the visitor economy in the context of locational preference factors
Portfolio Chairman	Cr Bill West
Sponsoring General Manager/s	Noreen Vu, Steve Loan, Paul Devery & Craig Butler

Report by Carolyn Griffin & Gabrielle Brewer/Gabrielle Brewer Lifestyle & Tourism Public Relations, dated 10 July 2023

Recommendation/s
That the Board note the “Come Out, We’re Open” – Post Campaign Report.

Precis

This report provides an update on the work being progressed through the CNSWJO Tourism Managers Group including the post-campaign report for the “Come Out, We’re Open” campaign.

The report capturing the body of work is provided as an attachment.

Reason for the Report

This report is provided as an update to the Board on the “Come Out, We’re Open” campaign to show how Central NSW has been promoted in recent months with some great results.

Legislative, Policy and Risk Considerations

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

25 - Increasing costs to Councils in their recovery from natural disasters and their impacts.

44 - Business withdrawal from small towns

Also, initiatives delivering funding and cost savings assist with Council financial sustainability.

Discussion

With Destination NSW’s funding of \$125k Central NSW was promoted as a tourism destination from March-June 2023 across TV, print, digital and display advertising and social media. The target market was Sydney and Regional NSW, primarily couples 40-70 years old, and those interested in arts, culture, history, food and wine.

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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 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, 25 March & 8 April
- Prime 7 TV – the 3 ads featured 11 LGAs as equally as possible
- Urban List – the article featured all 11 LGAs
- Social Media Boost – each LGA received \$5k to boost an event.

TV – Prime 7 Network NSW

In collaboration with Geagle Productions, three new television commercials (2 x 15 sec and 1 x 30 sec) featured 11 LGAs in Central NSW with branding “Come Out, We’re Open”. The scenes featured art, nature, attractions, experiences, food and wine and were on rotation for the month. A link to the TVCs are here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/a5kx0x2pebmr364z9ld6t/h?dl=0&rlkey=6d1mhug7l39krf2qshus5yb6c>

From an investment of \$8,399 the campaign delivered \$103,024 in advertising value with placements across all of NSW – that is a total of 2,125 spots across Prime 7 Orange, 7Bravo Southern NSW, 7Flix NSW, 7Mate Orange and 7Two in March and April 2023.

Sydney Morning Herald Traveller and Nine Plus

Three x Sydney Morning Herald Traveller full-page print ads were published reaching 770,000 people weekly.

The cost for two was \$32,524 with advertising value \$88,703 for three full page ads. The third full page was complimentary. A variety of “digital display ads” featuring Central NSW achieved 637,619 ad server impressions which included billboard, banner and half-page creatives plus social media posts and boosts.

Native content article “Seasoned Traveller, an awesome Autumn escape is just around the corner” on Central NSW was published and achieved 12, 434 page views, 10,101 unique browsers and spent an average time of 1:6 reading.

Urban List

Branded native content article featured 11 LGAs with inspiring ideas on what to see, do and taste. Supported by display advertising, e-news and social media.

Delivered strong results with page views exceeding benchmark to 12,347 people (123%) supported by digital ads and social media.

Website Results Table

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Hits to the website www.visitcentralnsw.com.au was the highest all year at 144,300 in April. This was the key promotional period for the campaign.

Budget Summary

Channel	Type	Format	Timings	Production	Placement	Investment
The Sydney Morning Herald 'Traveller' Print	Paid	2 x Full Page ads	Sat 18 and Sat 25 March	Included	Full page ads NSW	\$32k (market rate normally \$59,316+GST)
Native Article- traveller.com.au	Paid	Online article	April	Included	1 x native article NSW	\$8k (rate normally \$10k)
Digital display ad campaign - Sydney Morning Herald	Paid	Digital ads	March-April	Included	Digital ads NSW	\$10k
Urban List	Paid	Online article	March/April	Included	1 x native article Sydney	\$10k
Prime 7 TV	Paid	2 x 15 second and 1 x 30 second ad	From 19 March	Geagle Productions	Over 100 TV spots NSW	\$10k (\$2,500 production and \$8,500 media buy)
Social Media Boost	Paid	\$5k	March-April	Each LGA	Various social, print and digital	\$55k (11 x \$5k per lga)
TOTAL						\$125k



TRAVELLER

The Sydney Morning Herald

**Financial Implications**

This program came at no cost to members. The \$25,000 approved by the Chair out of session has been incorporated into the financial statements – please see advice in the financial report for the overall year.

Attachment/s:

7. “Come Out, We’re Open” – Post Campaign Report

Reports

Priority five: Transport and Infrastructure**g. Transport Report**

Regional Strategic Priorities	5. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation
Portfolio Mayor	Cr Ken Keith
Sponsoring General Manager/s	Kent Boyd, Steve Loane, Gary Wallace and Paul Devery.

Report by Jenny Webber, dated 9 August 2023

Recommendation/s
<p>That the Board note the Transport report and note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the alignment of work with the CNSWJO Disaster Risk Reduction Fund's transport vulnerability assessment; 2. progress for the "Fix Me" project; and 3. the legal advice received from Marsdens Law Group regarding the Master Access Deeds and Road Rail Interface Agreement.

Precis

This report provided to the Board provides an update on the Transport work and provides advice on:

- legal advice obtained from Marsdens Law Group regarding the Master Access Deeds and Road Rail Interface Agreement and at the time of writing this report, the next steps for member councils; and
- status of the bridge assessment funding application.

Please see detail on the Transport Vulnerability Assessment being undertaken by TfNSW. A verbal update can be provided at the Board meeting.

The 'Fix Me' project will develop collateral to support making the case for change to the funding framework for natural disaster road funding, based on previous work complete by the Canberra Region Joint Organisation. In April this year, GMAC resolved to commend progressing this through to the Board which was approved. The Transport group have since approved bringing in a technical consultant to develop this piece of work. This project will be co-funded by participating member councils and the JO, with the contract managed by Parkes Shire Council.

Finally, the Integrated Transport Group met 7 August 2023. Please request a verbal update and any associated notes and agenda.

Reason for this report

This report provides an update on the transport priorities and the alignment of work with the CNSWJO Disaster Risk Reduction Fund's transport vulnerability assessment.

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

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- 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.

2 - Changing State and Federal government.

3 - Skills shortages reduce capacity of the region.

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

20 – Turnover of staff in councils who are working on JO projects; loss of corporate knowledge.

25 - Increasing costs to Councils of storms etc. more extreme events Councils will find themselves unable to plan for and just be reactive to Climate Change. More storms and more drought; their impacts.

42 - Costs of building materials or no supply at all.

Also, initiatives delivering cost savings assist with Council financial sustainability.

'Fix Me' Project

The 'Fix Me' project will develop collateral to support making the case for change to the funding framework for natural disaster road funding, based on previous work completed by the Canberra Region Joint Organisation. In April this year, GMAC resolved to commend progressing this through to the Board which was approved. The Transport group have since approved bringing in a technical consultant to develop this piece of work. This project will be co-funded by participating member councils and the JO, with the contract managed by Parkes Shire Council.

Master Access Deeds and Road Rail Interface Agreements

Please find attached the legal advice on Road Rail Interface Agreements and Master Access Deeds (MADs). This advice is provided as a confidential attachment.

As can be seen – there are a number of areas in the Master Access Deed (MAD) where members are advised to negotiate clauses out of the agreement as they give Councils an unreasonable amount of liability.

It is understood that the MAD was developed by TfNSW and both they and UGL are awaiting feedback. Transport Technical Committee staff are coming together to review the advice and make recommendations back to both UGL and TfNSW accordingly.

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.

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Notice was received 7 March 2023 that the grant had been successful for \$560,058.94. Forbes Shire Council is the recipient as per the funding deed, delivered by CNSWJO. All documents have been returned to Infrastructure NSW (INSW) as of 24 May 2023. The latest advice received from INSW on 29 June 2023 is that the funding deed is sitting with Treasury for processing while a budget review is undertaken by the state government, the impact of this on the project is unclear at this stage.

The table below outlines the scope of this project.

Council	Number of Bridges	Funding Total
Cowra Council	1	16,971.48
Forbes Shire Council	7	118,800.36
Oberon Council	5	84,857.40
Weddin Shire Council	16	271,543.78
Lithgow City Council	4	67,885.92
Total	33	560,058.94

Value for members

The 'Fix Me' project will bring in a technical expert to deliver a quality document that can be used for future advocacy purposes in securing funding for the regions transport priorities.

Attachment/s:

8. Marsden Confidential legal advice if Council is required to enter into the Deed and how the Deed relates to the Agreements.
9. Marsden Confidential Legal advice with respect to the terms of the Deed itself.

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Priority six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water

h. Regional Water Report

Regional Strategic Priorities	6:Regional Water Security and Productive Water 6.1 Regional Water network planning and best practice skills development 6.2 Productive Water
Portfolio Mayors	Cr D Somerville, Cr R Taylor and Cr J Hamling
Sponsoring General Manager/s	Mr K Boyd, Mr D Waddell and Mr G Rhodes

Report by Meredith Macpherson, dated 15 August 2023

Recommendation/s
That the Board note the Regional Water Security and Productive Water report; and 1. Endorse the submission made under the hand of the executive to the Productivity Commission's Murray Darling Basin Plan Independent Review.

Precis

This report provides advice on programming through the collaborative Water Utilities Alliance in the operational and strategic areas including:

- progress on the Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project; and
- the project to transition Local Water Utility strategic planning into the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

The regional water space is a complex area with multiple interconnected slow moving strategic processes at all levels of government impacting on the main game for member councils being ensuring quality secure water for Central NSW. This is particularly the case where indications are that the next drought is looming.

This report highlights some key issues requiring advocacy and actions to address these including the development of collateral on priority water infrastructure projects requiring funding and on the governance and implementation arrangements for the Regional Water Strategies.

This report seeks endorsement of the CNSWJO submission to the Productivity Commission's Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Implementation review 2023

Reason for the Report

This report is for information. It also seeks endorsement of a submission on the review of the Murray Darling Basin Plan developed through the Executive.

Legislative Policy and Risk Considerations

The CNSWJO regional water priorities are:

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6.1 Regional water network planning and best practice skills development

6.2 Productive water

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

- 2** - Changing State and Federal government – support for JO priorities not continuing e.g. Raising the Wyangala Dam Wall.
- 10** - Well intentioned State agencies design processes that waste JO and Councils' time.
- 14** - Miss opportunity to see how collaborations could work effectively.
- 20** - Turnover of staff in councils who are working on JO projects – loss of corporate knowledge.
- 26** - Increasing costs to community of storms etc – more extreme events communities will find themselves unable to plan and just be reactive. Climate change - more storms and more drought; their impacts.
- 27** - Risks associated with poor data for example Treasury Common Planning Assumptions.
- 28** - The great resignation – more workforce shortages, different priorities for job development.
- 39** - Smart controls and smart towns – being left behind e.g. EE situation with Smart controls. The energy frameworks meaning higher pricing and more duplication in the smart space. Poor coordination of smart water metering. Regional needs it more than metro but does not get it.
- 40** - Shortages of technology and expertise in region.
- 43** - Extreme weather events impact agriculture.

Regional Water Loss Management Centres Project Update

To recap, the CNSWJO, DPE Water grant funded program is a co-designed project to reduce water loss and achieve greater water and energy efficiencies and cost savings. This regional program seeks to coordinate and deliver initiatives to reduce non-revenue water while building knowledge and maturity and embedding water loss management (WLM) practices in business-as-usual operations.

Funding: \$900K from DPE Water to co-fund the delivery of projects.

Timeframe: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (extension granted- completion date yet to be confirmed).

Where councils continue to be challenged by resourcing, DPE Water are allowing flexibility in the delivery timeframe while monitoring progress.

With all levels of government focusing on conservation and efficiency, this program aims to optimise existing infrastructure through improving the operations of water distribution networks. It also demonstrates the benefits of councils working collectively on fit-for-purpose programming co-designed with the state agency.

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

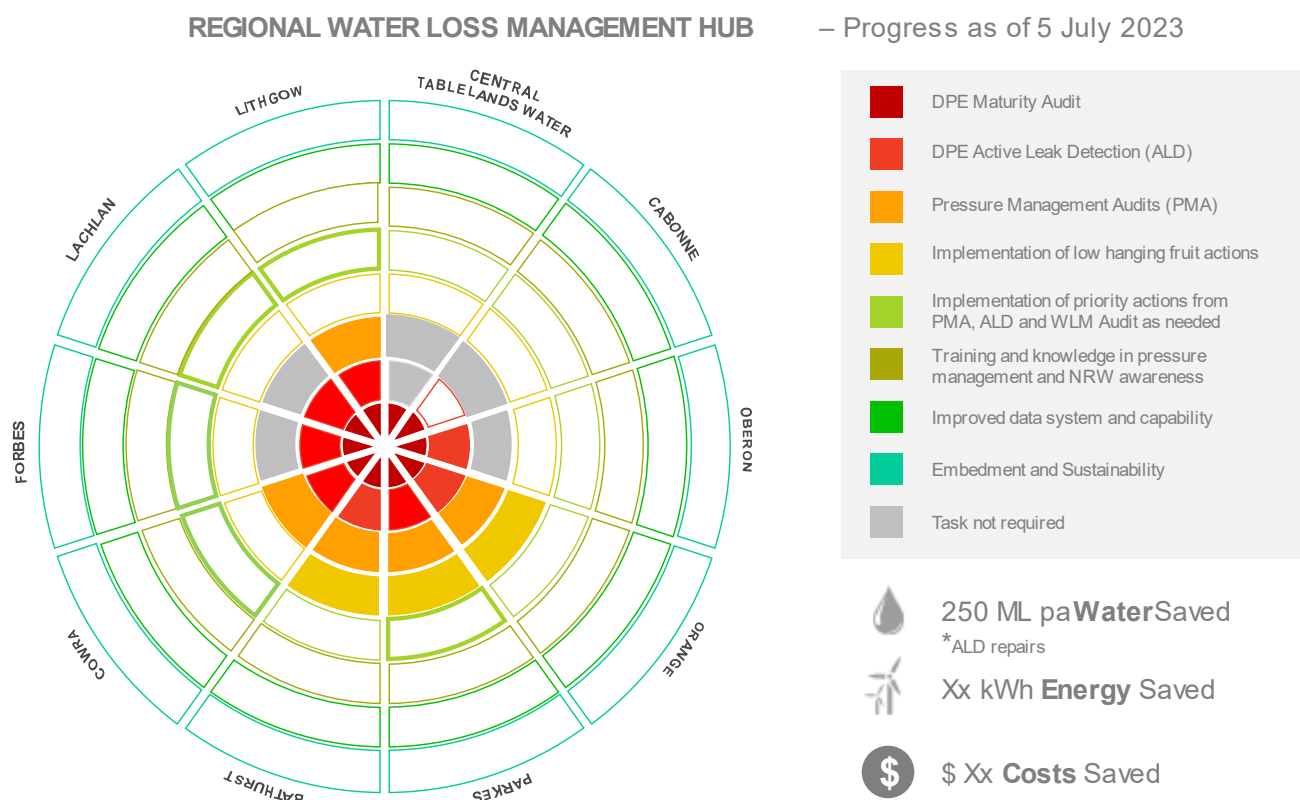
- Project Steering Committee – formed and meeting weekly.
- MoU with Parkes Shire Council for project resources -completed.
- Project resources - engaged.
- Project Control Group (Technical Committee) – formed and meeting weekly.
- DPE training in WLM delivered to 26 LWU staff across 7 councils.
- WLM maturity audits- completed.
- Pressure management audits (at selected councils)- completed.
- Pilot projects identified and agreed upon – in progress.
- Projects scoped and procured- in progress.

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- 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 a Regional WLM 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 reporting slide below.

**Progress since last update**

Since the last update the following work has been undertaken:

- *Tranche one procurement:* for the purchase and installation of pressure reduction valves (PRVs) and associated meters for Orange, Bathurst and Parkes. Quotes obtained for installation will inform work through tranche two for other councils.
- *Council site visits:* project resource Reid Butler (Reid Environmental) conducted site visits with LWU managers and operators at Lithgow, Oberon, Forbes, Bathurst and Cowra in late June to identify the steps needed to take their council to the next stage in their WLM journey. Visits are being scheduled with Central Tablelands Water, Lachlan and Cabonne.
- *Tranche two procurement:* Informed by the site visits and consultation with councils, the tranche two procurement of data loggers, meters and other equipment to detect leaks such as electronic listening sticks and ground monitors is underway.

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Councils will be supported with the installation and use of equipment procured through both tranche one and two by project consultants (or contractors) as part of the knowledge embedment component of the program.

- *Active leak detection (DPE Water):* Leak detection work has been completed for Lithgow, Lachlan, Cowra, Forbes and Parkes. Councils have completed most repairs needed. Advice from DPE is that flow rates have been reduced by 250ML pa through the identification and repair of these leaks. Leak detection work is underway in Orange and Cabonne currently and is scheduled for Bathurst.
- *Sydney Water leak detection dogs:*
A demonstration by Joey, the Sydney Water leak detection dog at the LGNSW Water Management Conference in Parkes generated a lot of interest. Opportunities to undertake demonstrations at schools in Bathurst, Orange and Parkes are in negotiation. This is seen as an opportunity to promote WLM to the community, elected representatives and to generate media interest.



In 18 months, Joey has travelled 470km of pipeline and identified over 230 leaks – some 3 metres below the surface.

The Minister's Office is very interested and considering sending the Minister to the region as part of the dog demonstrations.

- *WLM Knowledge Hub Development:*
Three workshops facilitated by consultants Visual Workplace Australia were held in Parkes on 21-23 June to inform the development of the online CNSWJO WLM Knowledge Hub. These included twenty-eight engineers and supervisors from across the ten participating councils as well as knowledge experts from the water loss sector, DPE Water, the CNSWJO and councils.



Of note is feedback from the DPE Manager of Water Efficiency Programs that the Department are very pleased and excited by what is being achieved across the region in the development and rollout of programming.

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From the CNSWJO perspective a highlight of this project is the opportunity to work alongside DPE Water staff to develop a program that is fit-for-purpose and that considers resourcing issues and practical application of programming on the ground in regional NSW.

This is the new way of working that needs to be fostered with state agencies.

Regional WLM Project and the University of Sydney Student Placement Scheme

Another highlight of the WLM project has been the opportunity to build on the great work done by the University of Sydney Major Industrial Project Placement Scheme (MIPPS) students. This program championed by Parkes, Orange and Bathurst Councils has seen Ashlynn Davies, the 2022 student placement presented with the University of Sydney, NSW IChemE Prize for the Best Undergraduate Thesis by the Head of the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Professor Kourosh Kalantar-Zadeh at the School's Graduation Dinner on 26 May.



Ashlynn's thesis project around improving the efficiency of water distribution networks in collaboration with the CNSWJO, Parkes, Orange and Bathurst Councils is informing work across the region and the state.

Across the three councils, Ashlynn estimated the value of the water loss reduced through these actions at \$423,200 per year. From the energy perspective, she estimated savings of 365,900 kWh per year (a saving of \$81,100 per year at 2020 energy pricing).

Transitioning Local Water Utility Strategic Planning into the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Following Board approval at its February meeting for a project to transition what was Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) planning for Local Water Utilities (LWUs) into the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, at its May meeting the Board approved a consultant brief to progress this work.

Project aims and objectives

The aim of this project is for participating LWUs to have IP&R recognised by DPE Water as the framework of choice for LWUs to develop strategy in water and sewer.

The objectives are to:

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

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The Project Steering Committee membership includes Council representatives as well as representatives from DPE Water, the Department of Regional NSW, the Office of Local Government and the Office of Energy and Climate Change.

Project update

Procurement has now been finalised and a contract signed with IP&R specialist Karen Legge Consulting to deliver three workshops with participating councils, Bathurst, Orange, Parkes and Forbes and representatives from state agencies, DPE Water, the Department of Regional NSW, the Office of Local Government and the Office of Energy and Climate Change.

Workshop one will be held in Orange on 30 August. The intention is that councils will bring their current suite of IP&R documents to see how the elements of DPE Water's strategic water planning requirements as described in their twelve Strategic Planning Guidance Notes can be retrofitted to inform practical application in the next cycle of IP&R.

The workshop will seek to:

- identify some of the tools councils would need to do that translation;
- identify where in IP&R everything from the twelve Guidance Notes fits;
- include an assurance discussion; and
- identify opportunities for collaboration (e.g. hydro-geological/groundwater studies) and;
- timing of these over next IP&R cycle.

It is anticipated that the workshop participants will leave with an agreed pathway and next steps. The workshop will also consider content for the development of a Toolkit of resources to support councils in the transition process. These elements will be identified and developed over the life of the project and created and tested in a second and third workshop.

Subject to funding availability will be the development of a desktop published version of the Toolkit which may be shared with other Local Water Utilities across the State as an outcome of this project.

Extra support required by councils will be identified through the course of the project in consultation with members.

Support by DPE Water for the project

This pilot project came out of:

- recommendations from the Town Water Risk Reduction Program Phase 1- CNSWJO Strategic Planning Pilot project. See page 24 of the final pilot report available on the DPE Water website: https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/546134/a-potential-regional-approach-to-lwu-strategic-planning-report.pdf
- a request for Eols from interested councils or groups of councils to participate in an IP&R focused LWU strategic planning pilot – read the [Using the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework for local water utility strategic planning PDF, 573.34 KB](#) guidance document for more information. See page 28 where DPE Water sought Eols for interest in participating in a pilot. Given the CNSWJO level of engagement in the TWRRP Phase 1 Strategic Planning Working Group we were quick to express interest in the pilot process as described.

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- Recommendation 3 from the TWRRP Phase 1 Evaluation by Aither
https://water.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/547423/twrrp-phase-1-evaluation-report.PDF

Recommendation 3: The Department should ensure that it has done the necessary policy and preparation work ahead of the next local government elections in September 2024, to be able to encourage councils to integrate their local water utility strategic planning with the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework of the Local Government Act 1993 by the next cycle of IP&R (i.e., July 2025 to June 2029).

Unfortunately, this recommendation did not translate to TWRRP phase two priorities.

While DPE Water will not provide funding support they have confirmed that, *the Department is aware of the importance of the project to Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) and will continue to provide CNSWJO with support to co-design potential regional approaches to strategic planning for local water utilities. The Department can also provide ongoing technical advice to assist CNSWJO regarding the Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) framework.*

The OLG has now granted approval for a variation of \$25,000 previously earmarked for a Workforce Development Plan for Water and Wastewater to support this initiative. The balance will be funded by the CNSWJO through the Water Utilities Alliance budget.

Moving forward regular email updates on progress on this project will be circulated through GMs.

Advocacy Update

The Regional Water Portfolio Mayors and sponsoring GMs held their second meeting via zoom on 12 July. The meeting facilitated by Ms Jenny Bennett and Ms Meredith Macpherson was attended by Cr Robert Taylor, Cr David Somerville and Mr Kent Boyd.

The agenda included discussion of the key advocacy messages for regional water security and productive water with consideration of advice from recent meetings with the State and Australian Government Water Ministers and current policy agendas and programming.

The Portfolio Mayors and GMs have suggested the development of graphically designed collateral that clearly and concisely articulates the region's ten key advocacy messages. CNSWJO staff are preparing draft content for discussion at the next meeting (date tbc).

As you well know, regional water is a complex area with multiple interconnected slow moving strategic processes at all levels of government impacting on the main game for member councils being ensuring quality secure water for Central NSW.

Of note in the water advocacy space currently is the following.

- *Town Water Risk Reduction Program phase two*

Despite the Town Water Risk Reduction Program (TWRRP) phase one, councils across the region and elsewhere in the state are reporting ongoing impediments in working with DPE Water to get action on the ground.

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Advice from DPE Water is that *TWRRP phase two will focus on building the capacity of the existing advice and support role of DPE as opposed to the reform program of phase one*. There continues to be churn in staff at DPE Water while some ‘subject matter experts’ who are resistant to change anticipated in the Auditor General’s report remain.

A more in-depth session will be held with Portfolio Mayors and GMs on the TWRRP phase two where councils are not seeing the support needed from DPE on the ground.

- *Joint Parliamentary Inquiry into Constitutional Arrangements for LWUs*

At the LGNSW Water Management Conference on 27 June, Minister Jackson announced a Joint Parliamentary Inquiry into Constitutional Arrangements for LWUs. It is understood that the Terms of Reference for this are being developed in consultation with LGNSW and that the Chair will be Stephen Lawrence MLC and former Mayor of Dubbo. Concerns have been expressed about the risk of this becoming another Armstrong Gellatly exercise especially given that it will coincide with work by DPE Water on Alternate Funding Models for LWUs. Further information has been sought.

- *Challenges in the State Government budget*

Advocacy is needed on the challenges in the State Government budget where Minister Jackson advised at the meeting with the region’s Mayors in Parkes on 26 June that there is no money earmarked under the Safe and Secure Water Program moving forward.

Where ongoing funding for drinking water **MUST** be of the highest priority, Minister Jackson has requested that the JO assist in making a case to NSW Treasury through identification of priority water infrastructure projects for Central NSW Councils that require funding. At the time of writing, graphically designed collateral including council’s priority water infrastructure projects is in development.

- *Opportunities to access the Australian Government’s National Water Grid Funding*

An action from the Board meeting with Federal Water Minister Tanya Plibersek in Canberra on 25 May was a follow up meeting with Mr Michael Wrathall (Senior Adviser Water to Minister Plibersek) held on 26 July. At this meeting, also attended by Mr Mark Darrough representing Infrastructure Australia’s National Water Grid, the opportunity to bring the State and Australian Governments together on projects from the region worthy of consideration under the National Water Grid was discussed. The collateral in development detailing council’s priority water infrastructure projects will support advocacy on this front.

- *Opportunity for ongoing dialogue with Minister Plibersek’s Senior Adviser*

At the meeting with Mr Michael Wrathall more detail was provided on the value of urban water and the potential that this is undervalued in business cases being presented by the State Government to the Australian Government for funding support. Also on the agenda was advice on the potential for the Lachlan Valley to deliver on the Australian Government’s aspirations for increased and sustainable agricultural productivity through different ways of managing water – the “Dutch Model”. A power point was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Actions from this meeting are as follows:

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1. CNSWJO to provide advice from James McTavish regarding regional water committees. (completed)
2. CNSWJO to seek Bathurst approval to share WRI Economic Business Case -Water Security. (completed)
3. Discuss with Michael and Mark -enduring process for the region to have inter-governmental. discussion around critical water infrastructure projects.
4. CNSWJO to collate listing of water infrastructure requiring funding. (in progress)
5. Continue regular discussions with Michael and Mark.

Draft Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy

After a long delay DPE Water undertook consultation on 14 August with councils in the upper Macquarie on the final draft of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy. The meeting was attended by representatives from Bathurst, Orange, Oberon and Central Tablelands Water.

The meeting discussed a draft copy of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy implementation plan and the proposed final text for urban water-related actions in the Regional Water Strategy. Considerable feedback was provided by members with the opportunity for further written feedback to be provided by 21 August.

While the strategy requires some fine tuning, consensus is that we have gone from not having urban water included to having the governance arrangements we have consistently called for and recognition of many opportunities to secure water for our urban communities including regulatory change included. The challenge remains the timeframe for the finalisation of the Strategy and its implementation and of the regulatory and policy reform needed through the Water Sharing Plans to enable water for critical human need in times of shortages. With the next drought looming the CNSWJO has called on the Department of Regional NSW to assist in establishing the governance arrangements in the region as soon as possible. There is still a long way to go to secure water.

Review of the Murray Darling Basin Plan

The Independent review of the Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP) was announced in June. While the MDBP Review Roadmap has a long lead time, it is critical that advocacy starts now to influence MDBP two to address challenges for water for critical human need and productive use (enabling the “Dutch Model”) not recognised in MDBP one.

<https://www.mdba.gov.au/water-management/basin-plan/2026-basin-plan-review>

The Productivity Commission called for submissions to the MDBP Independent Review. A submission based on existing policy was made under the hand of the Executive on 31 July.

Scope of the inquiry

Details of the scope of the inquiry including terms of reference are available at:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/basin-plan-2023#issues>

In summary, the Commission is assessing the progress towards implementing the Basin Plan, including the:

- extent to which the Basin Plan is on track to be delivered within statutory timeframes.
- likelihood and extent to which activities and arrangements currently in place will ensure that these provisions and timeframes will be met.

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- effectiveness of reforms to address previous Productivity Commission recommendations, including the Joint Basin government response to the Productivity Commission inquiry report: Murray–Darling Basin Plan: Five-year Assessment (2019), and
- extent to which the current framework for implementing the Basin Plan, including the framework for monitoring, reporting and evaluation, is likely to be effective in supporting implementation of the Basin Plan.

Amongst other things, the Commission is considering:

- the impact of major droughts, floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic on the effectiveness of implementing the Basin Plan and water resource plans over the assessment period.
- the effectiveness of the implementation of the Basin Plan and water resource plans over the five years since the previous assessment; and
- advice and recommendations on future actions and opportunities to simplify the framework of the Basin Plan to ensure effective achievement of its outcomes.

The CNSWJO submission to the Productivity Commission’s Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Implementation review 2023 is provided as an attachment.

Based on existing Board policy, the submission calls for change in how the Murray Darling Basin Plan is administered to sustain growth, particularly in the context of drought for inland communities. It highlights assumptions being made by agencies about both the social and productive value of urban water not being in line with lived experience in the region. Further it draws on the challenges through the past drought as testimony to the failure of existing systems including the Water Sharing Plans in enabling water for critical human need.

Where the inception of the Basin Plan was at a time when rural and regional NSW was perceived as experiencing both population and production decline, the submission calls for strong national leadership and new collaborative, inter-governmental approaches to water planning and management across all water uses to achieve the balance needed in a new climate future.

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

WLM Project

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:

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- 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.

IP&R Project Budget

The budget for this project is \$49,320 (ex GST). This excludes the optional desktop published Toolkit.

The OLG has now granted approval for a variation of \$25,000 previously earmarked for a Workforce Development Plan for Water and Wastewater to support this initiative. The balance will be funded by the CNSWJO through the Water Utilities Alliance budget.

On advice from the DPE Water representatives, correspondence was sent to the DPE Water Safe and Secure Water Program (stream two) on 26 April seeking funding support 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). Subsequent correspondence received on 16 June confirmed that after a detailed review the proposed activities are not eligible for funding under the SSWP Stream two Program Guidelines.

Attachment/s:

10. CNSWJO submission to the Productivity Commission's Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Implementation review 2023

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

Regional Strategic Priorities	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
Portfolio Chairman	Cr M Kellam
Sponsoring General Manager/s	Mr B Byrnes, Mr P Devery, Mr G Tory and Mr D Waddell

Report by Kate Barker, dated 10 August 2023

Recommendation/s
That the Board note the Energy Report and; 1. note the progress of the Business Case on the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction; 2. endorse the Project Plan for the Business Case on the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction; and 3. endorse the application to ARENA for the Community Battery Program.

Precis

This report provides advice on:

- update on the JONZA program;
- Business Case on the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction;
- Southern Lights including proffering a position as part of the Australian Energy Regulator pricing process for Essential Energy;
- ARENA's community battery program; and the
- \$100 million Community Energy Upgrades Fund

This report seeks endorsement of the Business Case Project Plan and the EOI application to ARENA for the Community Battery Program, where CNSWJO's application was for 8 batteries at a total of \$5.5m.

Reason for the Report

This report provides an update on the varying projects currently underway through the energy priority, most notably the Business Case on the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction.

This report seeks the Board's endorsement of the Business Case Project Plan, and also the ARENA EOI Application for the Community Battery Program submitted in June on behalf of members.

Legislative Policy and Risk Considerations

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

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1.- Failure of the JO Network

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

10. - Review recommendations to “bring the State to the table” do not deliver network sustainability

- Long term viability and financial sustainability.
- Turnover staff in councils who are working on JO projects – loss of corporate knowledge.

OECC Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program (JONZA)

The 17 key activities identified by CNSWJO to deliver under the JONZA Program include the following, where a status update on each is provided alongside:

	Complete
	Underway
	Not yet started

Action	Update	Status
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	Energy Group has been renamed to Net Zero Group. Progress for each council will continue to be tracked through the tracking spreadsheet. Meetings are currently being booked with each council to update the tracking spreadsheet and the checklist that measures each council’s maturity across the region. The other JONZA participants are understanding the same exercise.	
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	Complete. Terms of Reference were reviewed and amended at the May 2023 meeting of the Group – they are attached to this report.	
3. Update procurement Policy to incorporate Social and Sustainability Procurement elements.	CNSWJO has received funding on behalf of 5 JONZA JOs through LGP’s Capability Fund to attend sustainable procurement training in Sydney. Following this, a Sustainable Procurement Policy will be developed by the JONZA network for use by JOs and member councils should they choose. The Board will receive a report in due course regarding the adoption of a new Sustainable Procurement Policy.	
4. Emissions Reduction Plans for each Council for scopes 1 and 2	Underway. Where Bathurst and Cabonne have previously completed this work in 2022, the remaining councils are now in the process of developing these plans through consultants 100% Renewables. This project is fully funded by the OECC’s Sustainable Councils program to the value of \$188k.	

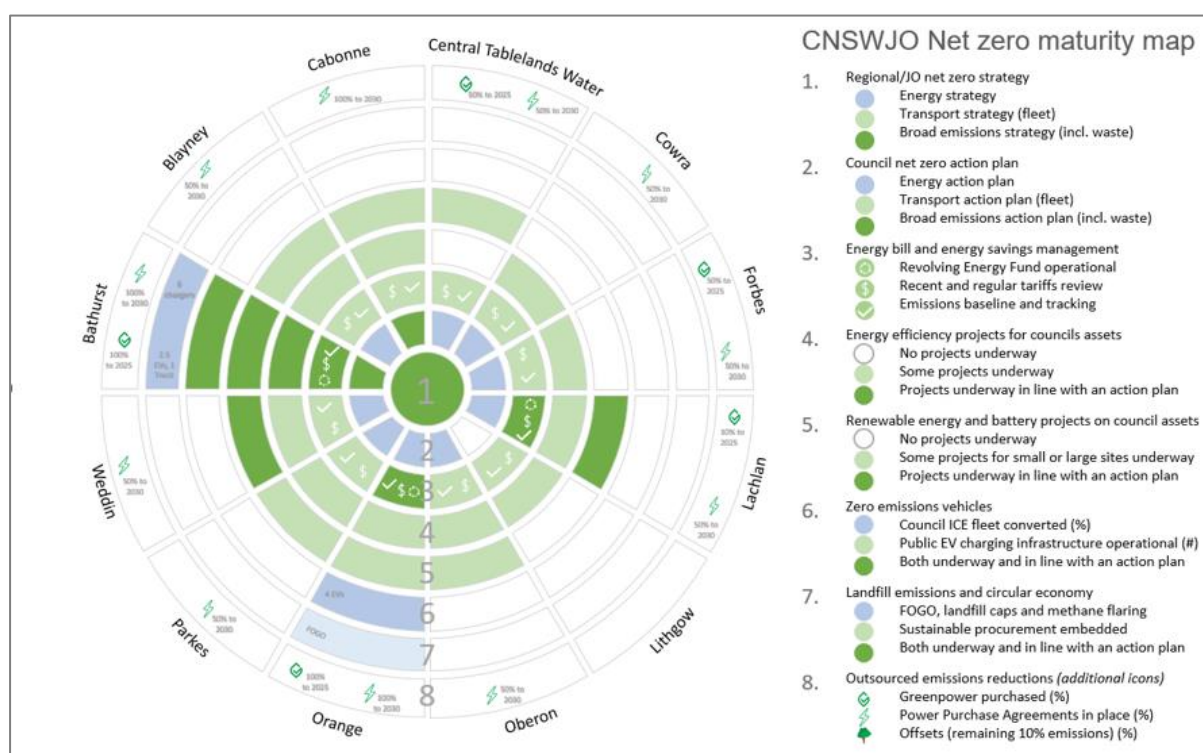
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5. Tool for Councils to track emissions	The tool is under development as part of the above project. It is also fully funded and is included in the total funding received.	
6. Identify training opportunities and provide training in use of the tool, and develop an accountability framework to enable embedment within the JO including NZOPM support if required.	The training will take place on completion of the plans and tool. It is also fully funded and is included in the total funding received.	
7. Develop an implementation plan for the CNSWJO Emissions Reduction Plan: Regional Opportunities	Underway.	
8. Develop a business case for the change of ownership of streetlights	Yet to commence. Awaiting the outcome of the current AER Determination regarding pricing where this will affect the business case.	
9. Develop a business case for renewable street lighting/other external community lighting	Scoping to commence shortly.	
10. A fleet transition plan for each Council	Underway. Members have received funding of \$94,500 to develop a fleet transition plan for every council, and update the existing plan for Bathurst. Included in this work is the development of a template which will support other JOs and their members to develop plans.	
11. Annual network tariff review for each council	At a workshop of the JONZA network in Sydney on 17 August, training will be provided for the JONZA resources to conduct tariff reviews on behalf of member councils. It is anticipated that a tool will be developed to assist this work.	
12. Deliver emissions reduction through the water loss management program.	Please see an update on the program elsewhere in this business paper.	
13. Develop business case for regional revolving energy fund	Through the recent application to ARENA for community batteries, it is proposed that a regional revolving energy fund be scoped. Councils have reported previously that the formation of a revolving energy fund has its challenges so these are being explored during the scoping. There is potential that a regional revolving energy fund could support JOs in financial sustainability for a dedicated energy resource, where the annual tariff reviews conducted through the JO for member councils in 2021 saw savings of \$300k. It is recommended that GMAC nominate key council staff to assist the JO in developing a model.	
14. Direct Metering Agreement in place for councils small sites	This is mostly complete. A final review and tidy-up of any missed sites is yet to be completed, however most councils signed a DMA through the NSW Govt	

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	contract for both small and large sites with intervals, commencing around January 2021.	
15. Regional opportunities report for Virtual Power Plants for member councils	This is being explored through the Business Case.	
16. Review policy for transition to renewable energy future regarding the social licensing issues, then develop advocacy plan	Underway. Some update to the Energy Advocacy Plan has been done, however there are other community aspects that need to be explored further and included, where the Business Case is also considering how the community is affected and can potentially benefit from renewable energy projects.	
17. Develop policy and advocacy plan with regard to biodiversity, urban environments during climate change including tree canopy, and waste and landfill emissions.	Yet to commence.	

The follow Net Zero Maturity Map is an initiative of the OECC's Sustainable Councils program that oversees the JONZA Program, based on a similar reporting framework developed for the Water Loss Management Program. It measures each council's maturity in relation to net zero activities:



This map is updated regularly as councils provide advice on additional projects and initiatives that are underway or completed. The map is currently populated with as much information that is readily available to JO staff, however, it is in the process of being updated through one-on-one meetings with council staff to obtain more information to be able to update the map.

Some important points to note about the current map are as follows:

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- All councils are currently developing emissions reduction plans and fleet transition plans, fully funded by the NSW OECC. These are not currently shown on the map but will be updated once the plans are complete.
- Lithgow is currently completing a Renewable Energy Action Plan, funded by NSW OECC, where other councils have completed these in recent years. Once complete, it will be reflected in the map.
- A number of councils have expressed interest in forming a Revolving Energy Fund, and support is being provided to these councils by the JO as a collaborative project across the JONZA network.

Business Case on the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction

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 meets monthly. The Steering Committee consists of:

- CNSWJO
- Sponsoring GMs x 4
- Chair of Net Zero Group
- 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
- Simply Sustainable
- Presync

Representation is also being sought from TransGrid.

A Project Control Group meets fortnightly and consists of:

- Brad Byrnes – Sponsoring GM
- David Waddell – Sponsoring GM
- Greg Tory – Sponsoring GM
- Paul Devery – Sponsoring GM
- Deborah Taylor – Chair of the Net Zero Group
- Simon Wright – Simply Sustainable
- Jenny Bennett – CNSWJO
- Kate Barker - CNSWJO

The Deed and the first milestone payment have been received for the program. The deadline for the development of the business case was previously 30 September 2023, however CNSWJO has requested and been approved for an extension until 31 December 2023.

Following an RFT process, Ernst & Young was awarded the contract to deliver the business case.

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The Project Plan has been developed and forms an attachment to this report. The Project Plan was endorsed by GMAC at its July meeting.

The objective of the project is to identify a preferred option to reduce emissions and increase energy security in Central NSW through the delivery of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) solutions. Identification of the preferred option will be achieved through a compelling and robust Business Case identifying pathways that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the security of Central NSW.

The Business Case will cover all sections as required in the Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund Business Case template, including:

- The case for change: A clear problem statement and rationale for investment, strategic alignment, expected outcomes and discussion on the level of stakeholder and community support.
- Analysis of the proposal: Objectives and indicators, base case development, options identification and assessment through CBA and examination of financing and funding to identify opportunities that are considered feasible and viable to increase energy security and reduce emissions in Central NSW.
- Out of scope are the creation of a detailed design and a bottom-up cost estimate of the preferred option. These could be completed for an additional fee if deemed necessary once the preferred option is identified.
- Implementation case: A clear program discussion including consideration of governance and structural arrangements, key risks, and legislative and regulatory factors.

The outputs of the project are:

1. Demand Report
 - A deep and thorough understanding of the current and expected future demand of electricity in Central NSW
 - A deep understanding of how demand is expected to change over a 10 year horizon (with estimates going to 2050).
 - An understanding of how the forecast demand is expected to be served.
 - Deliverables: Results presentation, appendix to the Business Case
2. Capacity Assessment
 - Identification of the current renewables projects located in Central NSW and forecast future renewable and storage development.
 - Identification of the stronger and weaker points of the transmission network in Central NSW to guide efficient development of renewables in the region.
 - Insight to help guide Central NSW's role in the energy transition.
 - Deliverables: Results presentation, appendix to the Business Case.
3. Gas to Renewables Transition Assessment
 - Identification of the top 3 opportunities for gas transition for the region.
 - The assessment will review existing uses and identify commercially and technologically viable options.
 - The assessment will use the scale and attractiveness of gas transition pathways for user groups to define the most effective approach for CNSWJO to consider.
 - Deliverables: Results presentation, appendix to the Business Case
4. Opportunities Context Report

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- Set the scene for widescale deployment of DER in the region and identification of current and expected renewable energy technologies.
 - Exploration of DER technologies as well as the key policy, regulatory and investment levers.
 - Insights into developments, successes and failures of DER deployment in other jurisdictions to ensure CNSWJO is best placed to reach its priorities.
 - Deliverables: Results presentation, appendix to the Business Case
5. Councils and JO Roadmap
- Exploration of the role and value that each Council along with the JO as a whole can provide to the design, delivery and maintenance of the preferred option.
 - Guidance for Council's and the JO on their role and responsibilities.
 - Leverage each Council's strengths, complementing the work of each other, and ensuring that weaknesses are addressed.
 - Deliverables: Roadmap (ppt), appendix to the Business Case
6. Business Case
- Robust CBA and consideration of qualitative impacts will lead to the identification of a preferred option for Central NSW.
 - A strong Business Case to ensure funding requirements met, and a valuable document created for CNSWJO to guide and use in next steps.
 - Clear reasoning and argument provided for use by CNSWJO in discussions with key stakeholders.
 - Deliverables: Business Case, presentation

The status of the project including the major milestones can be seen in the table on the next page.

Activities progressed since the project commenced in early June include:






- Inception meeting held on 6 June (virtual).
- Development and submission of draft Project Plan for consideration by CNSWJO.
- ILM workshop held on 28 June in Orange.
- Following the ILM workshop, draft problem statements, opportunity statements and the draft ILM output have been developed.
- Stakeholder consultations held with all councils, Essential Energy, Endeavour Energy and Jemena.
- Other stakeholder consultations are underway with state agencies, industry and others identified by councils.
- Development of the long list of options (solutions), base case definition, strategic alignment assessment and narrative development.
- Energy demand report, capacity assessment opportunities context report, and gas to renewables transition assessment are underway.
- Risk workshop held on 27 July in Orange.
- Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) workshop to be held in Orange on 16 August.
- Stakeholder workshops (x2) scheduled for August.

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Period		Project status	
22 July 2023 to 9 August 2023		On track	
Key engagement activities		Target date	Status
Stage 1 Initiation	Inception meeting	6 June	
	Review existing documentation	16 June	
	Project Plan	21 June	
Stage 2 Need for Change	Problem / Opportunity Definition (ILM workshop)	28 June	
	Base case definition	14 July	
	Strategic alignment assessment	28 July	
	Narrative development	14 July	
	Options identification process (long list)	21 July	
	Shortlisting options	28 July	
Stage 3 Research and Analysis	Energy demand report	28 July	
	Capacity assessment	28 July	
	Emissions analysis	11 August	
	Gas to renewables transition assessment	11 August	
	Opportunities context report	4 August	
	Draft the Case for Change Chapter	11 August	
Stage 4 Stakeholder Engagement	30 one-on-one stakeholder interviews	18 August	
	Stakeholder workshop material development	7 August	
	2 workshops to discuss options, costs and benefits	10 August	
Stage 5 Options Analysis	Risk workshop	27 July	
	Complete MCA (including workshop on 16 August)	16 August	
	Complete CBA	8 September	
	Regulatory, environmental and planning review	15 September	
	Governance development	15 September	
	Implementation considerations	15 September	
Stage 6 Reporting and Finalisation	Draft Business Case	29 September	
	Finalise Business Case document	13 October	
	Presentation to CNSWJO Board	23 November	

The key stakeholders identified through the project include:

Distributed Network, Transmission Network & Gas Pipeline Service Providers	Electricity retailers and DER technology providers	CNSWJO Member and Associate Member Councils	NSW Government Departments	Local industry and community stakeholders
 <p>Essential Energy</p> <p>Endeavour Energy</p> <p>TransGrid</p> <p>Jemena</p> <p>APA</p> <p>5</p>	 <p>Origin</p> <p>Iberdrola</p> <p>Shell</p> <p>PXISE</p> <p>SwitchDin</p> <p>Mondo</p> <p>4</p>	 <p>Bathurst Regional Council,</p> <p>Blayney Shire Council, Cabonne Council, Cowra Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council, Lachlan Shire Council, Lithgow City Council, Oberon Council, Orange City Council, Parkes Shire Council, Weddin Shire Council, Central Tablelands Council</p> <p>12</p>	 <p>Office of Energy and Climate Change</p> <p>Regional NSW</p> <p>Investment NSW</p> <p>NSW Treasury</p> <p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment</p> <p>Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation</p> <p>Parkes Special Activation Precinct</p> <p>1</p>	 <p>Energy consultants that CNSWJO has previously engaged (Presync, 100% Renewables, ChargeWorks, Constructive Energy and Simply Sustainable)</p> <p>Large local businesses (Manildra Group, Newcrest Mining, ACEN Australia, BORG, Charles Sturt University, Regis Resources, North Parkes Mine)</p> <p>Industry associations and/or local chambers of commerce (Business NSW, Regional Development Australia Central West and NetWaste)</p> <p>Community representative bodies (Clean Cowra, BCCAN and ECCO Orange)</p> <p>10</p>

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The problem and benefit statements include:

Problem statements

1. Energy supply does not consistently meet demand in areas of Central NSW, leading to a lack of energy reliability and security and affecting regional growth.
2. Conventional infrastructure and the pace of remedial action is inhibiting the growth of renewable energy supplies, creating issues with two-way flows and demand management.
3. The current energy market volatility and transition uncertainty is increasing energy supply costs to consumers thereby adding to the cost-of-living pressures.
4. The implementation and impacts of the energy transition journey in Central NSW is not well understood by the community, leading to community uncertainty or resistance and creating barriers to renewable energy projects.

Benefit statements

1. Competitiveness – Increasing the reliability of energy supply in Central NSW will increase the region's competitiveness and potential growth opportunities.
2. Future-proofing - Expanded and improved energy infrastructure with lower emissions intensity will support the future-proofing of the region.
3. Affordability – Increasing energy supply or reducing energy from the grid will lower price pressures and support energy affordability.
4. Support – Committing to investment in renewable energy in the region will provide clear messaging to the community and industry of the importance of locally generated renewable energy, providing a stable foundation for growth and reducing the uncertainty felt by stakeholders.

This is a complex, important and fast-moving project. Members are encouraged to reach out and request a briefing should anything in the project be unclear.

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.

Essential Energy has commenced weekly meetings with a sub-group of the Southern Lights Group to discuss a number of outstanding items that were raised by Southern Lights in November 2022 and remained unresolved in the Essential Energy submission to the AER.

Additionally, Essential Energy is coordinating a two-day engagement session focused on the 2024-2029 Public Lighting Regulatory Proposal on 22 and 23 August in Sydney. Southern Lights representatives will be attending the sessions.

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ARENA Community Battery Program

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

Through the JONZA program, significant interest was expressed by members.

The OECC provided support to JOs through providing access to consultants to assist with sizing and costing the batteries and determining which ones best meet the guidelines, and also engaged a grant writer to pull together the submissions.

Due to the level of interest, 3 separate submissions were lodged by the closing date of 30 June:

- CNSWJO – water and sewer
- Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) – community gathering places
- Illawarra-Shoalhaven JO (ISJO) - pools

The assessment process was conducted by ITP Renewables and consisted of financial modelling and grid constraint analysis. There were over 90 sites across the JONZA network that were put forward for assessment, and the majority of sites, particularly from other JO areas, had insufficient data.

The final applications saw all councils except 2 included in one of the applications. Further investigation is taking place with the JONZA network, OECC and the consultant to better understand why sites didn't make the final list.

The final list of sites, battery sizes and estimated cost for the CNSWJO application is as follows:

Council	Site	Battery Size	\$
Bathurst	Waste Water Treatment Plant	412 kWp	\$1,217,677
Central Tablelands Water	Carcoar Water Treatment Plant	236 kWp	\$779,527
Cowra	Sewerage Treatment Plant	68 kWp	\$252,483
Forbes	Sewerage Treatment Plant	78 kWp	\$279,503
Lachlan	Merri Abba High Lift Pump	62 kWp	\$235,524
Orange	Water Treatment Plant	60 kWp	\$227,388
Parkes	Pump Station	482 kWp	\$1,388,578
Ballina	Waste Water Treatment Plant	345 kWp	\$1,052,718
		Total	\$5,433,398

Blayney, Cabonne and Weddin are included in other applications:

1. REROC disaster resilience application:
 - Cabonne – Molong Admin Building – 58 kWp - \$209,874
2. ISJO pool application:
 - Blayney – aquatic centre – 132 kWp - \$487,628
 - Weddin – pool – 50 kWp - \$189,055

Two key components of the EOI application are:

1. The size of the batteries is based on optimised solar – this is either new solar or addition to existing solar. The JOs are not committing councils to pay for the solar; it is to be sought from the NSW Govt or elsewhere. It is noted in the EOI that one key risk is not getting that funding and if that's the case the JOs will seek funding from other sources and/or reduce the

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size of the battery. If, however, councils have funding available for solar, or if the solar has a low payback, councils may wish to give consideration to contributing to the solar component.

2. Regional Revolving Energy Fund – the JOs will seek to develop a regional revolving cost savings model. Members will note this is also an action under the CNSWJO JONZA program for development. Should the application be successful, and if the development of a revolving cost savings model show it is a viable opportunity, there could be potential for councils to pay a portion of their savings into a specific fund held by the JO which may be used to pay for future batteries at sites that were not funded by the grant. It is recommended that GMAC nominates a few key council staff to assist CNSWJO in the development of a regional revolving energy fund.

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

\$100 million Community Energy Upgrades Fund

The Federal Government recently announced a new \$100m Community Energy Upgrades Fund to support councils with co-funding for energy upgrades. This Fund is only open to councils to help cut emissions and reduce costs.

While the guidelines have not yet been released, it is understood that the funding could be used for activities such as replacing energy-intensive heating in pools with heat pumps and energy-efficient lighting and battery storage at sporting fields, libraries and community centres.

Through the various plans and strategies developed with members in recent years, there are a plethora of opportunities that arise from such a fund.

Financial Considerations

Most activities under the Energy Program are currently grant funded:

1. The Net Zero and Operational Program Manager is funded through the OECC's Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) Program;
2. The Business Case is fully funded through Regional NSW's Business Case and Strategy Development Fund;
3. Consulting support for Emissions Reduction Plans and Fleet Transition Plans are funded through the OECC's Sustainable Councils Program;
4. Consulting support for the Southern Lights Program is currently funded through the OLG's Capacity Building Fund;
5. Sustainable Procurement training for JO staff is funded under LGP's Capability Fund; and
6. Consulting support for the development of the EOI for ARENA's Community Battery Program was funded by the OECC's Sustainable Councils Program.

While the CNSWJO has been very successful in receiving grant funding from the OECC in the past 2-3 years, this is likely to be significantly reduced in future now that the JONZA Program is in operation where the OECC is likely to fund other JOs who have to date not yet received the same level of funding and support.

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As such, it is recommended that members give consideration to the regional revolving energy fund opportunity as a source of income to the JO. A model is being explored with neighbouring JOs and will be provided to the Board for consideration in due course.

Conclusion

There is a vast amount of work being undertaken through the energy program, and the opportunities being presented to councils through JONZA and other funding are countless. It is recommended that each council engage in the net zero program so that opportunities are not missed.

Attachment/s:

11. Business Case Project Plan
12. EOI to ARENA's Community Battery Program - confidential
13. Media release – Helping Communities Save Energy, Save on Energy Bills – Federal Government <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/helping-communities-save-energy-save-energy-bills>

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

Regional Strategic Priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leveraging our successful collaboration 2. Regional Prosperity through better infrastructure and services 3. Advocate for better infrastructure and services in health and ageing 4. Telecommunications 5. Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation 6. Regional Water Security and Productive Water 7. Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future
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Report By Jenny Bennett, Kate Barker, Carolyn Griffin Verity Page, dated 9 August 2023

Recommendation/s
That the Board note the Quarterly review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022 –2025.

Precis

This report provides advice on:

- Risks to the JO and their management
- Progress of the OLG review of JOs
- OLG funding
- Working with the Regional Leadership Executive
- Status of funding applications
- Public Relations advice from the region's destination marketing
- Value of the JO to members

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

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.

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Central NSW JO Board Meeting 23 August 2023

#	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
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

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.

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Current status of JOs is as follows:

Joint Organisation	Staff support and status
Canberra	EO FT plus support staff
CNSWJO	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, 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	In hiatus as of 1 July 2023 as they have an incorporated entity in REROC that more efficiently does business.

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 for development by cross agency/JO subcommittees. These were based on the four themes of the Implementation Plan circulated 27 July 2022 for “codesign” where themes three and four became one for this next stage of work. The three themes were as follows:

1. Theme - Governance, promotion and communication
2. Theme - Accountability and performance
3. Theme - Financial sustainability and boundaries

CNSWJO took the lead for Theme 3 in November 2022. A final report was adopted for Theme 3 was adopted in May 2023 by CNSWJO Board. 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.

Reports

The following recommendations are made in the report:

1. *Form an ongoing interagency/JO Working Party including State Government membership at 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.*

A copy of the report was sent to the Minister for Local Government the Hon. Ron Hoenig MP and the Deputy Secretary of OLG and formed background to the NSW JO Chairs Forum meeting held 29 June 2023. The Local Government Minister addressed the NSW JO Chairs Forum, his commentary was that he supported collaboration between councils in any form. The Chairs' Forum adopted the above recommendation.

OLG Stage 2 funding Project Plan Milestone Report

There were four projects funded in this stage.

- Supporting Community Strategic Planning
- Destination marketing of the "Long Long Weekend"
- Supporting the transition to net zero.
- Transitioning what was IWCM into the IP&R framework.

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.

The approved OLG Stage 2 funding Project Plan has milestone reporting based on GMAC and Board business papers. The final balance was due to be expended by 30 June, however a variation was sought through OLG, and confirmation this was supported was received from OLG 26 June 2023. Please see attached.

Please request past reports in this regard. Progress on the remaining projects 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 \$67,854 has been expended.

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- 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 in the report on this project elsewhere in this agenda.

Working with the Regional Leadership Executive

The Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) in the Central West is working well with the JO. Current projects are:

- Spare Capacity in Housing
- Growing RLE capacity in understanding water
- Community Strategic Plan Project

At the Board meeting Canberra in May Ms Olivia West provided advice on an opportunity for the region to leverage a MoU with Canberra. Further advice will be provided as it comes to hand.

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.

As seen in the Transport Report the successful Fixing Country Bridges application is under review by Treasury as the Deed was not Executed before caretakers.

Advice on current funded programs can be found elsewhere in this agenda.

An application through the JONZA program for batteries for member Councils through funding from ARENA has been reported weekly to members and lodged. Please find more detail elsewhere in this agenda.

Funding is being sought from the OECC on a case-by-case basis for members and for regional programming and is reported elsewhere in this agenda.

A majority of members have sought funding through the JO for a project to support compliance with Modern Slavery Legislation. The application to Local Government Procurement for \$25K was unsuccessful. Given the value of the project please see the procurement report for a revised approach.

Members will be aware that the federal Growing Regions fund is accepting EOIs for infrastructure. Support will be provided to members on request. Advice on the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program is as follows:

The program will also be the mechanism for delivering all future regional partnerships to help regions move towards net-zero emissions, a decarbonised economy and sustained regional growth.

The program will invite proposals nationally from State, Territory and Local Governments, as well as not-for-profit organisations, to come together in genuine collaboration to apply for a Precinct Partnership.

In this context, precincts are 'places with a purpose' – defined geographic areas or community clusters – like shires, districts or regions – with initiatives shaped around a specific shared need or theme.

Information on program guidelines, eligibility criteria and the application process will be provided in due course.

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CNSWJO will monitor this opportunity.

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.

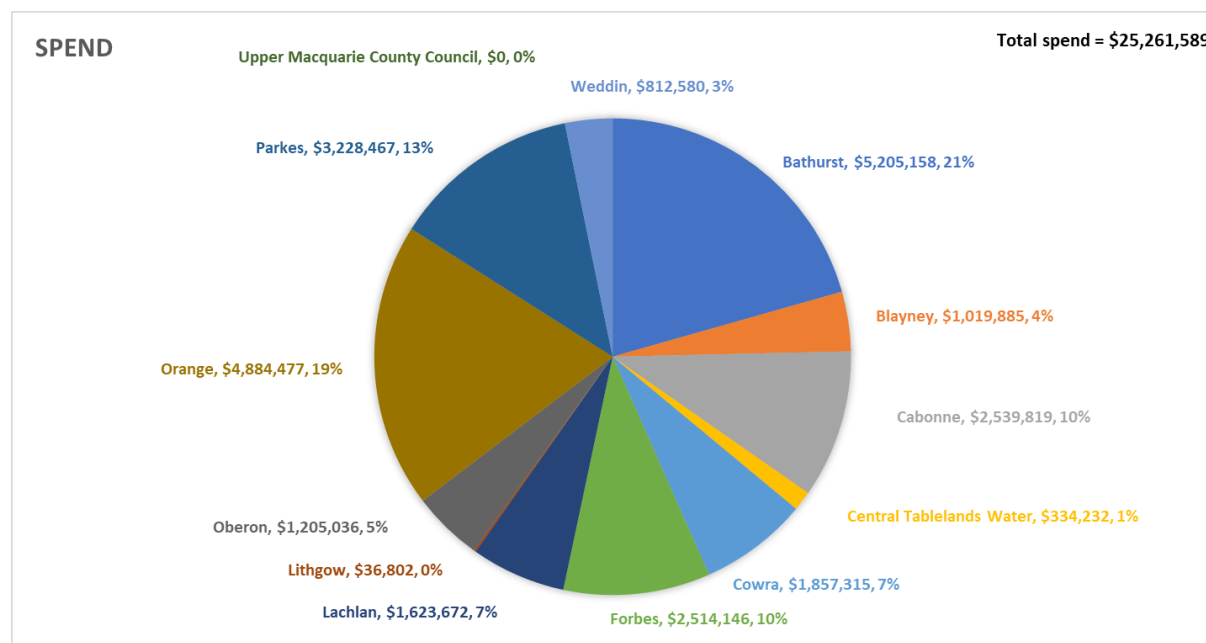
Cumulative spend and cost savings for previous financial years are available on request.

While some figures are yet to be entered as they were not received at time of writing this report, the figures will be updated for the August Board meeting.

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	\$69,842	\$13,043	\$0	\$1,725,583	\$0	\$3,331,941	\$56,480	\$0	\$370	\$5,205,158
Blayney	\$6,700	\$15,722	\$0	\$0	\$674,947	\$0	\$316,289	\$6,227	\$0	\$0	\$1,019,885
Cabonne	\$7,000	\$33,583	\$280	\$0	\$2,016,501	\$0	\$478,581	\$2,863	\$0	\$1,010	\$2,539,819
Central Tablelands Water	\$6,700	\$604	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$321,534	\$5,395	\$0	\$0	\$334,232
Cowra	\$14,323	\$39,925	\$13,905	\$0	\$826,701	\$0	\$952,990	\$3,000	\$0	\$6,470	\$1,857,315
Forbes	\$7,000	\$33,768	\$0	\$0	\$1,516,762	\$0	\$918,823	\$32,423	\$0	\$5,370	\$2,514,146
Lachlan	\$7,000	\$25,082	\$0	\$0	\$1,148,259	\$0	\$410,575	\$2,343	\$0	\$30,413	\$1,623,672
Lithgow	\$7,000	\$9,802	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$36,802
Oberon	\$7,000	\$14,527	\$0	\$0	\$881,172	\$0	\$280,250	\$19,142	\$0	\$2,945	\$1,205,036
Orange	\$55,068	\$87,419	\$14,148	\$0	\$979,441	\$0	\$3,687,729	\$34,228	\$0	\$26,445	\$4,884,477
Parkes	\$7,000	\$37,658	\$0	\$0	\$1,499,540	\$0	\$1,629,480	\$40,174	\$0	\$14,615	\$3,228,467
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Weddin	\$17,416	\$2,014	\$0	\$0	\$592,025	\$0	\$197,294	\$3,460	\$0	\$370	\$812,580
Total	\$150,107	\$369,947	\$41,376	\$0	\$11,860,931	\$0	\$12,525,487	\$225,733	\$0	\$88,008	\$25,261,589



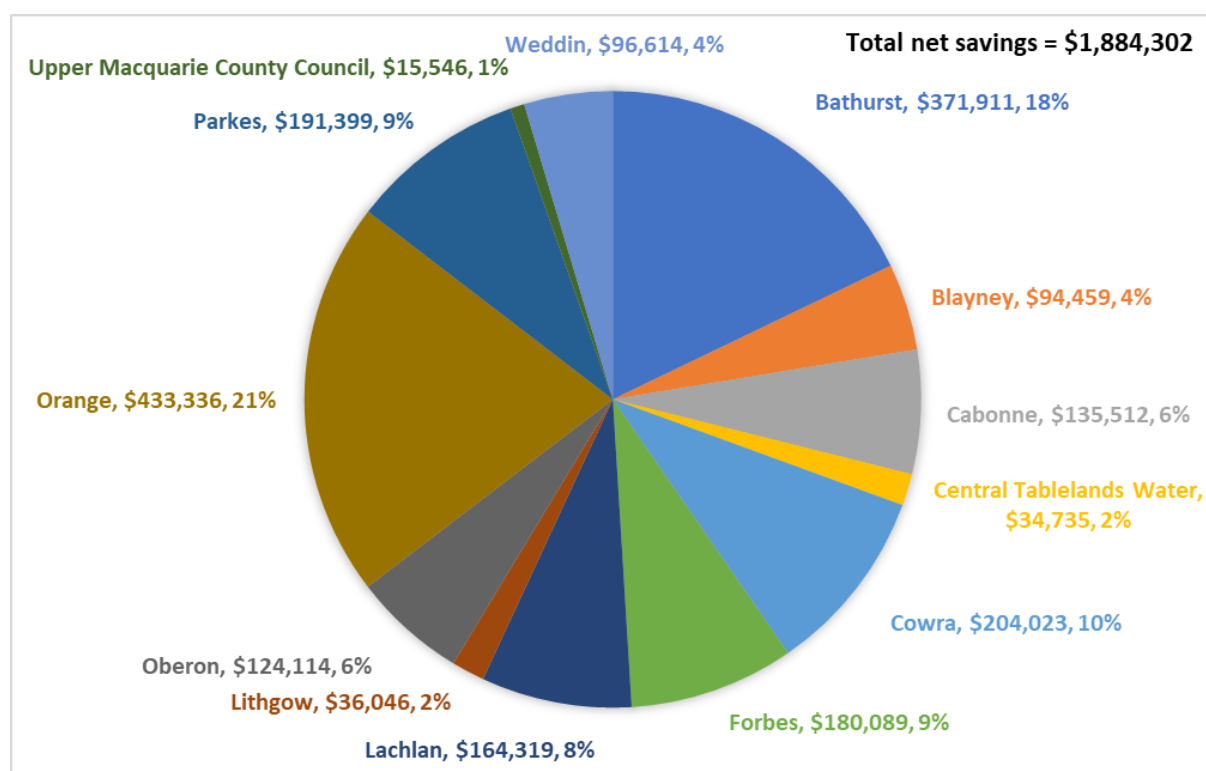
Savings

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. 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.

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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	\$48,996	\$2,302	\$0	\$21,026	\$0	\$255,794	\$15,647	\$0	\$100	\$5,546	\$21,000	\$371,911
Blayney	\$1,500	\$12,661	\$0	\$0	\$11,481	\$0	\$35,173	\$1,099	\$0	\$0	\$5,546	\$27,000	\$94,459
Cabonne	\$1,500	\$13,372	\$49	\$0	\$41,138	\$0	\$44,733	\$1,388	\$0	\$5,786	\$5,546	\$22,000	\$135,512
Central Tablelands Water	\$1,500	\$107	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,191	\$0	\$0	\$4,937	\$26,000	\$34,735
Cowra	\$1,500	\$25,660	\$2,454	\$0	\$51,380	\$0	\$71,404	\$1,455	\$0	\$3,625	\$5,546	\$41,000	\$204,023
Forbes	\$1,500	\$13,509	\$0	\$0	\$59,982	\$0	\$57,754	\$8,584	\$0	\$10,215	\$5,546	\$23,000	\$180,089
Lachlan	\$1,500	\$21,716	\$0	\$0	\$32,483	\$0	\$56,583	\$1,136	\$0	\$10,356	\$5,546	\$35,000	\$164,319
Lithgow	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,546	\$23,000	\$36,046
Oberon	\$1,500	\$19,774	\$0	\$0	\$29,569	\$0	\$24,707	\$4,019	\$0	\$0	\$5,546	\$39,000	\$124,114
Orange	\$1,500	\$72,097	\$2,497	\$0	\$30,640	\$0	\$283,815	\$9,425	\$0	\$5,818	\$5,546	\$22,000	\$433,336
Parkes	\$1,500	\$6,130	\$0	\$0	\$51,529	\$0	\$81,692	\$8,428	\$0	\$7,574	\$5,546	\$29,000	\$191,399
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,546	\$10,000	\$15,546
Weddin	\$1,500	\$355	\$0	\$0	\$10,539	\$0	\$30,482	\$611	\$0	\$5,582	\$5,546	\$42,000	\$96,614
Sub Total	\$18,000	\$234,377	\$7,302	\$0	\$339,767	\$0	\$942,136	\$59,982	\$0	\$49,055	\$71,483	\$360,000	\$2,082,102
												Cost to members	\$197,800
												Total	\$1,884,302



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	Disaster Resilience	Other	Total
Bathurst	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$99,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$165,142
Blayney	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$107,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$173,142
Cabonne	\$18,750	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$98,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$168,142
Central Tablelands Water	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$107,347	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$126,097
Cowra	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$93,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$159,142
Forbes	\$18,750	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$108,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$178,142
Lachlan	\$18,750	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$109,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$177,142
Lithgow	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$137,464	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$203,259
Oberon	\$18,750	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$106,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$176,142
Orange	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$115,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$181,142
Parkes	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$109,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$175,142
Weddin	\$18,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$106,347	\$0	\$13,864	\$29,090	\$4,091	\$172,142
Total	\$225,000	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,298,279	\$0	\$152,500	\$319,995	\$45,000	\$2,054,774

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	FY 2022/2023	FYTD 2023/2024	ACTIVITY THIS QUARTER 1/7/2023 – 27/7/2023
SUBMISSIONS	20	23	16	13	3	1. IPART on the Council rating methodology; 2. Monitoring the NSW Biodiversity Credits Markets – IPART; 3. Biodiversity Assessment Method review – DPIE
PLANS, STRATEGIES AND COLLATERAL	26	12	3	9	1	Current and Historic Population Projections for Local Government Areas in the Central NSW Joint Organisation - Prepared by Regional Development Australia Riverina
GRANTS SEEKING	3	3	1	9	1	Community battery EOI \$5.4m
GRANT FUNDING AWARDED	\$215k	\$736k	\$738k	\$2.05m	\$7k	\$7,150 awarded from the LGP Capability Fund to CNSWJO on behalf of 5 JOs to undertake Sustainable Procurement training.
COMPLIANCE	13	9	11	16		
DATA	6	3	1	14		
COST SAVINGS	\$1.87m	\$2.2m	\$2.1m	\$1.89m		To be reported at the end of the first quarter
REPRESENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES COUNCILS HAVE BEEN AFFORDED	147	159	210	143	38	040723- Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration - Tuesday Tune-in 050723- LGA NSW Focus Group: Independent Disaster Funding Review 050723- CNSWJO Energy Business Case - Project Control Group fortnightly meeting 100723 – JO EO Fortnightly meetings 120723 – Water Security and Productive Portfolio Mayors meeting 120723 – Road Rail Interface Agreement and Master Access Deed chat with TFNSW 180723 - CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management PSC 180723 - Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration - Tuesday Tune-in 180723 - Southern Lights Family Meeting 190723 – Training, Learning & Development Group 190723 – Health and Aging Portfolio Mayors Subcommittee 190723- Reference Group workshop-2 Valuation of costs and benefits of Water conservation initiatives 190723- Performance Monitoring Data for Water & Sewerage _ process improvement workshop 190723 - Meeting to address outstanding concerns - EE Reg proposal 190723 - RRPAC Monthly Meeting

						200723 – Building Surveyor Working Group meeting 200723- Central West Orana and Far West Regional Recovery Committee 200723- Transport Technical Committee 240723-JO EO Network fortnightly meeting 250723- CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management PSC 260723 - DRRF Regional Resilience/IP&R/Waste Working Group 260723- Ministerial Advisor for Water, Michael Wrathall 270723 – GMAC 270723 - CNSWJO Energy Business Case - Workshop No. 2 020823 - Net Zero Group meeting Orange 020823 - Planners Group meeting 020823- WSSA Chairs and MDs forum 070823 - Central NSW Integrated Transport Meeting 080823- Mayoral delegation meets with Ministers Scully and Dib 090823 - Disaster Risk Reduction Fund PSC 090823 -CNSWJO Energy Business Case Project Control Group 150823- IT Managers Group 160823 - CNSWJO energy business case - MCA Workshop (workshop #3) 170823- CWUA meeting 21/220823 - Essential Energy AER briefing in Sydney 220823-HR Managers Meeting 230823-CNSWJO Board Sydney 240823 - Round Table with NSW Ministers Parliament House Sydney
MEDIA INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA	13	18	25	32	1	Social Media followers at 11 August 2023: Facebook – 638 Twitter – 920 Instagram (CNSWT) – 6,336 CNSWT Facebook – 15k 090823 - Call to get more houses built in Central NSW
PR VALUE OF TOURISM	\$1.5m	\$2.4m	\$1.9m	Will be reported to Board		The value of PR activity for the 2022/2023 financial year generated over \$472 in advertising value and \$1.4m in public relations value. The resulting content promoted the region's events, attractions, food and wine, outdoor adventures, accommodation, new experiences, people and unique appeal as a country destination. 11 Media Releases were written and distributed to over 500 media contacts to promote Central NSW travel news and ideas.

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						The region hosted 6 media famils with journalists and content creators including all itinerary bookings.
MEDIA PR VALUE	35	102	101	51	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HerCanberra – two lovely features have been published on Central NSW as a result of the visit with writer Erin Cross. HerCanberra is a digital lifestyle platform with a large audience in the Canberra region. • A stay, do and eat feature on the Cowra region: <i>‘Want to know the true meaning of country hospitality? Spend two days in Cowra’</i>- featuring Keswick Cottage, Cowra Japanese Garden, the VIC, POW Camp, War Cemetery, Art Gallery, Glen Donal Estate, Imperial Hotel and the Quarry Restaurant - https://hercanberra.com.au/life/want-to-know-the-true-meaning-of-country-hospitality-spend-two-days-in-cowra/ • A short trip to the Orange region: <i>‘How to spend the perfect 24 hours in Orange’</i> includes Basalt, Mr Lim, Groundstone Café, Orange Regional Museum, retail therapy at Jumbld, The White Place, Hawkes General Store, and Millthorpe Providore: https://hercanberra.com.au/life/how-to-spend-the-perfect-24-hours-in-orange/ • Caravanning Australia – a 9-page <i>‘Exploring NSW’</i> feature on Central NSW by Ian Bellert who we hosted recently: <i>‘Back and Open for Business. The Central West of NSW suffered terribly in the floods of November 2022. Now the towns are bouncing back in a big way and have plenty to offer caravanners looking for a delightful trip.’</i> has some great support to the flood affected communities. It includes attractions and key towns including Millthorpe, Canowindra, Cowra, Forbes, Condobolin and Wellington with quotes from Eugowra’s Tourism Association and is provided as an attachment. • There’s’ also an online version of the feature - <i>‘Five days in Central New South Wales’</i> - https://caravanningoz.com.au/five-days-in-central-new-south-wales/ <p>Holiday with Kids – <i>‘Australia’s top towns for families’</i> includes Bathurst at no.4 listing a variety of cultural attractions, museums and things to do (clip attached)</p>

Reporting to the Strategic Business Plan

Please refer to the attachments for the full quarterly update on progress on the Strategic Business Plan adopted 24 November 2022.

Attachment/s:

14. Approval from OLG for funding variation
15. Update on progress on the Strategic Business Plan
16. 29 June 2023 NSW JO Chairs Forum Minutes
17. Back and Open for Business – Exploring Central NSW