

Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 November 2023 held in Sydney

In Attendance*

Cr J Jennings	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr M Statham	Lithgow City Council
Cr D Somerville	Blayney Shire Council	Cr J Hamling	Orange City Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	Cr M Kellam	Oberon Council
Cr R Fagan	Cowra Shire Council	Cr N Westcott	Parkes Shire Council
Cr P Miller OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Cr P Best	Weddin Shire Council
Cr P Phillips	Lachlan Shire Council		

Mr D Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council	Mr G Rhodes	CTW
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	OLG
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Ms O West	Regional NSW
Mr S Loane OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Ms J Bennett	CNSWJO
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council		
Mr K Boyd PSM	Parkes Shire Council		
Ms N Vu	Weddin Shire Council		

*Voting members in bold

Meeting opened at 9.00am by Chair Cr Kevin Beatty

1. Welcome

Cr Beatty noted this was the 10th visit to NSW Parliament by the region and thanked both Mr Phil Donato, Member for Orange and Roy Butler, Member for Barwon, for their supporting in hosting this meeting.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgment to Country

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

Cr S Ferguson, Cr C Bembrick, Mr M Dicker, Cr A McGibbon, Mr C Butler and Mr T Johnson.

Resolved	Cr J Hamling/Cr P Miller
That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 23 November 2023 listed above be accepted.	

4. Conflicts of Interest

Resolved	Cr P Miller/Cr J Hamling
Nil declared	

5. Speakers

a. Ernst & Young

Presentation on the Business Case for the Priority Investments in the Nexus Between Emissions Reduction and Energy Security in Central NSW

Resolved	Cr M Kellam/Cr J Jennings
That items 8L and 8K be brought forward.	

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty _____
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation



date: 05.03.2024

Priority Seven: Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future

8I Just Transition to a Renewable Energy Future Report

Resolved	Cr J Jennings/Cr P Miller
<p>That the Board note the Just Transition to a Renewable Energy Future Report and;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. call on the NSW Government to, as a matter of urgency;<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. provide a whole of government approach to the logistics of the infrastructure effort to rewire regional NSW;b. review the State Significant Development Process particularly with regard to<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. cumulative impacts;ii. its applicability to the large-scale infrastructure effort in rewiring NSW;iii. timeframes for the post consultation period;iv. additional compulsory pre consultation requirementsv. a fit for purpose mandated planning agreement policy and process; andc. identify all cumulative impacts of rewiring of regional NSW including transport and housing;d. note development outside the Renewable Energy Zone and Energy Co remit is also substantial;e. provide just compensation to communities for these impacts where this compensation includes consideration of the ongoing, cumulative impacts of poor processes to date;f. direct NSW Government agencies and State-Owned Corporations to develop and implement policy that better engage and inform community on State Significant Development;g. provide assurance for energy security for the communities of Central NSW through the next decade of transition and beyond;h. ensure that there is sufficient water for urban communities leading into the next drought and that they have priority over the energy transition effort; andi. develop and implement policy that allows for optimal outcomes for agriculture co-located with large scale renewable energy generation;i. royalties on power generation from renewable energy productions go to all affected communities including those responsible for and impacted by the transport task;j. freight impacts for the Central NSW region be urgently assessed;2. advocate for more funding for distributed energy generation, including seeking support for roll-out in the Central NSW region from Essential Energy, Endeavour Energy and Iberdrola;3. advocate for incentivising domestic battery uptake in region, to help both support the energy transition and energy security;4. note in particular the advice regarding windfarm projects in Forestry Corporation softwood forests in Bathurst, Lithgow, Oberon and Orange;5. update the advocacy policy and the CNSWJO Risk Management Plan in line with the resolve above; and6. ask the Advocacy Subcommittee of Mayors to monitor the situation closely and act in the interest of the region between Board meetings with an ongoing focus on supporting communities through this difficult period including seeking recompense and energy security.	

10:50 Crs Westcott and Miller left the meeting to attend Question Time

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Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation



date: 05.03.2024

8k Energy Report

Resolved	Cr M Kellam/Cr J Jennings
That the Board note the Energy Program Report and;	
1. note the progress of the business case on the nexus between energy security and emissions reduction and	
a. note the draft business case document and the appendices;	
b. endorse option 3 of the business case as the recommended option;	
c. endorse the business case 'placemat';	
2. advocate to the NSW OECC to extend the JONZA program to ensure embedment and efficient implementation of activities that support the region's net zero aspirations into the future;	
3. advocate to the EPA and the OECC for support and funding to progress activities that will assist councils in reducing emissions from landfill;	
4. approve a regional application by CNSWJO for interested member councils for the Community Energy Upgrades Fund;	
5. note the estimated cost savings of \$2.37m for members between January to June 2023 under the large sites and streetlighting electricity contract;	
6. note the AER's draft determination in relation to Essential Energy's pricing proposal for public lighting was not approved and note the importance of the ongoing work that the Southern Lights Group continues to conduct on behalf of members, where it was the only submission received in relation to public lighting; and	
7. make a submission to the Renewable Energy Framework consultation.	

11:50 Crs Westcott and Miller returned from Question time

Speaker: The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Action/s: Minister Sharpe welcomed spending more time early in the New Year on the Ernst and Young Business Case. CNSWJO staff to follow-up.

Speaker: The Hon. Chris Minns, MP
Premier, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Member for Kogarah

Action/s: Follow-up to be provided on disaster funding.

Speaker: The Hon. Daniel Mookhey, MLC, Treasurer

Action/s: Follow up on population projections review and water & sewer disaster funding.

6. Minutes

6a. Noting of the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting 26 October in Forbes

Resolved	Cr R Fagan/Cr P Miller
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board confirm the Minutes of the CNSWJO GAMC Meeting 23 October 2023 held in Forbes	

6b. Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 August held in Sydney

Resolved	Cr P Miller/Cr R Fagan
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board confirm the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 August 2023 held in Sydney	

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7. Business Arising from the Minutes – Matters in Progress

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

8. Reports on Statement of Regional Strategic Priority

Priority One: Inter-Council Co-operation

a. Financial Report

Resolved	Cr M Kellam/Cr P Miller
That the Board note the Financial Report.	

b. Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Resolved	Cr J Hamling/Cr M Kellam
That the Board note the Compliance Report	

c. Annual Compliance and CNSWJO Meeting dates for 2024

Resolved	Cr N Westcott/Cr P Miller			
That the Board note the Compliance report and;				
1. note the Calendar of Compliance and Reporting-Requirements update;				
2. endorse the 2023 Annual Performance Statement and place it on the website;				
3. note the advice from the Chair and Executive Officer that this is summarised in the Annual Performance Statement;				
4. note the report to on code of conduct complaint statistics;				
5. note the Pecuniary Interest Returns under clause 4.21 of the Model Code of Conduct;				
6. determine the dates for GMAC and Board meetings for 2024 be:				
Board	29 February	30 May	29 August	28 November
Location	Lachlan	State Parliament	Federal Parliament	Lithgow
GMAC	1 February	2 May	25 July	31 October
Location	Orange	Oberon	Parkes	Orange

d. Policy and Procedure Annual Review

Resolved	Cr P Miller/Cr M Statham
That the Board note the CNSWJO Policy Procedure Annual Review report and adopt the updated Policy and Procedure Manual noting it includes;	
1. a new policy on the JO making applications through competitive grants processes;	
2. policy aligning with Modern Slavery Legislation;	
3. inclusion in the Charter an annual fee for the Chair of \$10K;	
4. changes to the credit card use to allow for increased programming; and	
5. updates associated with policy in procurement adopted in May of this year	

e. The CNSWJO Governance and Advocacy Report

Resolved	Cr P Phillips/Cr M Kellam
That the Board note the Governance and Advocacy Report and;	
1. nominate Portfolio Mayors as follows:	
a. Cr J Jennings to Energy, Water and Transport; and	
b. Cr R Fagan to Regional Prosperity; and	
2. note that a report will be received from the Rural Doctors' Network workshop in Forbes 31 October and encourage members to take up the "State of Play" opportunity in the interim;	
3. endorse the activities of the Opt-in Advocacy Subcommittee of Mayors, that being;	

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- a. developing a media campaign on Council sustainability;
- b. progressing advocacy for a Safe Swift and Secure Link between Sydney and Central NSW; and
- c. providing oversight of advocacy for on the renewable energy transition and council financial sustainability;
4. provide a letter of support for Cr J Jennings for his fact finding visit to the United States;
5. develop policy on the need for national strategy for the Safe Swift and Secure Link between Sydney and Central NSW;
6. adopt the response to the Inquiry into the performance of the Regional Investment Activation Fund and the Regional Job Creation Fund; and
7. endorse the following submissions that have been lodged to:
 - a. AEMC on Enhancing Community Engagement in Transmission Building;
 - b. the Inquiry into the implementation of recommendations relating to workforce issues, workplace culture and funding considerations for remote, rural and regional health; and
 - c. IPART Water NSW Operating Licence Review;
 - d. Water Infrastructure NSW 91 Proposed New Indicators for LWUs; and
 - e. The Planning system and the Impacts of Climate Change on the Environment and Communities.
 - f. the Inquiry into Protecting Local Water Utilities from privatisation

f. Report from Policy Labs for dissemination to attendees

Resolved	Cr J Hamling/Cr R Fagan
<p>That the Board note the Report from Policy Lab#1 with Charles Sturt University adopt policy, update advocacy plans and receive advice on programming for;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reframing the rhetoric – speak about local government in terms of capability, opportunity etc; 2. encouraging a ‘big conversation’ about expanding regional collaboration – consider a more authoritative regional board (representing member councils) that’s better placed to advise/negotiate with state and federal agencies; 3. using a regional strategy to build trust in/respect for local government and improve its status in the overall system of government while not glossing over the difficult issues for example financial sustainability; 4. removing red tape barriers to more regional action while avoiding raising amalgamations; 5. leveraging available resources and talent more effectively; 6. reviewing financial sustainability, addressing ‘spatial fiscal imbalance’ particularly between Western Sydney and Central NSW where this is to include a review Federal Assistance Grants system and distribution of other grants to improve equity; avoid competitive grants; 7. expanding self-regulation (eg in planning, environment, water) – Audit Risk and Improvement Committees could be useful but must have effective local representation; 8. supporting the primary democratic role of councillors; 9. providing more background information on election candidates; 10. exploring opportunities for improving candidacy; 11. optimising the Integrated Planning & Reporting framework including as a basis for enhanced community engagement and making the cycle a better fit for newly elected councils; 12. rejecting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. mandatory popular election of mayors or wards; b. amalgamations c. changes that might increase oversight and d. changing the Councillor-executive relationship at least in the short term pending needed changes; and regarding social media; 13. the Board provide the advice on social media to Council as a proforma report; and 14. that this advice include; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. canvassing the idea of a shared resource in social media support; and 	

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 Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation



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- b. consideration of Councils' other regulatory obligations relevant to social media under the Local Government Act, Work Health and Safety Act and other material legislation and
15. the Mayoral Board report to Councils include advice from this report

g. Regional Procurement and Contracts

Resolved	Cr P Miller/Cr N Wescott
That the Board note the report on Procurement and Contract Management and that it;	
1. note the use of delegations under the procurement policy between Board meetings;	
2. note the procurement activity report since the last meeting;	
3. approve a 12-month extension of the Supply of Linemarking Services Contract;	
4. approve to seek a variation to the current TLD1_2021 Safety Compliance Training Contract for Admire Workplace Safety, enabling the delivery of Traffic Control Training Services under the TLD1_2021 Contract; and	
5. approve the additional procurement processes added to the CNSWJO regional procurement plan for 2023/2024.	

h. Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Program report

Resolved	Cr P Miller/Cr M Kellam
That the Board note the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Program report and note;	
1. the progress on the needs analysis currently underway;	
2. the progress on the Regional Resilience Program working groups;	
a. including the commencement of a collaborative procurement for the technology deliverable;	
3. the update and upcoming commencement of the Transport for NSW Customer Resilience Journey Plans project; and	
4. the progress of the 'Fix Me' project	

Priority Five: Transport and Infrastructure

i. Transport Advocacy

Resolved	Cr J Hamling/Cr J Jennings
That the Board note the Transport report and adopt the 'plan on a page' for the recently adopted CNSWJO Regional Transport Technical Committee Strategy 2023-2028.	

Priority Six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water

j. Regional Water Report

Resolved	Cr J Jennings/Cr P Best
That the Board note the Regional Water Report and	
1. endorses the Priority Water Infrastructure brochure; and	
2. notes the renegotiation of the agreement with Smart Water for the provision water efficiency collateral for member councils.	

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

Resolved	Cr M Kellam/Cr J Jennings
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. note that Councils have been sent their PlaceMats for the pre-Community Strategic Plan consultation period;2. receive a report from State agency consultations to inform Community Strategic Plans and in the interim circulate this to members for feedback;3. note costs saving of \$4.2m and ROI of 9.4:1 for members in the 2022/2023 financial year;4. progress an application to the Round Two EOI for the Disaster Ready Fund to be developed by the sponsoring General Managers under the hand of the Chair;5. employ a new staff member under the auspices of the Chair to<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. provide continuity of service during a maternity leave period andb. provide a greater level of operational support to the water priority;6. note that a briefing is being sought for members regarding budgetary implications of 4 and 5 above and work arrangements of the Executive Officer give her family commitments where the Chair will make his final decisions based on member feedback; and7. a full report on the Executive Officer transition will be provided to the Board in February in the context if the overall budget going forward.	

10. Late reports – Regional NSW will circulate reports for members in due course

11. Matters raised by Members and attendees

OLG advised there is a JO review and an IP&R leading practice program in progress.

12. Speakers to the next meeting.

Saul Griffith or suitable alternative, Alistair Lunn and Ant Hayes from TfNSW

13. Next meetings:

GMAC: 1 February 2024 – Orange.

Board: 29 February 2024 – Lachlan

Speaker: The Hon. Rose Jackson, MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast

Action/s: The region will continue to provide follow-up on priority water projects and preparedness for the upcoming drought.

Speaker: The Hon. Jenny Aitchison, Member for Maitland and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Action/s: Follow-up on the challenges of freight from the rewiring of NSW construction task will be provided.

14. Meeting closed 4:40pm

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