

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	

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation

date: 4-9-2023

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;	
--	--

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	
---	--

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.

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation



date: 4-9-2023

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. 	

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation



date: 4-9-2023

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 	

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation

date: 4-9-2023

7. a report be provided on the issues with State Significant Development approvals including but not limited to
- 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; 	

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation

date: 4-9-2023

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

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation

date: A-9-2023

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; and 2. 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

Page 7 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation meeting 24 May 2023 at Canberra CSU Suite

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty

Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation

date: 4-9-2023