

Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 24 November 2022 held online via zoom

In Attendance*

Cr R Taylor	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr P Phillips	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr S Ferguson	Blayney Shire Council	Cr M Kellam	Oberon Council
Cr B West	Cowra Shire Council	Cr J Hamling	Orange City Council
Cr P Miller OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Cr K Keith OAM	Parkes Shire Council
Cr C Roylance	Forbes Shire Council	Cr C Bembrick	Weddin Shire Council

Mr D Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council	Mr B Reynolds	UMCC
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Ms R Fagan	RDACW
Mr S Loane OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Ms L Smart	RDACW
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms O West	Regional NSW
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms J Bennett	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr K Boyd	Parkes Shire Council	Ms A Thomas	CNSWJO
Ms N Vu	Weddin Shire Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Cr D Somerville	CTW	Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO
Mr G Rhodes	CTW	Ms G Quinton	CNSWJO
		Ms V Page	CNSWJO

*Voting members in bold

Meeting opened at 10.02am by Deputy Chair Cr Mark Kellam

1. Welcome from the Chair

2. Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

Cr K Beatty, Cr J Medcalf, Brad Byrnes, Paul Devery and Andrew McKibbon

Resolved	Cr S Ferguson/Cr J Hamling
That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 24 November 2022 listed above be accepted.	

4. Conflicts of Interest - Nil declared

5. Speakers Essential Energy – Mr Geoff Burgess and Mr David Wilson, Mr Brendan McEntee, Mr Andrew Wykes, Mr Andrew McIntyre and Mr Hamish Wheatley Ms J Bennett to provide feedback to Mr G Burgess on the Race to 2030 project.

6. Motion to move forward item 10

Resolved	Cr C Bembrick/Cr B West
The Item 10. Matters raised by Members – Lachlan has raised the need for advocacy regarding this flooding event be moved forward.	

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation



date: 24.2.23

7. Item 10. Members – Lachlan has raised the need for advocacy regarding this flooding event

Resolved

Cr Paul Phillips/Cr K Keith

That the Central NSW Joint 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:

1. There should be automatic, well-known processes switched on when natural disaster declarations are made. These should include;
 - 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 industries of the community; and
 - 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.
2. There ought to be known escalation points to support the local effort including use of the military.
3. CNSWJO, through its Disaster Risk Reduction Program, prepare a tool that systematises mutual support between Councils for natural disasters.
4. CNSWJO ensure coordination of a debrief with affected Councils and key agency representatives to inform the above tool where this includes elected representatives.
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;
 - a. Supporting Country Mayors and LGNSW in their advocacy on their State-wide Roads Emergency declaration
 - b. Extension of funding deadlines allowing Councils reprioritisation of resource from other infrastructure funding programs to the roads' effort; and
 - c. An ongoing plan for roads recovery that recognises that this effort will take years.

10.54am Mr G Tory and Cr P Phillips of Lachlan Shire Council left the meeting

10.57am Chair Cr Kevin Beatty joined the meeting and acknowledged the support from the region.

10.58am Cr Beatty left meeting.

Olivia West of Regional NSW gave an update on the Flood response and recovery.

- Cr Ken Keith - raised the issue of fast tracking approvals for gravel for roads
- Cr Chris Roylance - raised the issue of the need for promotion for business recovery in the Lachlan Valley
- Cr Ken Keith – suggested the need for a mental health focus given it has been major flood, drought, mouse plague, Covid and unprecedented flood in the past 5 years along the Lachlan
- Cr P Miller will share her lifeline contact
- Cr Bill West will share the free psychology service offered with Ms O West
- Cr D Somerville - Advocacy water utilities disaster relief as well as General Purpose Councils where this is not currently the case. Cr D Somerville to provide advice to Ms O West

8. Minutes

Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 12 October 2022 held in Sydney at LGNSW Boardroom

Resolved

Cr B West/ Cr K Keith

Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation

date: 24.2.23

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board confirm the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 12 October 2022 held in Sydney at LGNSW Boardroom.

9. Business Arising from the Minutes – Matters in Progress

Resolved

Cr B West/Cr K Keith

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.

10. Reports on Statement of Regional Strategic Priority

Priority One: Inter-Council Co-operation

a. Financial Report

Resolved

Cr J Hamling/Cr K Keith

That the Board note the Financial Report.

b. Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

Resolved

Cr B West/ Cr S Ferguson

That the Board adopt the CNSWJO Joint Organisation General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022.

c. Lithgow City Council Joining the CNSWJO Report

Resolved

Cr S Ferguson/Cr K Keith

That the Board note the report on Lithgow City Council's request to join the CNSWJO and

1. Lithgow City Council be welcomed as a full member of the CNSWJO;
2. in the interim Lithgow City Council be offered an associate membership at 75% of full membership fees;
3. upon CNSWJO and Lithgow City Council finalising negotiations on membership, the Minister for Local Government be advised of the above seeking a proclamation to effect Lithgow City Council's full membership; and
4. given the timing in the electoral cycle, CNSWJO also seek support from the Shadow Minister for Local Government for progression of the proclamation.

d. Remuneration for the Chair and or other Mayors in their capacity as Board members for the Central NSW JO

Resolved

Cr S Ferguson/Cr C Bembrick

That the report on the remuneration for the Chair and or other Mayors in their capacity as Board members for the Central NSW JO be noted and

- a. the Board commence the process to amend the CNSWJO Charter to include a fee for remuneration of the Chair of the CNSWJO; and
- b. the fee be \$10,000pa be paid to the Chair of CNSWJO.

e. Annual Compliance and CNSWJO Meeting dates for 2023

Resolved

Cr S Ferguson/ Cr B West

That the Board note the Compliance report and;

1. note the Calendar of Compliance and Reporting-Requirements update;
2. endorse the 2022 Annual Performance Statement and place it on the website;

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Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation

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3. note the advice from the Portfolio Mayors and that this is summarised in the Annual Performance Statement;
4. note the report on code of conduct complaint statistics;
5. note the Pecuniary Interest Returns under s450a of the Local Government Act 1993;
6. determine the dates for GMAC and Board meetings for 2023 be:

Board	23 February	25 May	24 August	23 November
Location	Forbes	State Parliament	Federal Parliament	Lachlan
GMAC	2 February	27 April	27 July	26 October
Location	Orange	Cowra	Forbes	Orange

f. Policy and Procedure Annual Review

Resolved

Cr K Keith/Cr R Taylor

That the Board note the CNSWJO Policy Procedure Annual Review report and adopt the updated Policy and Procedure Manual noting it includes:

1. the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to the chairperson to be adopted within 12 months of an election [LGA s252];
2. code of meeting practice to be adopted within 12 months of an election [LGA s360]; and
3. code of conduct to be adopted within 12 months of an election [LGA s440(7)].

g. The CNSWJO Organisational Structure report

Resolved

Cr J Hamling /Cr K Keith

That the Board note the CNSWJO Organisational Structure report and

1. note that, in line with the Local Government Act, the Executive Officer is employed under a Senior Staff Contract;
2. note that there are no other senior staff positions in the organisational structure;
3. note that total costs of employing staff for the Joint Organisation identified in the budget for this year including vehicle, travel, accommodation and employment oncosts is \$878,250; and
4. staff employee costs vary based on grant acquisition.

h. Adoption of the draft Review Statement of Strategic Regional Priority and Determination of Portfolio Mayors

Resolved

Cr B West/ Cr K Keith

That the Board note the report on progress on developing the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority (SSRP) for this term of the JO; and

1. adopt the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority with the amendment adding a 5.3 the SSRP to adding disaster road funding as a priority with a report to come back to the next Board on operationalising;
2. adopt the CNSWJO Communication and Engagement Strategy;
3. adopt the Evaluation Plan for the SSRP process;
4. provide direction with regard to Portfolio Mayors for the 7 priorities for the region to the February Board meeting; and
5. note that an evaluation of the process will be undertaken and the auspices of the SSRP Subcommittee.

i. Regional Procurement and Contracts

Resolved

Cr B West/Cr K Keith

That the Board notes the Regional Procurement and Contracts report and

1. approve a 12-month extension of the regional road signs contract with Artcraft, Barrier Signs, Central Signs, DeNeefe, and His-Vis;

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2. note that an Expression of Interest process will be conducted for a Learning Management System and other associated modules for interested Councils and that surrounding Councils will be invited to participate in the EOI; and
3. welcome Ms Grace Quinton to the CNSWJO team in the capacity of Project Officer for the procurement and contract management function.

j. Terms of Reference for the Central NSW Joint Organisation/Charles Sturt University Local Government Policy Lab Working Group

Resolved

Cr R Taylor/Cr S Ferguson

That the Board note the Terms of Reference for the Central NSW Joint Organisation/Charles Sturt University Local Government Policy Lab Working Group Report and

1. adopt the Terms of Reference; and
2. nominate the following to represent the Joint Organisation:
 - Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor Orange, as Co-Chair
 - Mr David Sherley, General Manager Bathurst Regional Council
 - Ms J Bennett, Executive Officer CNSWJO; and
3. Provide advice on the pace at which this working group is to progress.

k. Our PlaceMat Cover Report

Resolved

Cr K Keith/ Cr B West

That the Board notes the report on Our PlaceMat Cover Report and circulate it to members with Council PlaceMats

l. Energy Program

Resolved

Cr J Hamling/Cr S Ferguson

That the Board notes the report on the Energy Program and

1. thank the members of the Southern Lights Group for the work they are doing to support Councils in responding to Essential Energy's consultation for the AER Determination for 2024-2029 and
2. advocate including to the Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Local Government and Opposition Leader Chris Minns, sending copies to the JO Chairs Forum, CMA and Regional Cities raising issues around level of service from Essential Energy.

Priority Four: Regional Water Security

m. Water Update

Resolved

Cr B West/Cr P Miller

That the Board note the Regional Water report and:

1. endorse the CNSWJO Regional Water Loss Management Centres' Project Plan;
2. endorse the Water Utilities Alliance Strategic Plan 2022-2032; and
3. continue to advocate for the raising of the Wyangala Dam in the context of the remarkable efforts by Water NSW and proactive communication from BOM.

n. Regional Asset Management

Resolved

Cr P Miller/Cr J Hamling

That the Board note the report proposing a Regional Asset Management Improvement Program and commend to members a Regional Asset Management Improvement Program coordinated by CNSWJO comprising:

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1. 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.
2. the development of Asset Management Improvement Plans for each Council informed by the Asset Management Audits; and
3. 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.

11. Report to the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2019/2021

Resolved	Cr K Keith/ Cr P Miller
<p>That the Board note the report to the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the following submissions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review of the IPART methodology for rate peg increases; b. EPA Policy and Action on Climate Change; and 2. note that the 8 JOs making application under the Disaster Risk Reduction fund have been successful where a funding deed for \$647,989 is being executed; and 3. approve an application be made under the hand of the Chair for the Joint Organisations Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) of up to \$155,000. 	

12. Late reports – Nil

13. Speakers to the next meeting

Health Advisory Committee– Invite Richard Colbran to present on the progress

14. Next meetings:

Board – 30 November – Round table with Rose Jackson, Shadow Minister for Water in NSW

GMAC – 2 February 2023 Orange

Board – 23 February 2023 Forbes

Meeting closed 12.39pm

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Signed by: Cr Kevin Beatty
Chair Central NSW Joint Organisation



date: 24.2.23