

MEETING MINUTES

NSW JOINT ORGANISATION (JO) CHAIRS' FORUM

5 MARCH 2020

PARLIAMENT HOUSE SYDNEY

Item 11.2 (1)

PRESENT	
Canberra Region Joint Organisation	Mayor Rowena Abbey – Chair Ms Gabrielle Cusack
Central NSW Joint Organisation	Mayor John Medcalf OAM Ms Jenny Bennett
Far North West Joint Organisation	Mayor Lillian Brady Mayor Barry Hollman Mr Greg Lamont
Far South West Joint Organisation	Mayor Melisa Hederics Mr Mark Forbes
Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils	Mayor Bob Pynsent Mr Joe James Mr Steve Wilson
Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation	Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery AM Ms Leanne Taylor
Mid North Coast Joint Organisation	Mayor Liz Campbell Ms Fionnuala Dixon
Namoi Unlimited	Mayor Jamie Chaffey Ms Rebel Thompson
New England Joint Organisation	Mayor Michael Pearce Mr Paul Henry
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation	Mayor Danielle Mulholland Ms Isabel Perdriau
Orana Joint Organisation of Councils	Mayor Craig Davies Ms Belinda Barlow
Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation	Mayor Kevin Mack Ms Bridgett Leopold
Riverina Joint Organisation	Mayor Rick Firman OAM – Deputy Chair Ms Julie Briggs
INVITED GUESTS	
NSW Office of Local Government	Ms Melissa Gibbs Director Policy Sector Development Ms Karen Purser Manager Council Engagement Ms Jodie Healy – Council Engagement Officer
Local Government NSW	Cr Linda Scott - NSW President
NSW Audit Office	Mr Aaron Green Deputy Auditor General

1. Opening Meeting & Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 11.40am and made the following acknowledge of country: “

2. Apologies

RESOLVED

That the apologies of Mayor Lillian Brady, Mayor Mayor Melisa Hederics, Mr Greg Lamont, Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery AM, Ms Isabel Perdriau, Mr Joe James and Mr Tim Hurst be accepted.

Moved /
Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Office of Local Government

RESOLVED

That.....

Moved /
Carried

3.2 Local Government NSW

RESOLVED

That.....

Moved /
Carried

3.3 NSW Audit Office

RESOLVED

That.....

Moved /
Carried

4. Disclosure of Interest

Nil

5. Urgent / Additional Business

RESOLVED

The Chairperson will call for any urgent or additional business to be actioned prior to the close of the meeting.

Funding extension – 2020/21 FY.

RECOMMENDATION

That the NSW Joint Organisation (JOs) Chairs' Forum write to the Minister for Local Government seeking operational funding for the 2020/21 Financial Year.

Moved CRJO/NRJO

NSW Joint Organisation (JOs) Chairs' Forum – Election of Chair

That the NSW Joint Organisation (JOs) Chairs' Forum write to the Minister for Local Government requesting a review of the election of the JO Chairs' subsequent to Local Government elections.

That the election be for the two-year term.

Moved CNSWJO/NRJO

That the NSW Joint Organisation (JOs) Chairs' Forum write to the Minister for Local Government requesting that funding be ring-fenced specifically for Joint Organisation programs.

Moved NRJO/OJO

6. Confirmation of Minutes & Actions

RESOLVED

That the meeting minutes from the NSW Joint Organisations Chairs Forum of 31 October 2019 and the Actions 2019 document be confirmed.

Moved NRJO/NU

Carried

7. Reports to the NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs' Forum

7.1 Terms of Reference – NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs Forum

RESOLVED

That the NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs Forum

- 1. Approve the amendments to the NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs Forum Terms of Reference and note the changes to point 6 of the document, which includes the appointment of a Chair and Deputy Chair for a period of 12 months.*
- 2. Note the term "Convenor" replaced with the term "Chair" for consistency and clarity.*
- 3. Note Other minor changes include consistent reference to the group by the complete title of "NSW Joint Organisations Chairs Forum" and the month of JO proclamation (June) in point "4. Membership".*
- 4. Adopt the amended Terms of Reference to be reviewed in 12 months.*
- 5. Endorse the appointment of the Chair, Canberra Region Joint Organisation and Deputy Chair Riverina Joint Organisation as per the election on 31 October 2019.*

Moved NRJO/MNCJO

Carried

7.2 Financial Sustainability – Definition

RESOLVED

That the NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs Forum note all Joint Organisations have endorsed the resolution of 31 October 2019 in relation to the definition of Financial Sustainability.

Moved NU/HJO

Carried

7.3 Ministerial Brief – Joint Organisations

RESOLVED

That the NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs Forum note the Ministerial Brief and endorse the six recommendations

1. That, the minister acknowledges that the task to develop sustainability for a joint organisation is difficult, however the progress of the joint organisation advisory committee from 30 September to 17 December 2019 is noted.
2. That, the minister endorses the next steps for the committee are to:
 - A. consult with joint organisations on the potential revenue streams, and investigate governance and business structures required;
 - B. review expense streams of joint organisations;
 - C. identify duplication in compliance and reporting requirements for joint organisations;
 - D. seek, collate and analyse procurement models;
 - E. consult on the potential for cross regional and boundary collaboration;
 - F. provide advice on the role of a NSW state agency group including its role, function and membership; and
 - G. draft a toolkit for financial sustainability.
3. That, the minister requests that the NSW Office of Local Government provide to the committee, areas where joint organisations; (a) could contribute to sector capacity, capability and development, and (b) reduce the NSW Office of Local Government workload's in regulation and compliance.
4. That, the minister requests the NSW Office of Local Government provide advice to the committee that identifies NSW government functions and projects that joint organisations can undertake to assist the government in their pursuit of strategic regional priorities and inter-governmental relations.
5. That, the Minister requests the NSW Office of Local Government seek advice from compliance and regulatory agencies for potential roles for Joint Organisations.

6. That, the Minister considers the development of a strategy for Joint Organisations on potential partnerships with the Australian Government through the NSW Government.

Seek feedback in writing from the minister for local government prior to the next NSW Joint Organisation (JOs) chairs' forum.

Moved NU/NRJO

Carried

7.4 NSW Joint Organisation Strategic Communication Plan

RESOLVED

That the NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs' Forum

1. *Endorse the Strategic Communication Plan.*
2. *Each Joint Organisation implements the Strategic Communication Plan.*
3. *The Executive Officer's network evaluates and monitor the implementation of the Strategic Communications Plan and report to the Chairs Forum as required.*

Moved RAMJO/NEJO

Carried

8. Actions Ministers Presentations

Minister	Action
The Hon. John Barilaro MP	Financial Assistance Grants (FaGS). Find ALGA resolution & include in correspondence. NRJO
The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP	Invite Minister June meeting. CRJO
The Hon. Andrew Constance MP The Hon. Paul Toole MP	Write to State & Federal Ministers for Environment to pause legislation for two years in relation to Biodiversity Acts, Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs), LEP's, for the whole of regional NSW in recognition of natural disasters. RivJO
The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP	Write to Minister to identify fixing country roads and bridges projects that cover multiple LGA's – which JO's can apply for. Request amendment to guidelines for fixing country roads and bridges. CNSWJO
	JO Chairs' election – correspondence. CRJO

9. Joint Organisation Update

Noted: Each JO to prepare a report on activities prior to Chairs' Forum one week prior to the meeting.

JOINT ORGANISATION	UPDATE / ACTION
Canberra Region Joint Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ APH ministerial Meetings ▪ RDA's – role and function ▪ Regional Produce campaign ▪ Regional Workforce Strategy (KPMG) ▪ Recycling prospectus with ACT (funding for regional MRF) ▪ Appointed procurement resource for waste ▪ Regional Project Management office ▪ Appointment of Disaster Preparedness Officer (OEM pilot) ▪ National Bushfire Recovery Agency ▪ ACT Government – Mr Andrew Barr MLA ▪ LG superannuation – defer additional contributions
Central NSW Joint Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Board meeting in Grenfell. Minute regarding Federal Government's \$100B Future food Fund ▪ Priorities water, transport, telecommunications. ▪ Encourage friendship agreements with City Councils. ▪ Friendship agreement with Penrith City Council ▪ Pilot regional transport plans. Meet with Member for Parkes, The Hon. Mark Coulton MP. ▪ Urban Water – Regional Water Strategy (Wyangla) ▪ Communication & collaboration – cross border
Far North West Joint Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$8M funding from NSW Government to establish JO. ▪ Air Services @ Cobar Air Services @ Bourke (early 2020) ▪ Showcasing at Royal Easter Show (Walgett, Bourke & Cobar – tourism activity) ▪ EPA application – Contaminated Lands Management ▪ Launch of Far West Tourism Strategy ▪ Tourism focus for FNWJO

Far South West Joint Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity Building Fund – collaboration with FNSWJO (tourism) ▪ NSW Audit office quote - \$18,500 ▪ Commencement of Tourism projects (\$5M from State) ▪ Regional Transport audit ▪ Revised InfoCouncil meeting system for JOs. ▪ Activation Precinct in Broken Hill
Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council contribution agreed for 2020/21 FY from 10 member councils. ▪ Sub-Committee of HJO – focus on economic development and transition – over next 10 to 20 years. ▪ Foundation 2050 – long term employment. Tabled at HJO Board meeting in April. ▪ Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan – signing Memorandum of Understanding with Minister Stokes.
Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review organisational structure – created Chief Operator Officer position – focus on procurement. ▪ Water Sensitive Urban Design project (externally funded) ▪ Western & South West Sydney – partnership. Forum looking at transport and Aerotropolis. ▪ Endeavour Energy – electricity supply with smaller villages. ▪ Looking at alternatives renewable energy strategies ▪ Financial services outsourced. ▪ ALGWA – women in local government forum ▪ Weeds program – research ▪ Regional Waste – PhD student/researchers looking at circular economy.
Mid North Coast Joint Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on bushfire recovery for regional communities ▪ Community Fire Resilience program ▪ Plans of Management ▪ North Coast regional water strategy (11/03 workshop) ▪ Road classification review ▪ Koala Recovery project ▪ sessions regarding joining local government

<p>Namoi Unlimited</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key Strategic Priorities (roads). Roads of strategic importance – New England and Newell Highways ▪ Alignment of regional water strategies and utility of IWCM. ▪ Recycled water on gravel roads
<p>New England Joint Organisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Several projects ▪ Road Network strategy ▪ Tourism Strategy ▪ Cross collaboration – meeting with Namoi Unlimited
<p>Northern Rivers Joint Organisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waste levy waivers particularly during times of disaster such as bushfires. ▪ JOs paid the waste levy by member councils instead of being administered by state government so that the money stays in the regional footprint and delivers innovative waste projects and we already have several councils within our JO looking at this kind of work. ▪ Funding through the JO capacity Building fund to work on a business case on waste - recycling and recovery micro businesses being led by Lismore, and RVC is leading the waste to energy project. ▪ Meeting with the Minister tomorrow about the administrative burden on Executive Officers - our EO is part time and extended hours would put an unnecessary financial strain on us. ▪ NRJO and Mid North Coast JO - our member councils will be meeting in Sydney with Ministers later this month, giving them an opportunity to raise their issues. ▪ Our freight and supply chain strategy - having meetings with the relevant Ministers about connectivity between our region, to the south of our region and SE Qld. ▪ Finally got meeting between Qld and Transport NSW regarding the planning the Summerland Way/Mt Lindsay options, easing the burden on the Pacific Hwy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Looking at the launch of a regional brand developed in partnership with industry, Southern Cross Uni, RDA, and NSW Premier and Cabinet. ▪ Our next step will be to develop action plans out of our statement of regional priorities to really nut out specific projects. ▪ Our parliamentary product showcase was postponed due to bushfires, so we are coordinating a new date.
Orana Joint Organisation of Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Water Strategy ▪ Impact of CVoid19 on region ▪ Roads of Strategic Importance – impact of inland rail ▪ Dubbo City Council not a member of OJO ▪ Inland rail ▪ Board meeting in Sydney in May 2020
Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RMCC procurement waste activities ▪ Capacity Building Fund – energy audit of region ▪ Renewable energy – transgrid line (E-W connectivity) ▪ Local procurement opportunities statewide ▪ Recycling plastic project ▪ Regional collaboration – stronger voice for regional NSW ▪ Roads of Significant Importance.
Riverina Joint Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wagga Wagga joined RivJO ▪ RivJO Board meeting in NSW in late February 2020 ▪ RivJO Drought brochure published ▪ Freight transport plan completed ▪ S94 – contribution – strongly advocating ▪ Submission – NSW Audit paper and risk improvement framework

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the JO Chairs' Forum will be held Thursday 28 May 2020 at 1pm – 4pm in the Jubilee Room, Parliament House Sydney.

11. Close

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 4.15pm

DRAFT