

Hunter Joint Organisation

Minutes of the 6 June 2019 Extraordinary Board Meeting
Commencing at 1.15pm

The Board Room
4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Voting Directors Present

Cr Bob Pynsent,	Cessnock City Council
Cr Tracy Norman,	Dungog Shire Council
Cr Kay Fraser,	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr David West,	MidCoast Council
Cr Sue Moore,	Singleton Shire Council
Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council
Cr Wayne Bedggood,	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr Loretta Baker,	Maitland City Council
Cr Nuatali Nelmes,	Newcastle City Council

Non-Voting Directors Present

Morven Cameron,	CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council
Adrian Panuccio,	General Manager, MidCoast Council
Fiona Plesman,	General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Stephen Glen,	General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Jeremy Bath,	CEO, Newcastle City Council
David Evans,	General Manager, Maitland City Council
Steve McDonald,	General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council

Apologies

Wayne Wallis,	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
Jason Linnane,	General Manager, Singleton Council
Cr Martin Rush,	Muswellbrook Shire Council (Cr Rush was present via videoconference for part of the meeting)
Steven Wills,	Regional Director, Dep't of Premier & Cabinet

Staff in attendance

Joe James, CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation
Louisa Bulley, Executive Assistant, Hunter Joint Organisation (Secretariat)

Observer

Virginia Errington, Office of Local Government

RESOLVED:

THAT the apologies be noted.

Moved: Cr Ryan Palmer
Seconded: Cr David West
Carried.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were given.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Hunter Joint Organisation Member Subscription Models 2019/20

Mr David Evans gave a brief overview of the report, and the recommendations provided from the meeting of the General Managers Advisory Committee of 22 May.

The Board discussed the report, and the three options presented for discussion and deliberation. Mayor Norman raised that recent meetings with the Minister for Local Government have indicated that a decision regarding funding from the State Government for Joint Organisations is imminent. The Board discussed that deliberation over member fees may be appropriate after this decision is made by the State Government.

Mr Joe James entered the meeting at 1.15pm.

Directors discussed the preferred funding model of each of their councils. The CEO noted that while funding may be provided by the State Government, which may balance the budget for 2019-20, a more sustainable funding model by member councils may need to be considered in the future.

The Board came to the below recommendation;

RESOLVED:

THAT Option A in the report be adopted as the interim budget model for the 2019-20 financial year; using a fixed membership fee model of \$20,000 per council and assuming current membership rebates remain;

THAT, noting the previous resolution for a balanced budget, adopted at the Joint Organisation Board meeting of 9 May 2019, and noting the anticipated response from the NSW State Government on Joint Organisation funding, a six-month review of the 2019-20 budget be undertaken in January 2020, to ensure a balanced budget is delivered by the end of financial year.

Moved: Cr Sue Moore
Seconded: Cr Tracy Norman

Carried.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

Meeting closed 1.56pm