

Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes
1:30 – 3:00pm, Thursday 13 February 2020
HJO Boardroom, 4 Sandringham Ave Thornton NSW

Voting Directors Present

Cr Bob Pynsent,	Cessnock City Council
Cr Tracy Norman,	Dungog Shire Council
Cr Sue Moore,	Singleton Shire Council
Cr Wayne Bedggood,	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr Nuatali Nelmes,	Newcastle City Council
Cr Kay Fraser,	Lake Macquarie City Council

Non-Voting Members Present

Steve McDonald,	General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council
Coralie Nichols,	General Manager, Dungog Shire Council
Jeremy Bath,	CEO, Newcastle City Council
David Evans,	General Manager, Maitland City Council
Fiona Plesman,	General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Lotta Jackson	General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Mark McClean	A/ Director, Regional NSW (DPIE)

Apologies

Cr David West,	MidCoast Council
Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council
Cr Martin Rush,	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Cr Loretta Baker,	Maitland City Council
Alison McGaffin	Director, Hunter & Central Coast, Regional NSW (DPIE)
Adrian Panuccio,	General Manager, MidCoast Council
Wayne Wallis,	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
Jason Linnane,	General Manager, Singleton Council
Morven Cameron,	CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council

Staff in attendance

Joe James, CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation
Graham Dean, Manager Finance & Administration, Strategic Services Australia
Steve Wilson, Director, Environment Division, Strategic Services Australia
Louisa Bulley, Executive Assistant to the CEO (Secretariat)

Observers

Virginia Errington, Office of Local Government

Leesa Swan, Office of Local Government

Item 1 Welcomes and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting.

Resolved:

- ***That the apologies be noted.***

Moved: Tracy Norman

Seconded: Wayne Bedggood

Carried.

Item 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2019 were noted.

Item 3 Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes

Resolved:

- ***That the minutes of the previous meetings of 14 November 2019, be adopted***

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried.

3.1 Business Arising: Action Register

Resolved:

- ***That the action register be noted.***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Tracy Norman

Carried.

Item 4 Presentations

Nil presentations were given.

Item 5 Correspondence

The correspondence was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the update report be received and noted.***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Tracy Norman

Carried.

Item 6 Reports

6.1 CEO Report

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the update report be received and noted.***

Moved: Wayne Bedggood

Seconded: Nuatali Nelmes

Carried.

6.2 Financial Reports YTD December 2019

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the Profit and Loss Statement for period ending December 2019 be received and noted***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Tracy Norman

Carried.

6.3 Regional Policy and Programs Division Report

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the report be received and noted.***

Moved: Tracy Norman

Seconded: Kay Fraser

Carried.

6.4 Hunter JO Budget Review for 2019-20

The CEO provided a short verbal update to accompany the report.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO Board request the remaining deficit at the end of the 2019-20 financial year to be funded by Strategic Services Australia Limited, up to a cap of \$100,000; and***
- ***Once advised of the outcome of the OLG funding application, the CEO is to communicate the outcome to the Board immediately.***

Moved: Wayne Bedggood

Seconded: Tracy Norman

Carried.

6.5 Draft Hunter JO Strategic Funding Scenarios 2020-21

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO Board adopt the mid-range funding scenario as revised and circulated for the 2020-21 financial year, as per the below;***
 - ***Member contributions comprised of; a fixed contribution of \$25,000 per member council, and a variable fee contribution using a hybrid model of 50% determined by population and 50% determined by rate base;***
 - ***Contribution from SSA Surplus of \$100,000***
 - ***Contribution requested from SSA Capital Reserves of \$500,000***
- ***That KPIs be updated for the role descriptions of the CEO and Regional Program & Policy Officers as documented in the 'Indicative Projects' under the Mid-Range Model in Appendix 1 – Hunter JO Core Funding Scenarios 2020-21.***

Moved: Nuatali Nelmes

Seconded: Kay Fraser

Carried.

6.6 Additional JO Funding Update

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***THAT the update be noted.***

Moved: Wayne Bedggood

Seconded: Tracy Norman

Carried.

6.7 Hunter Economic Transition Foundation Update

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the update be noted.***

Moved: Wayne Bedggood

Seconded: Tracy Norman

Carried.

6.8 Regional Events Strategy

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO Board provide in-principle support for the strategic direction presented in the MI Associates Report, to allow exploration of funding and partnership options***

Moved: Tracy Norman

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried.

6.9 Common Ground – Compass Housing Project

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the proposed statement be endorsed by the Hunter JO Board for inclusion in the Regional Homelessness Strategy: Common Ground Proposal***

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: Nuatali Nelmes

Carried.

6.10 Hunter JO Annual Performance Report 2018-19

The report was taken as read.

The Board discussed that this performance report could be presented at member council meetings for information, accompanied by the letter from the Chair of the Hunter JO Board.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO's Annual Performance Report 2018-19 be endorsed for delivery to the Office of Local Government and for publication on the Hunter JO Website.***
- ***That a cover letter be provided by the Chair of the Board to accompany the report, to invite members to present this as an information report to their councils and to circulate to councillors.***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Wayne Bedggood

Carried.

6.11 Hunter JO Pecuniary Interest Disclosures

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the lodging of Pecuniary Interest returns for voting members of the Hunter JO and designated persons be noted and tabled.***

Moved: Tracy Norman

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried.

6.12 HJO Branding: Marketing and Communications Update

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the update be noted.***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Wayne Bedggood

Carried.

7. Matters Raised by Voting & Non-Voting Members

7.1 Cities Power Partnership Briefing Paper

Steve Wilson provided a brief verbal update to accompany the report.

Resolved:

- ***That Hunter JO member councils who have not yet joined the Cities Power Partnership review the Actions to become a Cities Power Partner to consider joining***
- ***That the Hunter JO Environment Division will monitor progress and if all HJO councils have joined we will coordinate a media statement with the Councils, Cities Power Partnership and Hunter JO***
- ***That the Hunter JO Environment Division look for common pledges between the member councils if all member councils sign up to the Partnership, to track progress on these pledges***

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried.

7.2 LG Super Request for Additional Contributions

Cr Norman provided additional background for this report.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO Board endorse the Chair writing to LG Super on behalf of its member councils, providing an aggregated number of additional funds being requested from its member councils by LG Super***
- ***That the proposed correspondence note the extreme disappointment from the Hunter JO Member Councils in receiving this request for additional funds, and that the Hunter JO seeks that the demands that have been placed on local government be placed into abeyance for two years***

Moved: Tracy Norman

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried.

7.3 Regional Economic Recovery & Community Resilience Grants

The report was taken as read, with the addition from the Chair that now a total of six member councils have been noted as bushfire affected.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO Board endorse a regional approach to Disaster Resilience***
- ***That the Hunter JO Environment Division engage with the Office of Emergency Management in cooperation with the six member councils affected in the recent bushfires, to facilitate a coordinated response to the Economic Recovery & Community Resilience Grant.***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Wayne Bedggood

Carried.

7.4 RMS Briefing re: Delayed Projects

David Evans provided additional background for this report.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO Board pass authority to sign-off on the RMS Ministerial Brief to the CEO and Chair on its behalf.***

Moved: Nuatali Nelmes

Seconded: Kay Fraser

Carried.

Item 8 General Business

The Chair acknowledged the resignation of Coralie Nichols as General Manager of Dungog Council and thanked Coralie for her contribution to the Hunter JO during her time as General Manager. Coralie thanked the Board and her fellow General Managers for the support they offer one another as peers in their roles.

Meeting closed 2:13 pm