

Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes
10:30 – 2:00pm, Thursday 10 December 2020
Cypress Lakes, Pokolbin (via Videoconference)

Voting Directors Present

Cr Bob Pynsent,	Cessnock City Council
Cr John Connors,	Dungog Shire Council
Cr Kay Fraser,	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr Loretta Baker,	Maitland City Council
Cr Sue Moore,	Singleton Shire Council
Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council
Cr Nuatali Nelmes,	Newcastle City Council
Cr David West,	MidCoast Council

Non-Voting Members Present

Lotta Jackson	General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Gareth Curtis,	General Manager, Dungog Shire Council
Morven Cameron,	CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council
David Evans,	General Manager, Maitland City Council
Adrian Panuccio,	General Manager, MidCoast Council
Wayne Wallis,	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
Alison McGaffin	Director, Hunter & Central Coast, Regional NSW (DPIE)
Jason Linnane,	General Manager, Singleton Council

Apologies

Cr Martin Rush,	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Cr Maurice Collison	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Jeremy Bath,	CEO, Newcastle City Council
Fiona Plesman,	General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Kristian Enevoldson,	General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council

Staff in attendance

Joe James, CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation
Steve Wilson, Director, Regional Policy and Program Division, Hunter JO
Melinda Curtis, Regional Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO
Tim Askew, Regional Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO
Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer, Hunter JO (Secretariat)

Observers

Leesa Swan, A/ Council Engagement Manager, Office of Local Government

The meeting opened at 10:31am.

Item 1 Welcomes and Apologies

1.1 Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting, and noted the apologies.

Resolved:

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

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

1.2 Conflicts of Interest

The Chair called for any conflicts of interest to be registered by members of the Board. No conflicts were noted.

Item 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 8 October 2020 were noted.

Item 3 Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes

Resolved:

- ***That the minutes of the previous meetings of 8 October 2020, be adopted***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Kay Fraser

Carried.

3.1 Business Arising: Action Register

The Action Register was taken as read. Cr Moore asked that it be noted that the Board will discontinue further action on the NSW Generations Fund.

- ***That the Action Register be noted.***
- ***That further action on the NSW Generations Fund be discontinued.***
- ***That nominations for an additional Mayor on the CEO's Performance Review Panel be received at the February 2021 meeting of the Board.***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

Item 4 Presentations

A presentation was provided to the Board on the Hunter JO's Delivery Highlights for the 2020 calendar year, from Steve Wilson and Joe James.

Item 5 Correspondence

The correspondence was taken as read.

Resolved:

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

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Loretta Baker

Carried.

Item 6 Reports

6.1 CEO Report

The report was taken as read.

Cr Nelmes requested that the Regional Policy & Programs Team provide further opportunities for coordinated submissions by the Hunter JO and Member Councils, in order to provide supporting submissions both ways.

The Director Regional Policy and Programs proposed that he provide a paper to the February 2021 meeting of the Board outlining the current process for collaborating with member councils on submissions.

The Board discussed the update on the Regional Leadership Executive Statement of Intent, to ensure that the priorities of the Hunter JO are represented within the document. The CEO noted that the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework presented to the Board will assist in aligning the Hunter JO's priorities with regional plans and committees.

Resolved:

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

Moved: Loretta Baker

Seconded: Kay Fraser

Carried.

6.2 HJO October 2020 YTD Profit & Loss Statement

The report was taken as read.

The Board asked that the next meeting of the Hunter JO in February 2021 include a discussion on the impacts on the Hunter JO Budget based on Muswellbrook's withdrawal from the Hunter JO.

Resolved:

- ***That the Profit and Loss Statement for period ending October 2020 be received and noted.***
- ***That discussion of the budgetary impacts of Muswellbrook Shire Councils' withdrawal from the Hunter JO be included in the agenda for the February 2021 meeting of the Board.***

Moved: Loretta Baker

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

6.3 Aged Receivables October 2020

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the Aged Receivables for periods ending 31 October 2020 be received and noted***

Moved: Ryan Palmer

Seconded: Kay Fraser

Carried.

6.4 Regional Policy and Programs Update

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

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

Moved: Loretta Baker

Seconded: John Connors

Carried.

6.5 Hunter JO Membership – Muswellbrook Withdrawal

The report was taken as read.

The Board asked that an approach be made to the Office of Local Government ahead of the next meeting of the Board, to provide a report back on next steps.

Resolved:

- ***That the Board discuss next steps for formalising Muswellbrook's withdrawal from the Hunter JO.***
- ***That the CEO correspond with the Office of Local government regarding Muswellbrook Shire Council withdrawing from the Hunter JO to ascertain next steps in the process.***

Moved: Ryan Palmer

Seconded: John Connors

Carried.

6.6 Hunter 2050 Foundation Update

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO Board note the update on the status and next steps for the Hunter 2050 Foundation***

Moved: Ryan Palmer

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried.

6.7 Cities Power Partnership Regional Workshop Update

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

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

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

7. Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Decision

7.1 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Summary Project Brief

The Report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO Board endorse the approach and further information outlined in the above summary project brief and the timeline and framework below, for the development of the Hunter Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and the interception points with Council's IP&R timeline.***

Moved: Loretta Baker

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried.

Carried.

Item 8 Matters Raised by Members

Cr Bob Pynsent raised discussion of the 'Resources for Regions' grant guidelines, with some councils having had difficulty in the interpretation of the guidelines for projects receiving funding. The Board discussed that while interaction with Regional NSW on this grant program has been incredibly positive, there is a lack of clarity in terms of criteria for projects to receive funding through the program.

Cr Bob Pynsent recommended that the Hunter JO write to the Deputy Premier outlining issues raised within member councils.

Resolved:

- ***That the CEO draft correspondence to the Deputy Premier regarding the Resources for Regions grant program, with assistance from the General Managers of Singleton and Cessnock for specific feedback.***

Item 9 General Business

No general business

The Chair closed the meeting and wishes the Board a happy and prosperous Christmas, thanking them for their participation throughout a difficult year.

Meeting closed 11:56 am