

**Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes**

**11:00 – 2:00pm, Thursday 14 October 2021**

**Hunter JO Boardroom, 4 Sandringham Ave Thornton (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 David West,	MidCoast Council
Cr Maurice Collison	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr Rod Scholes,	Muswellbrook Shire Council

**Non-Voting Members Present**

Lotta Jackson	General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Gareth Curtis,	General Manager, Dungog Shire Council
Adrian Panuccio,	General Manager, MidCoast Council
Wayne Wallis,	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
Greg McDonald,	General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council
Morven Cameron,	CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council
David Evans,	General Manager, Maitland City Council
Jason Linnane,	General Manager, Singleton Council
Fiona Plesman,	General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Jeremy Bath,	CEO, Newcastle City Council

**Apologies**

Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council
Alison McGaffin	Director, Hunter & Central Coast, Regional NSW (DPIE)
Cr Nuatali Nelmes,	Newcastle City Council

**Staff in attendance**

Joe James, CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation  
Steve Wilson, Director, Regional Policy and Program Division, Hunter JO  
Melinda Curtis, Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO  
Boyd Blackwell, Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO  
Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer, Hunter JO (Secretariat)  
Lisa Lord, Head of Finance, Hunter JO

*The meeting opened at 11:00am.*

## **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: John Connors***

***Seconded: Sue Moore***

***Carried.***

### **1.2 Conflicts of Interest**

*The Chair called for any conflicts of interest to be registered by members of the Board.*

*The Chair noted Port Stephens' standing declaration of interest on matters relating to the Newcastle Airport, as well as City of Newcastle.*

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

### **2.1 Minutes of Meeting 12 August 2021**

*The minutes were taken as read.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the minutes of previous meeting of 12 August 2021 be adopted.***

***Moved: Sue Moore***

***Seconded: John Connors***

***Carried.***

## **3. Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes**

### **3.1 Business Arising: Hunter JO Action Register**

*The register was taken as read.*

**Resolved: *That the register be noted.***

***Moved: Kay Fraser***

***Seconded: John Connors***

***Carried.***

### **3.2 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee Action Register**

*The register was taken as read.*

**Resolved:**

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

***Moved: Sue Moore***

***Seconded: Bob Pynsent***

***Carried.***

## **4. Presentations**

### **4.1 Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone**

*Mike young and Adam Clarke provided a presentation and update on the early stages of developing the Hunter Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone. The presentation provided an introduction to the strategic planning work that has commenced, including objectives of the Hunter-Central Coast REZ, the types of opportunities and investment it could provide to the region, and the plans for council, community and stakeholder engagement.*

### **4.2 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Climate Change Package**

*Mel Curtis provided a presentation and update on the development of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Climate Change Package.*

## **5. Correspondence**

*The correspondence was taken as read.*

### **Resolved:**

- *That the update be received and noted*

*Moved: Kay Fraser*

*Seconded: Sue Moore*

*Carried.*

## **6. items for the Hunter JO Board - For Decision**

### **6.1 LGNSW Advocacy on Infrastructure Contribution Reforms**

*The CEO spoke to the report briefly, with the ongoing discussion with State Government on the infrastructure reforms. Scott Phillips, CEO of LGNSW provided an update to GMAC, the report captures the material and feedback that LGNSW have provided.*

### **Resolved:**

- *That the Hunter JO calls on the NSW Government to withdraw the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021 (the Bill) from the NSW Parliament.*
- *That the Hunter JO calls on the NSW Government to undertake further genuine consultation with the local government sector on any proposed reforms to the infrastructure contributions system.*
- *That the Hunter JO calls on the NSW Government to de-couple the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal led review of the rate peg to include population growth from the infrastructure contributions reforms.*
- *That the Hunter JO writes to its local State Members, the Premier the the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, the Treasurer Matt Kean MP, Minister for Planning, Public Spaces and Transport the Hon Rob Stokes MP and Minister for Local Government the Hon Shelley Hancock MP seeking them to withdraw the Bill.*
- *That the Hunter JO writes to the Shadow Ministry, (Shadow Treasurer the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Mr Paul Scully MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government Mr Greg Warren MP), the upper house crossbench (The Greens Mr David Shoebridge MLC, Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, Pauline Hanson's One Nation the Hon Mark Latham MLC, Animal Justice Party the Hon Emma Hurst MLC, Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group) the Hon Fred Nile MLC, Independent Mr Justin Field,) and the Portfolio Committee (Portfolio Committee Chair The Greens Ms Cate Faehmann, Portfolio Committee Deputy Chair Animal Justice Party the Hon Mark Pearson MLC and Committee members Liberal Party the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC and the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, The Nationals the Hon Ben Franklin MLC and Australian Labor Party the Hon Rose Jackson MLC and the Hon Adam Searle MLC) seeking their support in securing the withdrawal of the Bill from the NSW Parliament and outlining council's concerns with the Bill.*

- *That the Hunter JO alerts the local media to the threat of future ratepayer funds being expended rather than developer levies for new infrastructure brought about by increased development under the proposed legislation and shares and promotes these messages via its digital and social media channels and via its networks.*
- *That the Hunter JO affirms its support to LGNSW and requests LGNSW continue advocating on our behalf to protect local government from any amendments to infrastructure contributions which leaves councils and communities exposed to expending ratepayer funds on new infrastructure made necessary by new development, currently the responsibility of developers.*
- *Seek meetings with the influential MP's, with a group from the Hunter Joint Organisation.*

*Moved: Kay Fraser*

*Seconded: Sue Moore*

*Carried.*

## **6.2 Update on the Strategic Plan Development**

*The Mel Curtis spoke briefly to the report, and the layout being used for this strategy development.*

**Resolved:**

- *That the Hunter JO note the information and provide feedback.*

*Moved: David West*

*Seconded: John Connors*

*Carried.*

## **7. Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Noting**

### **7.1 CEO report -Collaboration & Advocacy**

*The CEO spoke briefly to the report.*

### **7.2 Hunter JO August 2021 EOFY Profit & Loss Statement**

*Lisa Lord spoke to the report, noting an update in the presentation and formatting of the reports.*

### **7.3 Hunter JO Program Delivery Highlights**

*Steve Wilson spoke briefly to the report.*

### **7.4 Hunter JO Sub – Committees Standing Update**

*The CEO spoke to the report, and noted a change in how we're reporting.*

### **7.5 Department of Regional NSW Standing Update**

*Alison McGaffin provided a verbal update to the board. The board requested that there be a written reference for future updates.*

### **7.6 Hunter Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad Hosting Arrangements**

*Steve Wilson spoke to the report, noting that the EPA have approached the Hunter JO about hosting the RID squad as they change arrangements with LMCC.*

### **7.7 update on Regional Disaster Resilience Program**

*Steve Wilson spoke to the report, bringing to the Boards attention that our officer won't be hosting this in the future. The program has reinforced the value of having a support role for LG in the regions, but state-wide in the new structure of the Resilience NSW Program they will deliver this directly from the agency.*

### **7.8 Airport Advocacy Project Update**

*Steve Wilson spoke to report, the CEO also drawing the boards attention to the outcomes in the key project deliverables.*

## **7.9 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Climate Change Package**

*The report was taken as read.*

### **7.10 Economic Transformation Priority**

*The CEO spoke to the report, drawing attention to the update and pivoting efforts on the H2050 Foundation work, also noting the progression with the Hunter Venture Fund concept.*

***The Chair recommended that all items for noting be moved together.***

**Resolved:**

- ***That the reports be received and noted.***
- ***That the Profit & Loss Statement for period ending August 2021 be received and noted.***
- ***That the Board note the updates on the Hunter JO Sub-Committees.***
- ***That a meeting of the Regional Economic Transition Sub-Committee be called prior to the Local Government elections in December 2021, to discuss the Hunter Expert Panel.***

***Moved: David West***

***Seconded: Kay Fraser***

***Carried.***

## **8. Matters Raised by Members**

*Please refer to Correspondence from Cessnock City Council regarding Request for Support from Hunter JO on Pricing Review for NSW Stormwater Levy, for consideration by the Board.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the Hunter JO support the letter from Cessnock City Council in regard to the Stormwater Levy.***

***Moved: Bob Pynsent***

***Seconded: Kay Fraser***

***Carried.***

*The Lord Mayor, through the Chair, raised a concern regarding the COVID-19 vaccination rates in some of the local government areas. The Board recommended that representation be made to the NSW Premier regarding consultation with the Hunter Region's Mayors prior to regional travel restrictions being lifted for Greater Sydney.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the Hunter JO make representation to LG NSW that they make representations to the Premier to consult with the councils of the Hunter Region prior to lifting restriction on regional travel out of Greater Sydney into the region because of the low vaccination rates relative to NSW 80% target***

***Moved: Bob Pynsent***

***Seconded: Rod Scholes***

***Carried.***

## **9. General Business**

### **9.1 Hunter JO December Board Meeting**

*The Executive Officer spoke briefly to the report, the CEO also highlighted to the board that there will still be a December Board Meeting, even if the elections have proceeded.*

### **9.2 Proposed Board Dates for 2022**

*The proposed Board dates were taken as read.*

### **9.3 Compliances & Governance Calendars**

*The report was taken as read.*

***The Chair recommended that these three items be moved together.***

***Resolved:***

- ***That the Hunter JO provide feedback on the proposal for no new business to be brought to the December Hunter JO Board Meeting.***
- ***That the Hunter JO endorse the Annual General Meeting to take place on Thursday 25 November 2021, in line with the GMAC Meeting on that date.***
- ***That the Board not the proposed dates for 2022 and provide feedback as needed.***

***Moved: Kay Fraser***

***Seconded: John Connors***

***Carried.***

Meeting closed 12:28 pm