

Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes  
11:00am – 1:00pm, Thursday 16 February 2023  
Hunter JO Boardroom, 4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton

**Voting Directors Present**

Cr Jay Suvaal,	Cessnock City Council
Cr John Connors,	Dungog Shire Council
Cr Kay Fraser,	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr Nuatali Nelmes,	Newcastle City Council
Cr Steve Reynolds,	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Cr Sue Moore,	Singleton Shire Council (Chair)
Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council
Cr Claire Pontin,	MidCoast Council

**Non-Voting Members Present**

Ken Liddell,	General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Gareth Curtis,	General Manager, Dungog Shire Council
Adrian Panuccio,	General Manager, MidCoast Council
Greg McDonald,	General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council
Morven Cameron,	CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council
Jeremy Bath,	CEO, Newcastle City Council
David Evans,	General Manager, Maitland City Council
Jason Linnane,	General Manager, Singleton Council

**Apologies**

Cr Maurice Collison,	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr Phillip Penfold,	Maitland City Council
Derek Finnigan,	Acting General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Tim Crosdale,	General Manager, Port Stephens Council

**Staff in attendance**

Joe James,	CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation
Steve Wilson,	Director Regional Policy and Programs, Hunter JO
Louisa Bulley,	Executive Officer, Hunter JO (Secretariat)
Tim Askew,	Director of Programs, Hunter JO
Kali Somerville,	Media and Communications Officer, Hunter JO
Lisa Lord,	Manager of Finance and Administration, Arrow & Hunter JO
Bonnie Gradwell,	Business Administration Trainee, Hunter JO
Kim Carland,	Regional Projects - Tourism & Events, Hunter JO

**Also Present**

Scott Goold,	Deputy Director Regional Development, Regional NSW
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Chris Hanger, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Cities Commission  
Dan Simpkins, Director - Central Coast and Hunter, Department of Planning and Environment.  
Chad Gardiner, Director, KPMG

*The formal meeting opened at 10.45am.*

## **Item 1 Welcomes and Apologies**

### **1.1 Acknowledgment of Country**

*The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the Board with an Acknowledgement of Country.*

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

***Moved: Steve Reynolds***

***Seconded: Jay Suvaal***

***Carried.***

### **1.2 Conflicts of Interest**

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

## **Item 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

### **2.1 Minutes of Meeting 8 December 2022**

*The minutes were taken as read.*

***Moved: Kay Fraser***

***Seconded: Ryan Palmer***

***Carried.***

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

*Chris Hanger Chief Executive Officer, Greater Cities Commission spoke briefly about the key issues around housing, jobs, energy transition and diversification and to improve engagement with Local Government.*

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

*The CEO spoke providing recommendations within the action register for the removal of three items.*

***Resolved:***

- ***That the minutes of the previous meeting 8 December 2022 be adopted***
- ***That Actions HJO-20-55, HJO-20-60 and HJO-20-84 be removed from the Action Register***

***Moved: Jay Suvaal***

***Seconded: Kay Fraser***

***Carried.***

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

*The register was taken as read.*

### **3.3 Subcommittee for Economic Evolution Action Register**

*The register was taken as read.*

## **Item 4 Presentations**

### **4.1 Hunter Urban Development Program Committees**

*Presenter: Dan Simpkins, Director - Central Coast and Hunter, Department of Planning and Environment.*

*This presentation will provide information on governance surrounding delivery of the new Hunter Regional Plan 2041, including a focus on the establishment and role of Urban Development Program Committees for Greater Newcastle, Upper Hunter and MidCoast.*

### **4.2 Outcomes of KPMG Analysis – Hunter Regional Events Economy**

*Presenter: Kim Carland, Regional Projects Co-ordinator (Tourism and Events) and Chad Gardiner, Director KPMG.*

*This presentation will provide an overview of the key outcomes of the economic analysis work completed by KPMG which analysed the Hunter regional event economy, including current economic value, opportunities for growth, return on investment and business case data.*

### **4.3 Proposed Hunter JO Advocacy Priorities and Activities - NSW State Government Election**

*Presenters: Joe James, CEO and Steve Wilson, Director – Hunter Joint Organisation*

*This presentation will provide and seek input from the Board on proposed priority advocacy messages and activities to be delivered by the Hunter JO in the remaining period of the NSW Government Election campaign.*

*This presentation relates to Agenda Item 6.2*

## **Item 5 Correspondence**

*Correspondence was taken as read.*

***Resolved: That the update report be received and noted.***

***Moved: Ryan Palmer***

***Seconded: Jay Suvaal***

***Carried.***

## **Item 6 Items for the Hunter JO Board - For Decision**

### **6.1 Arrow – Hunter JO Funding Deed**

*The CEO spoke to this report.*

***Resolved:***

- ***That the Hunter JO Board endorse the draft Funding Deed, with a variation within the document differentiating the voting representatives on the Arrow and the Hunter JO Boards;***

- *Pending confirmation that the Auditor General will recognise revenue from Arrow for purposes of assessment of Hunter JO as a going concern, that the Hunter JO Chair is authorised to execution the Funding Deed on behalf of Hunter JO.*
- *That, the Hunter JO Annual General Meeting be called, to take place virtually on a date after the execution of the Funding Deed and by 28 February 2023 (or such other date as OLG agrees to extend the lodgement deadline).*

*Moved: Jay Suvaal*

*Seconded: Nuatali Nelmes*

*Carried.*

## **6.2 NSW Government Election Advocacy Priorities**

*The CEO spoke briefly to the report.*

**Resolved:**

- *That the Board endorse the proposed advocacy priorities and communication strategies to be implemented during the final weeks of the NSW election campaign.*
- *That the Advocacy Priorities document be updated to include advocacy on the Waste Levy as a priority.*

*Moved: Nuatali Nelmes*

*Seconded: Ryan Palmer*

*Carried.*

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

### **7.1 CEO Report – Collaboration & Advocacy**

*The report was taken as read and noted.*

### **7.2 Hunter JO Financial Report December 2022 YTD & FY22/23 Budget Revision**

*The CEO spoke to the Hunter JO Financial Report.*

**Resolved:**

- *That the Financial Reports for year-to-date December 2022 be received and noted.*
- *That the Board note the changes to the revised Forecast, as set out in Attachment 15, and adopt the revised annual Forecast as the revised Annual budget for FY22/23.*
- *That a reconciliation be provided to the Board at its April Meeting showing the original budget figures against grant funds received, with how these funds will be distributed.*

*Moved: Steve Reynolds*

*Seconded: Jay Suvaal*

*Carried.*

### **7.3 Hunter JO Sub-Committees Standing Update**

*The report was taken as read.*

**Resolved:** *That the Board note the updates on the Hunter JO Sub-Committees.*

*Moved: Steve Reynolds*

**Seconded: Jay Suvaal**

**Carried.**

#### **7.4 Hunter Events Economic Analysis**

*The report was taken as read.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the Board note the findings and opportunities identified in the KPMG analysis and endorse the Hunter JO team working with Council staff and industry stakeholders to review and identify options for progressing implementation of the opportunities identified.***

**Moved: Kay Fraser**

**Seconded: Ryan Palmer**

**Carried.**

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

*Scott Goold - Deputy Director Regional Development, Regional NSW, provided a verbal update to accompany the report.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the Board note the update on key activities of the Department of Regional NSW relating to funding programs, the Regional Leadership Executive and the 2022 REDS Updates.***

**Moved: Steve Reynolds**

**Seconded: Jay Suvaal**

**Carried.**

### **Item 8 Matters Raised by Members**

#### **8.1 Regional and Local Roads Repair Program Funding Equity**

*The report was taken as read.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the Hunter JO requests clarification from the Minister for Transport on the rationale for the distribution of the grant funds between Rural & Regional and Greater Sydney/Outer Metropolitan Councils.***

**Moved: Sue Moore**

**Seconded: Steve Reynolds**

**Carried.**

#### **8.2 Voice to Parliament**

Cr Nelmes spoke to the item, and to the Mayors Voice to Parliament (being the statement that had been circulated prior to the meeting). Cr Nelmes proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cr Suvaal;

- **That the Hunter JO Board support the Mayors Voice to Parliament**

The Board discussed the proposed motion and the variable status of internal discussions within Member Councils with regards to the Voice to Parliament.

Cr Nelmes asked that the vote be taken by division, and that it be recorded in the minutes that those were abstaining from the vote were aware that, as per the Hunter JO Code of Meeting Practice, “any voting representative who fails to vote will be recorded as having voted against the motion”.

**Those for: Cr Nelmes, Cr Suvaal**

**Those against: Cr Connors, Cr Palmer, Cr Fraser, Cr Pontin, Cr Moore, Cr Reynolds**

**Absent: Cr Collison**

The motion was lost.

After further discussion Cr Palmer proposed the following motion, which was carried.

***Resolved: That a discussion of the Mayors’ Voice to Parliament be brought to a future Hunter JO Board Meeting, following each Mayor’s consultation with their individual Member Council.***

***Moved: Cr Palmer***

***Seconded: Cr Moore***

***Carried.***

## **Item 9 General Business**

### **9.1 Compliance & Governance Calendars**

*The calendars were noted.*

*Meeting closed 1:10pm*