

Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes  
11:00am – 1:00pm, Thursday 13 April 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 Claire Pontin,	MidCoast Council
Cr Maurice Collison,	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr Philip Penfold,	Maitland City Council

**Non-Voting Members Present**

Ken Liddell,	General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Adrian Panuccio,	General Manager, MidCoast Council
Greg McDonald,	General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council
Jeremy Bath, CEO,	Newcastle City Council
Tim Crosdale,	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
David Evans,	General Manager, Maitland City Council
Derek Finnegan,	General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council

**Apologies**

Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council
Jason Linnane,	General Manager, Singleton Council
Morven Cameron,	CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council
Gareth Curtis,	General Manager, Dungog Shire Council

**Staff in attendance**

Joe James,	CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation
Steve Wilson,	Director Regional Policy and Programs, Hunter JO
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 (Secretariat)  
Candace Woodyatt, Business Administration Trainee, Arrow Collaborative Services

**Also Present**

Scott Goold, Deputy Director Regional Development, Regional NSW  
Paul Burton, Community Assets Planning Team Leader, Port Stephens Council  
Deanne Nelson-Pritchard, Principal Estuary Officer  
Catherine Pepper, Manager, Environment & Sustainability, Maitland City Council

*The formal meeting opened at 11:00am.*

**Item 1 Welcomes and Apologies**

**1.1 Acknowledgement of Country**

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

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

***Moved: Sue Moore***

***Seconded: John Connors***

***Carried.***

**1.2 Conflicts of Interest**

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

**1.3 Closed session**

*Board closed session from 12.37pm to 12.50pm At the direction of the Chair, the Board held a closed session for confidential matters. **It was agreed the matters discussed would remain in closed council.***

**Item 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**2.1 Minutes of 16 February 2023**

*The minutes were taken as read.*

***Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meetings of 16 February 2023 be adopted***

***Moved: Sue Moore***

***Seconded: John Connors***

***Carried.***

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

**3.1 Hunter Joint Organisation Board Action Register**

*The report was taken as read.*

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

*The report was taken as read.*

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

*The report was taken as read.*

## **Item 4 Presentations**

### **4.1 Update on outcomes from the Hunter Sports Plan Advisory Group**

*Presenter: Paul Burton, Community Assets Planning Team Leaser, Port Stephens Council and Amanda McMahon, Coordinator Recreation and Facilities, Singleton Council.*

*This presentation provided an update on the implementation of the Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan, including an overview of a proposed delivery model for priority actions of a regional nature that have been identified by the Advisory Group for delivery through the Hunter JO.*

### **4.2 Update on the Hunter Estuary Coastal Management Program**

*Presenters: Deanne Nelson-Pritchard, Principal Estuary Officer and Catherine Pepper, Manager Environment & Sustainability, Maitland City Council*

*This presentation will provide an update to the Board on the progress of the Hunter Estuary Coastal Management Program and its relevance to the whole of river and its catchment.*

## **Item 5 Correspondence**

*The Correspondence was noted.*

### **Resolved:**

- ***That the update report be received and noted.***
- ***That Trent Bagnall be invited to present at a future meeting of the Hunter JO Board regarding the Venture Fund, in conjunction with a presentation on the outcomes and recommendations arising from the Hunter Venture Fund project delivered by the Hunter JO.***

***Moved: John Connors***

***Seconded: Kay Fraser***

***Carried.***

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

### **6.1 Hunter JO Audit Procurement Issue**

*Board closed session from 12.37pm to 12.50pm At the direction of the Chair, the Board held a closed session for confidential matters. **It was agreed the matters discussed would remain in closed council.***

### **6.2 Cities Power Partnership – Regional Partnership Agreement**

*Steve Wilson Director Regional Policy and Programs, Hunter JO spoke to this report providing an update and sort endorsement from the Board.*

**Resolved: That the Board endorse the Regional Partnership Agreement with Cities Power Partnership.**

**Moved: John Connors**

**Seconded: Kay Fraser**

**Carried.**

### **6.3 Review and refocus of Hunter JO Advocacy Priorities and Planning**

*Steve Wilson Director Regional Policy and Programs, Hunter JO spoke to this report providing an update to the Board.*

**Resolved: That the Board endorse the proposed approach for refocusing and refining the next stage of advocacy priorities and planning.**

**Moved: Philip Penfold**

**Seconded: Steve Reynolds**

**Carried.**

### **6.4 Hunter Offshore Wind Zone**

The Board discussed the recommendations within the report.

**Resolved: That the Hunter JO Board defer the report and recommendations therein until after the Mayors have each conferred with their individual Councils.**

**Moved: Philip Penfold**

**Seconded: Steve Reynolds**

**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.*

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

### **7.2 Hunter JO Financial Reports – February 2023**

*The report was taken as read and noted.*

**Resolved: That the Financial Reports for year-to-date February 2023 be received and noted.**

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

*The report was taken as read and noted.*

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

#### **7.3.1 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee**

*The report was taken as read.*

#### **7.3.2 Circular Economy Sub Committee**

*The report was taken as read.*

### **7.3.3 Subcommittee for Economic Evolution**

*The report was taken as read.*

### **7.4 Simtables for Community Empowerment**

*The report was taken as read and noted.*

**Resolved: That the Board Note the information provided in the report.**

### **7.5 Hunter Events Economic Analysis**

*The report was taken as read and noted.*

**Resolved: That the Board note the information provided.**

### **7.6 Hunter JO Program Status Report**

*The report was taken as read and noted.*

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

### **7.7 Hunter Jo Program Delivery Highlights and Report**

*The report was taken as read and noted.*

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

## **Item 8 Matters Raised by Member**

### **8.1 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.*

**Resolved:**

- ***The Hunter JO reaffirms its in-principal support for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament and advocates for funding to be made a to Council's who wish to hold local events in support of the Yes campaign.***

***Moved: Jay Suvaal***

***Seconded: Claire Pontin***

***Carried.***

### **8.2 Update on outcomes from the Hunter Sports Plan Advisory Group**

*Paul Burton, Community Assets Planning Team Leaser, Port Stephens Council and Amanda McMahon, Coordinator Recreation and Facilities, Singleton Council provided the Board with an update on the implementation of the Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan and sort endorsement from the board.*

**Resolved: That the Hunter JO Board;**

- ***Endorse the Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Priority Actions Plan.***

- **Endorse the proposed delivery model identified in Table 2 as a model for facilitating delivery of the priority initiatives in which the Hunter JO is identified as lead organisation.**

**Moved: Jay Suvaal**

**Seconded: Steve Reynolds**

**Carried.**

### **8.3 Hunter Estuary Coastal Management Program Update**

*The report was taken as read and noted.*

**Resolved: That the Board note the information provided in the report.**

### **Item 9 General Business**

*Alison McGaffin Director Regional NSW, announced her 12 month secondment from Regional NSW to TAFE NSW.*

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

*The calendars were noted.*

*Meeting Closed: 12:37pm*