

Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes

11.00am – 12.13pm, Thursday 8th June 2023

Hunter JO Boardroom, 4 Sandringham Ave Thornton NSW

Voting Directors Present

Cr Jay Suvaal,	Cessnock City Council
Cr John Connors,	Dungog Shire Council
Cr Kay Fraser,	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr Philip Penfold,	Maitland City Council
Cr Claire Pontin,	MidCoast Council
Cr Nuatali Nelmes,	Newcastle City Council
Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council
Cr Sue Moore,	Singleton Shire Council (Chair)
Cr Maurice Collison,	Upper Hunter Shire 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
Derek Finnegan,	General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Jason Linnane,	General Manager, Singleton Council
Morven Cameron,	CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council
Gareth Curtis,	General Manager, Dungog Shire Council

Apologies

Cr Steve Reynolds,	Muswellbrook Shire Council
David Evans,	General Manager, Maitland City Council

Staff in attendance

Joe James, CEO,	Hunter Joint Organisation
Louisa Bulley,	Executive Officer, Hunter JO (Secretariat)
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

Also Present

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: Jay Suvaal

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.

1.3 Closed Session

*Board closed session from 10.50am to 10.59pm. 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 13 April 2023

The minutes were taken as read.

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

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: Claire Pontin

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

Presentation: Outcomes from the Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) project and recommended model for ongoing approach to events attraction

Presenter: Kim Carland, Program Lead – Hunter JO

This presentation provided a synopsis of the range of outputs generated through the Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) project, including three high level options for ongoing regional collaboration around events attraction, which are drawn from those identified in the KPMG “Hunter Event Economic Analysis Report”. The recommendation from GMAC (25th May 2023 meeting) is to proceed with the Business as Usual (plus A2E outputs) model, to be monitored and reassessed in 12 months’ time.

Item 5 Correspondence

The report was taken as read and noted.

Resolved: That the update report be received and noted.

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: Claire Pontin

Carried

Item 6 Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Decision

6.1 Hunter JO Draft Budget & Member Contributions 2023-24FY

CEO spoke to this report providing an update to the Board.

Resolved:

- That the Member Contributions for the Hunter JO and Environment Program for 2023-24FY be endorsed for presentation to the Hunter JO Board at its June Meeting.***
- That the Hunter JO Draft Budget for the 2023-24 budget be endorsed for presentation to the Hunter JO Board at its June Meeting.***

Moved: Maurice Collison

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried

6.2 Grants and Funding Opportunities

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

Resolved:

- 1. The proposed process for CEO and Board approval of grant funding applications.***
- 2. The current grant opportunities being pursued by the Hunter JO.***

Moved: John Connors

Seconded: Jay Suvaal

Carried

6.3 Hunter Global: The Flightpath to Our Future Report

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

Resolved:

- ***the Board endorse the “Hunter Global: The Flightpath to our Future” report; and***
- ***the Hunter JO team continues to collaborate with project partners and key regional stakeholders to facilitate delivery of the opportunities and directions it includes.***

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: Nuatali Nelmes

Carried

6.4 Hunter Venture Fund Project – Outcomes and Next Steps

CEO spoke to this report providing an update to the Board.

Resolved: That:

1. **Accept the report prepared by CircPartners for the Hunter JO;**
2. **Endorse a shift in focus for the Hunter JO regarding the Hunter Venture Fund, to one of primarily advocating to other levels of government, the need for establishment and government co-investment in a Hunter Clean Energy and Advanced Manufacture Commercial Pilot Fund and a Hunter Venture Fund and Innovation Entity, as a key policy and delivery mechanism for accelerating and amplifying market driven investment into the region to drive the significant economic evolution that is needed.**

Moved: John Connors

Seconded: Jay Suvaal

Carried

6.5 Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) in the Hunter

Kim Carland Project Lead, Hunter JO spoke to this report providing an update and sort endorsement from the Board.

Resolved: That the Board;

- **Note the key outcomes achieved to date in delivering the A2E project.**
- **Note GMAC’s recommendation for option one ‘Business as Usual plus A2E outputs’ approach to attract and host events in our region, to be monitored and reassessed in 12 months’ time.**
- **Endorse that a further report be provided to the Hunter JO Board at a future meeting for consideration, discussing Option 2, providing additional detail in regard to funding and resourcing options.**

Moved: Jay Suvaal

Seconded: Claire Pontin

Carried.

6.6 NSW Common Planning Assumptions

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 drafting correspondence (using the content provided) from the Hunter JO to the NSW Auditor General expressing concerns about the NSW Common Planning Assumptions.***

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: Jay Suvaal

Carried.

Item 7 Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Decision

7.1 CEO Report

The report was taken as read and noted.

Resolved: That the report be received and noted.

Moved: Jay Suvaal

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

7.2 Hunter JO Advocacy Update

The report was taken as read and noted.

Resolved: That the Hunter JO Advocacy Report be received and noted.

Moved: Jay Suvaal

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

7.3 Hunter JO Financial Reports – April 2023 YTD

The report was taken as read and noted.

Resolved: That the Income Statement for period ending April 2023 be received and noted.

Moved: Jay Suvaal

Seconded: Claire Pontin

Carried.

7.4 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 and the deferment of the 8th June GNMP Subcommittee meeting and Roundtable until 10th August.***

Moved: Maurice Collison

Seconded: Claire Pontin

Carried.

7.5 Hunter JO Program Status Report

The report was taken as read and noted.

Resolved: That the report be received and noted.

Moved: John Connors

Seconded: Claire Pontin

Carried.

7.6 Hunter JO Program Delivery Highlights

The report was taken as read and noted.

Resolved: That the report be received and noted.

Moved: John Connors

Seconded: Claire Pontin

Carried.

7.7 Regional NSW Standing Update

The report was taken as read and noted.

Resolved:

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

Moved: Jay Suvaal

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

7.8 Hunter JO - Arrow Staff Survey Results

The report was taken as read and noted.

Resolved: That the Hunter JO Board note the report.

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: Jay Suvaal

Carried.

Item 8 Matters Raised by Members

Nil

Item 9 General Business

Cr Penfold proposed that a letter of thanks be written on behalf of the Board to David Evans, marking retirement and his contribution to the region during his tenure.

Resolved:

- ***That the Hunter JO draft correspondence to David Evans acknowledging his contribution to the region during his years of service as Chair of General Manager Advisory Committee, and during his time as General Manager of Maitland City Council.***

Moved: Philip Penfold

Seconded: Jay Suvaal

Carried.

Meeting closed 12.13pm