

Mid North Coast Joint Organisation

Board Meeting

Minutes

Date: 5 October 2018

Location: Bellingen Shire Council

Time: 8.30am



PRESENT

Voting Members:

Mayor Liz Campbell, Kempsey Shire Council (Chair)
Mayor Dominic King, Bellingen Shire Council (Deputy Chair)
Mayor Peta Pinson, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Non-Voting Members:

Louise McMeeking, Director Regional, Department of Premier & Cabinet North Coast
Liz Jeremy, General Manager, Bellingen Shire Council
Craig Milburn, General Manager, Kempsey Shire Council
Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council & Interim Executive Officer

Other Attendees:

Anita Gambhir, Council Engagement Officer, NSW Office of Local Government
Jaleen Caples, Principal Project Officer, NSW Office of Local Government

The meeting opened 8.30am



Item: 1
Subject: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor of Bellingen Dominic King, opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members to Bellingen for the meeting of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO).

Item: 2
Subject: APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

Nil

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

Item: 3
Subject: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

1. That the Minutes of the MNCJO Ordinary Board Meeting held on 17 August 2018 be confirmed.
2. That the Minutes of the MNCJO Extra Ordinary Board Meeting held on 14 September 2018 be confirmed.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil



Item: 4
Subject: DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest presented.

Item: 5
Subject: SPEAKERS

There were no speakers to the meeting.



Item: 6
Subject: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: King / Pinson

That the Board note the business arising as detailed.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

| Meeting | Item | Status |
|-----------|--|---|
| 17/8/2018 | <p>Item: 6.3 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS</p> <p>That the Board request the Executive Officer write to all relevant State and Federal Ministers and their Opposition counterparts, as well as copying to all local State & Federal members of JO member Councils, requesting a review of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAG) to Local Government, with a view to including consideration of horizontal fiscal equalisation in the calculation of FAG funding as per the details proposed by the Productivity Commission in their 15 May 2018 report titled 'Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation' (HFE).</p> | Completed |
| 17/8/2018 | <p>6.4. PACIFIC HIGHWAY HANDOVER</p> <p>That the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make representations to the NSW Government in relation to the handover of State assets (such as the old Pacific Highway) and in particular request a review of the maintenance handover process to include oversight and determination by the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). 2. Request that a new policy position be determined by the NSW Government in relation to the handover of State assets, so that ownership of former State assets does not impact on the ongoing financial sustainability of Local Government. | Completed (refer to the MNCJO Board resolution for Item 12 of this agenda) |
| 17/8/2018 | <p>Item: 6.5 MID NORTH COAST JOINT ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>That the Board;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite Coffs Harbour City Council, Clarence Valley Council and Nambucca Shire Council to join the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation of Councils. 2. Write to the Deputy Premier, The Hon. John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Local Government The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP informing the Ministers of the MNCJO Board's resolution to invite these councils to join the MNCJO. | Completed Completed |



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| 17/8/2018 | <p>Item: 6.6 JOINT ORGANISATION BRIDGES (JOB) PROJECT</p> <p>That the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegate to the General Managers any actions required to pursue any applicable funding opportunities for the MNCJO Bridges Project. 2. Allocate an upper limit of \$10,000 to engage resources to produce relevant documentation for the project. | Completed |
| 17/8/2018 | <p>Item: 6.7 IPART FINAL REPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATING REVIEW</p> <p>That the Board request the Executive Officer write to the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP and LGNSW, requesting that the IPART Review of the Local Government Rating System Report that was presented to the Minister in December 2016, be immediately released to all Councils for review and comment.</p> | Completed |
| 17/8/2018 | <p>Item: 6.8 JOINT ORGANISATION FUNDING</p> <p>That the Board;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write to the Deputy Premier The Hon. John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Local Government The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP advocating for ongoing operational funding to be provided to Joint Organisations, to ensure their ongoing success. 2. Send a copy of the correspondence to all JOs. | Completed |
| 17/8/2018 | <p>Item: 6.10 TROPICAL SODA APPLE</p> <p>That the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaise with neighbouring JOs i.e. the New England JO, the Northern Rivers JO and the Namoi JO that are impacted by the infestation of TSA, to develop a united approach to garner support to address this issue. 2. Seeks representation with relevant State and Federal Agricultural Ministers, the Deputy Premier and the Federal National Party Leader and to LGNSW to advocate for funding to address the TSA issues being faced by the JO Councils. | <p>Completed</p> <p>Letter to be drafted by the Executive Officer</p> |



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| 17/8/2018 | <p>Item: 6.13 EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT</p> <p>That the Board;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the Executive Officer's Report. 2. Write to the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP and the Office of Local Government (OLG) thanking the OLG for their support and in particular Chris Presland for his guidance and direction; and the value of this ongoing relationship to the success of the MNCJO. | Completed |
| 17/8/2018 | <p>Item: 8 GENERAL BUSINESS</p> <p><i>That the Board;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write to and make representation to LGNSW in relation to items 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5. 2. Invite The Hon. Ben Franklin, Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy and Northern NSW and The Hon. Peter Primrose MLC, Shadow Minister for Local Government to the next Board meeting in October 2018 at Bellingen Shire Council. <p><i>Clarification provided by the MNCJO Board at the Board meeting held on Friday 5 October 2018, around the purpose of the invitation, being that the Board be able to put questions to the invitees around Local Government in general and Joint Organisations etc. This invitation will go out for the 5 December 2018 MNCJO Board meeting, to be held at Kempsey Shire Council.</i></p> | <p>Completed</p> <p>Letter to be drafted by the Executive Officer</p> |
| 14/9/2018 | <p>Item: 6.1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Board write to the President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), Mayor David O'Loughlin supporting the campaign to restore Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue. 2. That a copy of this letter is also sent to the Federal Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Mr Stephen Jones MP | <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> |



Item: 7
Subject: ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Item: 7.1
Subject: EXECUTIVE OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED: King / Pinson

That the Board note the Port Macquarie-Hastings Councils resolution in relation to the MNCJO Executive Officer Arrangements.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

Item: 7.2.
Subject: STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES WORKSHOP

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

That the Board consider the following Regional (State wide) priorities for discussion at the NSW Joint Organisation Chairs and Executive Officers meeting to be held at the LGNSW Conference 21 October 2018:

- 1. Digital enablers, access to high speed internet and mobile services,**
- 2. Transport connectivity,**
- 3. Water security,**
- 4. Energy and renewable energy, and**
- 5. Regional skills development.**

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil



Item: 7.3.
Subject: MNCJO COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

That the MNCJO Board

1. Note the information provided in relation to the Community Resilience Project;
2. Request the General Managers Advisory Committee to further develop the project brief and seek out possible funding opportunities for the project, whilst also including a business stream to the project.
3. Request the Executive Officer provide an update report to the December 2018 MNCJO Board meeting on the Community Resilience Project.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

Item: 7.4.
Subject: MNCJO SUBGROUPS

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

That the Board:

1. Acknowledges the good work that the previous Mid North Coast Regional Organisation of Council's (MIDROC) subgroups have achieved such as the MIDWASTE and the Work, Health and Safety (WHS) groups.
2. Establish a range of MNCJO sub-groups, with the sub-groups and the make-up of the sub-groups to be determined by the General Managers Advisory Committee as considered appropriate.
3. Request the Executive Officer write to identified relevant Councils asking them to give consideration to participating in future MNCJO subgroups.
4. Task the General Managers Advisory Committee to develop a Charter to be used by all subgroups.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil



Item: 7.5.
Subject: PACIFIC HIGHWAY HANDOVER

Mayor Pinson left the meeting at 8:50am

RESOLVED: King / Campbell

That the MNCJO Board direct the Executive Officer to request a meeting with the Roads and Maritime Services Chief Executive, Mr Ken Kanofski and other government representatives as considered relevant, to discuss options in relation to the handover of State government assets to local government.

CARRIED: 2/0
FOR: King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

Item: 7.6.
Subject: NORTHERN NSW RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE

Mayor Pinson returned to the meeting at 8:55am

RESOLVED: King / Pinson

That the Board:

- 1) **Notes the Northern NSW Renewable Energy Initiative update.**
- 2) **Requests the Director Regional, Department of Premier & Cabinet North Coast report back to the next MNCJO Board meeting on the outcomes of the Renewable Energy workshop being held in Ballina on Monday 8 October 2018.**

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil



Item: 7.7.
Subject: WHY LOCAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS

RESOLVED: King / Pinson

That the MNCJO Board:

1. Note the 'Why Government Matters' report by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government;
2. Request the General Managers Advisory Committee give consideration to how the content of the 'Why Government Local Matters' report might provide assistance to the MNCJO into the future, or a tailored version of this report for the MNCJO;
3. Request the Executive Officer provide an update report to the December 2018 MNCJO Board meeting on the 'Why Local Government Matters' report.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

Item: 8
Subject: GENERAL MANAGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

That the Board notes the General Managers Advisory Committee minutes from meetings held on 3 August 2018, 7 September 2018 and 21 September 2018.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil



Item: 9
Subject: CORRESPONDENCE

In addition to the correspondence listed in the agenda, the Executive Officer tabled the following correspondence:

- Letter from Namoi Unlimited (Namoi Joint Organisation) re Tropical Soda Apple.
- Letter from Clarence Valley Council regarding declining to join the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.
- Email from Chris Presland from the Office of Local Government regarding his departure from the OLG in October 2018.

RESOLVED: King / Pinson

That the Board notes the correspondence.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

Item: 10
Subject: JOINT ORGANISATION AND LGNSW CO-DESIGN AND COLLABORATION CONSULTATION DRAFT

The Executive Officer tabled the following correspondence:

- Email from the Executive Officer to Local Government NSW (LGNSW) providing feedback on the LGNSW document titled *Joint Organisation and LGNSW Co-design and Collaboration Consultation Draft*

RESOLVED: King / Pinson

That the Board note the Joint Organisation and LGNSW Co-design and Collaboration Consultation Draft document, October 2018 and the feedback provided to LGNSW.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil



Item: 11
Subject: GENERAL BUSINESS

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

That the Board:

1. Note the update provided on Tropical Soda Apple.
2. Note the update provided on the application to the Information and Privacy Commission for the IPART Final Report- Local Government Rating Review;
3. Determine that Wednesday 5 December will be the final MNCJO Board meeting for 2018, to be held at Kempsey Shire Council.
4. Request the Executive Officer report back to the December 2018 MNCJO Board meeting on the position of other Joint Organisations in relation to the payment of sitting fees for the Mayors of member Councils as members of the Joint Organisation.
5. Note that the Chair of the MNCJO and Mayor Dominic King will address the Nambucca Shire Council meeting being held on Thursday 11 October in relation to the benefits of Nambucca Shire Council joining the MNCJO.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

1. That pursuant to section 10A subsection 2 (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the proceedings of the Board in Confidential Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) on the basis that items to be considered are of a confidential nature.
2. That the Board move into Confidential Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) to receive and consider the following items: *Item 12 – Pacific Highway Handover*. This item is considered confidential under Section 10A subsection 2 (c) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Board or a member Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil



ADJOURN MEETING: The Ordinary MNCJO Board meeting adjourned at 10.05am

Item: 12
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL
PACIFIC HIGHWAY HANDOVER

Matt Fanning, Deputy General Manager of Bellingen Shire Council joined the meeting at 10.05am.

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

That the Board endorse and support the principle advocacy position outlined in the confidential report titled *Pacific Highway Handover* presented by Bellingen Shire Council.

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

RESUME MEETING: The Ordinary MNCJO Board meeting resumed at 10.16am

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RESOLVED: Pinson / King

That the abovementioned recommendations from Confidential Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) be adopted:

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell
AGAINST: Nil

The meeting closed at 10.17am