

Report from the Mayor/Deputy Mayor/General Manager attending the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Federal Representation meetings and 21 and 22 August 2024 in Canberra

Recommendations

That Council note the report from the Mayor/Deputy Mayor/General Manager on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board meetings 21 and 22 August 2024 and

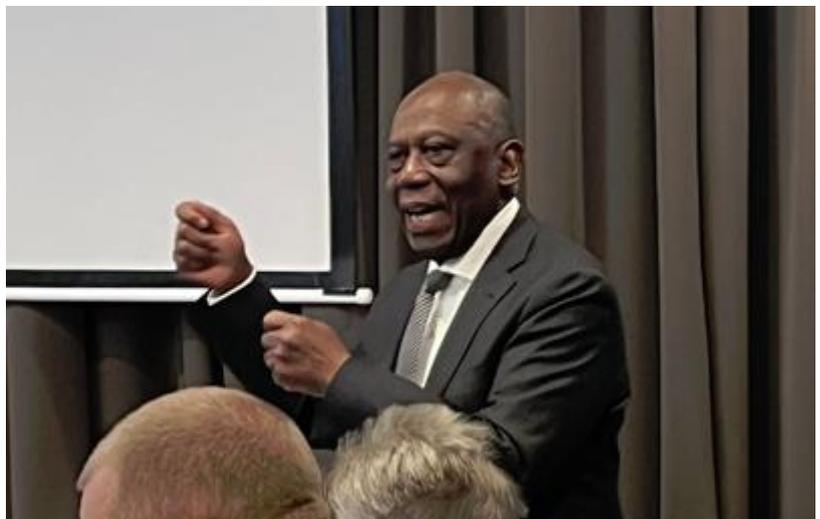
- 1. note a welcome to new Councillors session is under development for November 2024;**
- 2. note the cost savings to Councils for streetlighting charges from CNSWJO's negotiation through the Australian Energy Regulator delivering an average of 16.9% across regional NSW;**
- 3. note the Return on Investment from the CNSWJO for the 2023/2024 year of 8.3:1 for membership fees; and**
- 4. request a presentation from CNSWJO on its programming.**

Please find following advice from the recent meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held in Canberra on the 22 August 2024. The Minutes from the meeting and action from meetings with federal representatives are attached. Please request the notes from the meeting with federal representatives.

Board members were welcomed to Canberra by the Chair, Cr Kevin Beatty.

Speakers to the Board were the NSW Auditor General Mr Bola Oyetunji and Mr Simon Grice Senior Director– Energy Transformation, Climate Change and Net-Zero Energy Transformation, Climate Change, Energy and Water, ACT Government – Integrated Energy.

The Auditor General is keen to review red tape for Councils including asset revaluation, depreciation and Rural Fire Service Assets. He advised he has the support of the Minister for Local Government in this regard and is looking for an audit framework that has impact. Follow-up with both speakers will be undertaken to progress opportunities for this region.



Picture 1 NSW Auditor General Mr Bola Oyetunji

Updates were provided from the Office of Local Government and the Premier's Department. Of note is the recent announcement by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Ron Hoenig, of funding for trainees and apprentices for councils.

A Statement was drafted from the Mayors regarding the partial declaration of the headwaters of the Belubula under Section 10 of The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984. This Act enables the Australian Government to protect important Indigenous areas and objects under

immediate threat, if it appears that state or territory laws have not provided effective protection. This land in question is the site for the tailings dam of the Kings Plains' gold mine currently finalising the development assessment. While the Statement is directed to Minister Plibersek who made the decision, the Board has also agreed that development assessment in NSW needs to be questioned given the purpose of the Act is to protect a flawed state process.

More detail on reports to the meeting are below where the agenda can be found at [Board Meeting – 21 August 2024](#). Please note that as this meeting finalised a number of grant funded programs, there are a significant number of reports with links included for review.

The following day was one of engagement with federal representatives hosted by the Hon Kristy McBain, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.

Key themes from the day included the need for good NSW Government engagement at the federal level to assure the outcomes this region is looking for.

Please find the list of actions for follow-up attached to the minutes and request briefing notes.

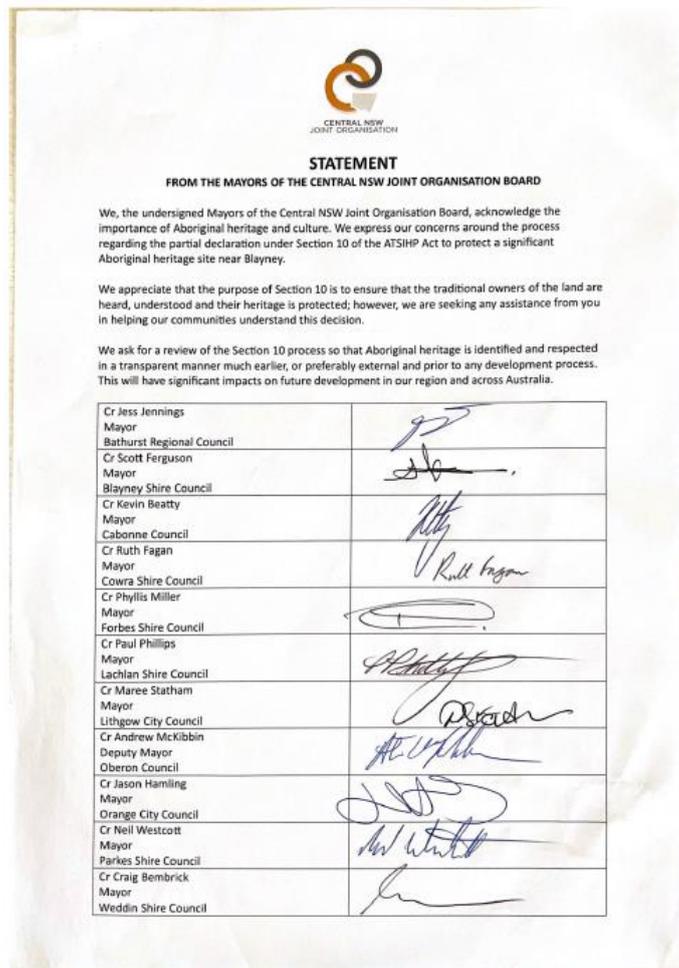
As this was the last meeting of the Board for this term, four Mayors who were standing down were thanked for their service to the region. These were Councillors Jason Hamling, Mayor of Orange; Mark Kellam Mayor of Oberon; Craig Bembrick Mayor of Weddin and Scott Ferguson, Mayor of Blayney.

Submissions

The following submissions have been lodged since the last Board meeting. All have been at the request of members and/or as part of supporting the advocacy policy of the Board. All submissions can be viewed on the website [Submissions - Central Joint Organisation \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au)

Notably, CNSWJO has more than doubled the amount of submission lodged between the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 years.

1. [Feedback on Draft TOR for Review of NSW Councils Financial Model](#)
2. [Submission – Inquiry into Local Government to Funds Infrastructure and Services](#)



Picture 2 Statement from CNSWJO Mayors



Picture 3 Scott Ferguson farewells the region

3. [IPART Dam Safety NSW Levy](#)
4. [Feedback on Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW Internment Services Levy](#)
5. [MDB Plan V2 and buy-backs-Draft Restoring our Rivers Framework](#)
6. [Alternate funding models for water utilities –NSW Productivity Commission](#)

New Integrated Planning and Reporting Group and Community Engagement Support

The Board resolved to create an Integrated Planning and Reporting Group of staff supported by the JO. They will have carriage of projects like Our Placemat previously reported to Council as well developing a program of support for mandatory community engagement. Further information on Our Placemat can be found at <https://www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/co-operative-projects/>

Memorandum of Understanding with Regional Development Australia (RDA) Central West

A critically important relationship for CNSWJO is its relationship with [Central West RDA](#). Every year these two organisations refresh their [2024-2025-MOU-between-RDA-Central-West-and-CNSWJO.pdf](#) The only one of its kind in the nation, it ensures both organisations are working as efficiently and effectively as possible on the priorities of the region.

This year the renewal of the MoU was signed at Parliament House Canberra overseen by the Hon Kristy McBain, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.

Central West RDA also provided a report to the Board which can be found in the agenda at [Board Meeting – 21 August 2024](#)



Picture 4 Signing of Memorandum of Understanding,

I-r Cr Ruth Fagan Chair of Central West RDA, The Hon Kristy McBain Minister for Regional Devt Local Government and Territories, Cr Kevin Beatty, Chair CNSWJO

Spare Capacity in Housing

Responding to the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority for the CNSWJO, the equivalent of Council's Community Strategic Plan, to deliver advocacy and initiatives on skills and housing shortages; the Spare Capacity in Housing Project has sought to identify short term levers in realising spare bedrooms in Central NSW. With funding from Regional NSW, the project built on work undertaken by Orange 360 working with Cadia Mines. Orange 360 formed a collaboration with Work + Stay and all deliverables are provided below.

An analysis of spare room capacity in the target areas determined that almost 60,000 spare rooms are available, presenting a significant opportunity to address housing shortages. This seems like a big number – but the analysis is robust using ABS data – please go to the Housing Data Report below.

The project also identified a distinct shortage of medical and care worker professionals, worsened by the unaffordability of rental accommodation for most income earners. Inspired by successful models such as the Travelling Nurses and Furnished Finder platform in the USA, which caters to short-term and

mid-term rentals for healthcare professionals, this initiative suggests the establishment partnerships between industry bodies, healthcare providers, employers, and homeowners.

The proposed initiative aims to provide a seamless medium for connecting homeowners with prospective tenants, automating contract generation, rent payments, and other necessary processes to streamline the rental experience for all parties involved. However, interviews with homeowners and employers revealed concerns regarding security, safety, and privacy in such arrangements, highlighting the need for targeted communications strategies to address societal norms and perceptions. The solution is a concierge service.

This grant-funded project is now complete with the outputs being as follows.

1. [Environmental Scan WA W+S](#)
2. [Final Report Spare Capacity in Housing Project](#)
3. [Housing Data Report – Bathurst, Orange, Parkes WA W+S](#)
4. [Jobs and Skills Analysis Report – WA W+S](#)
5. [Space Capacity in Housing Project Implementation Delivery Plan](#)



Disaster Risk Reduction Program

Disaster has varying priority across the region where with climate change there will be more severe storms and longer hotter droughts. Flooding and bushfire have been identified as the two significant disaster challenges for the communities of Central NSW. For some members of CNSWJO the impacts of disasters have been top of mind. For all councils the funding framework for disasters and the challenges of inundated road networks is ongoing.

Using the advocacy strength of eight JOs working together, CNSWJO is seeking to derive systemic change and local outcomes through its collaborative approach to ~~the~~ Disaster Risk Reduction ~~Fund~~.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) ~~has funded the below outputs~~, jointly funded by the Australian and New South Wales governments. ~~Round one~~ DRRF is complete and the Board endorsed the various outputs:

1. [Disaster Risk Reduction Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework](#)
2. [CNSWJO Evaluation Report Piloting Technology for Enhanced Disaster Risk Reduction: Simtable](#)
3. [DRRF Final Project report](#)
4. [Regional Resilience Group TOR DRAFT](#)
5. [Recommendations and Actions from the Regional Opportunities Report Spatial Data Scoping Study](#)
6. [RRP Evaluation Report](#)
7. [RRP Evaluation - Summary Report](#)
8. [RRP Project Profiles](#)
9. [DRRF Final Report](#)
10. [DRRF Acquittal](#)
11. [DRRF Income and Expenditure Statement](#)

A funding application for Round 2 [of the Disaster Ready Fund](#) has been lodged to continue this program and an announcement was made 28 August the CNSWJO was successful. Further advice will be provided in due course on the value of this program to Council.

Importantly, this project was developed by CNSWJO and recently won a Local Government NSW Award.

Water and the Productive Water Policy Lab

The Regional Water Report provided advice on:

- [The Regional Water Loss Management Hub project final report](#)
- [Practitioner’s Toolkit for Transitioning Local Water Utility Strategic Planning into the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework](#) and its promotion across regional NSW;
- work underway by Frontier Economics on the economic analysis of the value of water conservation for inland regional NSW;
- next steps in the rollout of water loss management programming; and
- an update on consultation underway on the Fish River-Wywendy regional water strategy.

For more detail please see the agenda to the meeting where the reports linked above are leading in NSW local water utility practice. CNSWJO and its members continue to be the go-to region for advice and leadership in local water utilities.



Picture 5 Staff from Joint Organisations across regional NSW jump for joy for as winners of the local government NSW Award for their work in Disaster Risk Reduction.



Picture 6: Central Tablelands Water wins the Sam Samra Award

Congratulations were given to the team at Central Tablelands Water for taking out this years’ Sam Samra award at the Local Government NSW Water Conference in Goulburn on 24 July. The award was for demonstrating significant strategic commitment to improving water security in the central tablelands region. Through their regional town water supply investigations, CTW partnered with Cabonne Shire Council, Orange City Council, Forbes Shire Council and Parkes Shire Council with the goal of improving town water security for communities across the Lachlan valley.

Councillors from across the region have asked for more opportunities to meet together and influence policy. Accordingly, the CNSWJO Board and Charles Sturt University have developed Policy Labs where

the region comes together to develop policy around issues that matter to our communities. All Councillors are welcome to attend these events.

The Policy Lab on Productive Water with Charles Sturt University on 30/31 July was well attended by Councillors from across the region, academics and peak agencies such as the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), the Murray Darling Association, the Australian Water Association and Lachlan Valley Water.

There were two areas of focus for the Productive Water Policy Lab – the value of town water and doing business differently down the Lachlan Valley given it is a terminal system. The MDBA attendees were very receptive to the thinking at the meeting and a follow-up meeting has been held with them in Canberra. The Board has requested a presentation from the MDBA at its meeting in Sydney in November.

A draft report has been provided to attendees for feedback and is available at [Policy-Lab-Report_Final.pdf](#). The Board will consider the recommendations from this report at its meeting in November and amend policy and programming accordingly.



Picture 7 Productive Water Policy Lab at CSU Bloomfield Campus 30/31 July

Energy

There is a substantial amount of activity being undertaken to address the energy priority of the CNSWJO. Current work includes;

- delivering the cross Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator (JONZA) program, funded by the NSW DCCEEW's Sustainable Councils program to deliver net zero outcomes to member councils;
- leading the Southern Lights program [Southern Lights - Central Joint Organisation \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au) where the most recent work has been participating in the Australian Energy Regulator program negotiating better pricing for Councils for street lighting; and
- progressing the implementation Business Case for the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions, funded under the Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund.

Councils have provided advice that they are interested in doing more about waste emissions. The JO is investigating opportunities here where there is no navigable pathway obvious at present.

Meanwhile, the work across the region in EVs and low emission fleet has seen growing interest from member Councils. The very successful EV showcase coordinated by the JO in Parkes in November 2023 will be repeated later this year – even bigger and better where there has been an offer to bring low emission buses to the region. All Councillors will be welcome to attend and an invitation will be provided in due course.

The [AER Determination 2024-2029](#) process has recently concluded. The outcome is complex and advice has been requested from Essential Energy (EE) as to the impact the pricing, specifically in relation to streetlighting, will have on councils from 1 July 2024. Advice received from EE staff in early June was that the pricing models needed to be sent to external modelers to run the new estimates based on the rate changes. A response has been received from Essential Energy stating the following, where a council specific impact has also now been requested.

“Based on the new public lighting regulatory pricing coming into effect from 1 July 2024, on average a council will save 16.9% in real \$FY25 on their SLUoS bills compared to real \$FY24 bills. This was based on a stagnant inventory as of 1 July 2023 so there will be some fluctuation where councils have had lights upgraded to LEDs throughout the year.”

Support for incoming Councilors and the CNSWJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priority

Under the Local Government Act, Joint Organisations must undertake a review of their Statement of Strategic Regional Priority (SSRP) every new term of Council. This is a similar document to Council’s Community Strategic Plan– but from a regional perspective.

Guidance from the Office of Local Government states that the review should be conducted in consultation with all members and state agencies while referencing Council Community Strategic Plans.

For more detail on the process please go to the relevant chapter in the <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Joint-Organisation-Implementation-Guidelines.pdf>

The Board received advice about the development of the SSRP including two workshops with councilors from all member councils.

The first workshop will be held in November and will welcome this term of councilors to the region and provide background on CNSWJO. Councillors will have an invitation in their diaries for this event.

The second workshop will focus more on what councilors from across the region want to see in the SSRP and this workshop will be held in March 2025.

CNSWJO would also like to provide a presentation to the new council on its programming and seek feedback on its priorities. This is recommended.

Value to Council

At this meeting the Board resolved to reserve funds of \$100K to support a regional cyber security support resource. The Board updated its contract management plan to include new procurement processes offering value through aggregation. The five-year plan can be requested. In response to the Board’s concerns for the price of diesel, a media release has been issued via Mayors and a fuel tax rebate audit for councils has been initiated across the region where over \$500,000 of savings were realized in its last iteration.

80% of CNSWJO resources are dedicated to providing its operational support program. For the 2023/2024 year this program delivered a return on investments of 8.3:1 for every dollar Council spends on its membership fees. This value is made up of grant income, monies saved through the CNSWJO procurement program and public relations value from its tourism marketing.

The work the region does in writing submissions, media, supporting projects and project teams, developing collateral and providing opportunities for members in various forums to represent their views is not included in the above figure of 8.3:1 ROI. However, this value is reported quarterly to the Board. Please go to the CNSWJO website to review past Board agendas at <https://www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/business-papers-agendas/> or to review last year's Annual Statement please go to [2023 STATEMENT \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Grant funded projects for the 2023/2024 year were:

- The Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program (ongoing);
- Disaster Risk Reduction Fund program (Round One completed, Round 2 application);
- Bridge Assessments (due for completion in 2024/2025);
- A Business Case for Priority Investment in the Nexus between Net Zero and Energy Security (completed);
- A Regional Centre of Excellence in Water Loss Management (due for completion in 2024/2025);
- Transitioning Integrated Water Cycle Management Plans to Integrated Planning and Reporting (completed); and
- A Spare Capacity in Housing Project (completed).

Further applications have been made for programs under the auspices of the Board – please request advice on their status.

This value is delivered primarily by the various operational teams across the region including the CNSWJO;

- General Managers' Advisory Committee
- Water Utilities' Alliance
- Transport Technical Committee
- Tourism Managers Group
- Planners' Group
- Human Resources Managers Group
- WHS/Risk Management Group
- Training, Learning and Development Group
- Net Zero Group
- Regional IT Group
- Building Surveyors Skills Shortages Working Group
- Disaster Risk Reduction Steering Committee
- Fleet Managers Group (new!)
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Group (new!)

Conclusion

The CNSWJO continues to deliver very good value to Councils. Please contact the Executive Officer, Ms Jenny Bennett for more information.

Attachments

1. Draft Minutes of the CNSWJO Board meeting 21 August 2024
2. Actions from attendance with federal representatives.

Attachment 1: Minutes of the Board meeting 21 August 2024 held in Canberra

In Attendance*

Cr J Jennings	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr M Statham	Lithgow City Council
Cr S Ferguson	Blayney Shire Council	Cr A McKibbin	Oberon Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	Cr J Hamling	Orange City Council
Cr R Fagan	Cowra Council	Cr M Applebee	Parkes Shire Council
Cr P Miller, OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Cr C Bembrick	Weddin Shire Council
Cr P Phillips	Lachlan Shire Council		

Associate Member delegates and others attending

Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Ms C Weston	RDACW
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	OLG
Mr Matt Teale	Forbes Shire Council	Ms G Collins	Regional Coordination
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council		
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms J Bennett	CNSWJO
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr K Boyd PSM	Parkes Shire Council	Ms J Parish	CNSWJO
Ms N Vu	Weddin Shire Council	Ms E Grimm	CNSWJO
Cr A Rawson	Central Tablelands Water	Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO
Mr G Haley	Central Tablelands Water	Ms A Thomas	CNSWJO
Cr K Graham	Oberon Council	Ms J Webber	CNSWJO

*Voting members in **bold**

Meeting opened at 12.30pm by Chair, Cr Kevin Beatty

- The Chair welcomed the Board to the meeting, held in Canberra.**
- Acknowledgement of Country**
- Apologies, applications for a leave of absence by Joint Organisation Voting representatives**
Cr N Westcott, Mr D Sherley, Mr T Johnston, Mr P Devery, Mr S Loane OAM, Mr J Gordon and Cr M Kellam.

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr C Bembrick
That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 21 August 2024 listed above be accepted.	

4. Conflicts of Interest

Resolved
Nil declared

5. Speakers

Mr Bola Oyetunji, NSW Auditor- General, with Ms Renee O’Kane, Chief of Staff

Mr Simon Grice, Senior Director–Energy Transformation, Climate Change and Net-Zero Energy Transformation, Climate Change, Energy and Water, ACT Government – Integrated Energy

Cr S Ferguson and Mr M Dicker arrived 1.10pm

Cr J Jenning arrived 1:33pm

6. Minutes

6a Noting of the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held 25 July 2024 in Parkes

Resolved	Cr J Hamling / Cr P Miller
That the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held 25 July 2024 in Parkes were noted.	

6b

Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 May 2024 in Lithgow

Resolved	Cr J Hamling / Cr P Miller
That the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 23 May 2024 in Lithgow were accepted.	

Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 5 June 2024 held online

Resolved	Cr J Hamling / Cr P Miller
That the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 5 June 2024 online were accepted.	

7. Business Arising from the Minutes - Matters in Progress

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr C Bembrick
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.	

8. Reports on Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025

8a Financial and Compliance Report

Resolved	Cr C Bembrick / Cr J Hamling
That the Board note the Financial Report; and	
1. form a new internally restricted reserve for Cyber Security of \$100k;	
2. increase the BPAP reserve by \$19,500; and	
3. note the CNSWJO is up to date with its obligations under the Office of Local Government compliance calendar.	

8b Advocacy Report

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr P Phillips
That the Board note the Advocacy Update; and	
1. request a presentation from Transport for NSW on the review of the plan for the safe swift and secure link between Central NSW and Sydney;	
2. request from Charles Sturt University that the next Policy Lab workshop explore barriers and enablers to growing our own health workforce;	
3. adopt the reviewed Memorandum of Understanding with Regional Development Australia Central West;	
4. receive a report refreshing advocacy on the Safe Swift and Secure Link from a meeting of interested mayors and Sponsoring General Managers held as soon as possible after the local government election;	
5. note the updated messaging for advocacy for water emphasising critical town water; and	
6. endorse the following submissions;	
a. Submission to provide input to Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap and Action Plan – July 2024	
b. Submission to Review the NSW Waste Levy Issues Paper – July 2024	
c. Submission to the Joint Select Committee on the NSW Reconstruction Authority- May 2024	

8c Report from Regional Development Australia Central West

Resolved	Cr S Ferguson / Cr C Bembrick
That the Board note the report from Regional Development Australia Central West.	

8d Caretaker Mode and Chairmanship

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr M Applebee
That the Board note the Caretaker Mode and Chairmanship report and;	
1. note that caretaker provisions to not apply to Joint Organisations; and	
2. adopt the following hierarchy between this term's last and next term's first meetings as follows:	
a. the outgoing Chair – if re-elected as Mayor – continuing to exercise functions until the new Board meets;	
b. the outgoing Deputy Chair – if re-elected as Mayor and the Chair not being re-elected – exercising the functions of Chair until the new Board meets and elects a Chair.	
c. should the Chair and Deputy Chair not be re-elected, the Executive Officer exercises the functions of Chair until the new Board meets and elects a Chair and in the interim seeking direction from members where there is no existing policy; and	
3. the CNSWJO Policy Manual be updated accordingly.	

8e Community Engagement and Data Collaboration Report

Resolved	Cr R Fagan / Cr M Statham
That the Board note the Community Engagement and Data Collaboration Report and;	
1. provide in principle support for a four-year regional program adding value to member integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) frameworks and community engagement including:	
a. community sentiment surveying every two years; and	
b. a program of State agency workshops to support the IP&R process;	
2. provide the advice in this report to the Regional IP&R group approved by the Board including seeking for this group to incorporate optimisation of the four-year program going forward;	
3. develop an instrument that shares advice on optimisation of the potential data opportunities of peak agencies in region.	

8f Regional Procurement and Contracts Report

Resolved	Cr M Statham / Cr M Applebee
That the Board note the Regional Procurement and Contracts Report and approve the updates to the procurement plan.	

8g Cyber Security Policy Report

Resolved	Cr R Fagan / Cr C Bembrick
That the Board note the Cyber Security Policy Report and adopt the Cyber Security Policy.	

8h Spare Capacity in Housing

Moved	Cr C Bembrick/Cr J Hamling
That the Board note the Spare Capacity in Housing Final Report and;	
1. note that implementation calls for concierge style support leveraging existing apps;	
2. adopt the report with a view to this being for consideration in the round of JO strategy after the local government election in September;	
3. concurrently work with key stakeholders on opportunities to implement a proof-of-concept phase; and	
4. acquit the project under the auspices of the Chair.	

The motion was defeated

Resolved	Cr R Fagan/Cr C Bembrick
That the Board note the Spare Capacity in Housing Final Report and;	
1. commend the staff for the work undertaken; and	
2. undertake no further work on this project.	

8i Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Project Completion Report

Resolved	Cr M Statham / Cr P Phillips
The Board note the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Project Completion Report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. borrow the Simtable from Hunter Joint Organisation periodically over two years to assess its value to the region, then decide on its acquisition;2. support staff in piloting the Planwisely tool;3. prioritise disaster risk reduction by continuing to support and invest in both ongoing disaster risk reduction project initiatives and emerging initiatives to further enhance disaster resilience;4. endorse the draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Resilience Group;5. endorse the Spatial Data Scoping Study report;6. endorse the Regional Resilience Program monitoring and evaluation plan and supporting reports; and7. endorse the final project and acquittal reports.	

8j Fuel Prices Report

Resolved	Cr D Waddell / Cr C Bembrick
That the Board note the Diesel Prices Report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. commend to members they opt in to the CNSWJO diesel tax audit if they have not undertaken this work recently; and2. note a media release has been provided to members to adapt regarding diesel pricing.	

8k Regional Asset Management Improvement Program Report

Resolved	Cr M Applebee / Cr J Jennings
That the Board note the Regional Asset Management Improvement Program Report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. endorses the Asset Management Audit for Central NSW Councils Final Report (April 2024); and2. noting that advice in the Quarterly Review report calls for a workshop of senior staff in Blayney on 31 October as part of the review of the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority for the CNSWJO, support a presentation at that time from Dr Trevor Seymour-Jones from the University of Newcastle, Institute for Regional Futures on his findings and recommendations from the 2023-2024 Asset Management Audits.	

8l Regional Water Report

Resolved	Cr J Hamling / Cr P Miller
That the Board note the Regional Water Report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. adopt the Regional Water Loss Management Hub Project Final Report; and2. invite representatives of the from the Murray Darling Bason Authority responsible for the review of the Murray Darling Basin Plan to the Board meeting in November.	

8m Charles Sturt University Productive Water Policy Lab Report

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr J Hamling
That the Board note the report on the Charles Sturt University Productive Water Policy Lab and that a final report is being drafted.	

8n Energy Program Report

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr R Fagan
That the Board note the Energy Program Report; and	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. endorse the JONZA Round 1 End of Term report;2. endorse the Business Case grant acquittal;3. adopt the updated Regional Emissions Reduction Plan: Opportunities Report;4. note the establishment of an energy advisory panel to advise CNSWJO and its member councils on the broader energy framework to inform consultations and the next AER Determination; and5. note the funding of close to \$2m received since 1 January 2023 for energy/net zero related programming, either directly to councils or via CNSWJO.	

9. Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr M Statham
That the Board note the Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025 and;	
1. note the advice regarding the timeframes and suggested program for the review of the CNSWJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities;	
2. note the development of a high-level marketing strategy of the region as a destination for visitors; and	
3. note the Return on Investment (ROI) for member councils in 2023/2024 was 8.3:1.	

10. Regional NSW Update – Ms Gerry Collins provided an update. Ricky Puata will remain as the key contact.

11. Office of Local Government Update – Ms Katrina Annis-Brown provided an update. The Hit the Ground Running webinars will be provided to Councillors after the election. They will be for two hours on Thursdays.

12. Late Reports

The Executive Officer advised that CNSWJO released a media release on 21 August 2024, in response to the omission of Blayney, Forbes and Cabonne councils from the Welcome Grant Program.

13. Matters raised by Members

Cr S Ferguson raised the matter of the Minister for Water, The Hon Tanya Plibersek exercising her power under Section 10 of the ATSIHP for the area of the proposed tailings dam for the Kings Plains gold mine.

It was agreed that a Statement would be prepared and signed by every mayor for presentation to the Minister's

Attachment 2: Notes from the attendance with federal representatives 22 August 2024 held at Parliament House, Canberra

In Attendance

Cr J Jennings	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr M Statham	Lithgow City Council
Cr S Ferguson	Blayney Shire Council	Cr N Westcott	Parkes Shire Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	Cr J Hamling	Orange City Council
Cr R Fagan	Cowra Council	Cr C Bembrick	Weddin Shire Council
Cr P Miller, OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Cr A McKibbin	Oberon Council
Cr P Phillips	Lachlan Shire Council		
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Cr K Graham	Oberon Council
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Ms C Weston	RDACW
Mr P Devery	Cowra Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	OLG
Mr Mat Teale	Forbes Shire Council	Ms G Collins	Regional Coordination
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms J Bennett	CNSWJO
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council	Ms J Parish	CNSWJO
Mr K Boyd PSM	Parkes Shire Council	Ms E Grimm	CNSWJO
Ms N Vu	Weddin Shire Council	Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO
Cr A Rawson	Central Tablelands Water	Ms A Thomas	CNSWJO
Mr G Haley	Central Tablelands Water	Ms J Webber	CNSWJO
Cr M Applebee	Parkes Shire Council		

Meeting opened at 8.45am by Chair, Cr Kevin Beatty

14. **The Chair welcomed the Board to the meeting, held in Canberra.**
15. **Acknowledgement of Country**
16. **Farewell to Crs Scott Ferguson, Mark Kellam, Craig Bembrick and Jason Hamling with recognition of their substantial contribution to the region's councils and communities.**

Meetings with Federal Representatives

1. Michael Wrathall

Senior Adviser to Minister Tanya Plibersek

Representative from the Office of the Hon Tanya Plibersek

Minister for Environment and Water

Action: Follow-up to be undertaken with Mr Wrathall on the aspirations for the region for the Lachlan.

Action: Follow-up with Minister Plibersek on the two requests in the Statement.

Actions:

- Further work in region on the network of pipes proposal identified in the draft Lachlan Regional Water Strategy.
- Continue to advocate for the completion and implementation of the 3 Regional Water Strategies in the CNSWJO footprint.

Action: Mr Wrathall would be included in discussions with CSU partners to talk about engineering solutions to environmental issues and how to manage the continued weather events with a changing climate.

2. The Hon Catherine King, MP

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Minister King welcomed the opportunity to come to the meeting and meet with represented Councils on a regional basis and thanked the JO for providing this opportunity. Minister King provided an update on the current programs and grants that Councils are eligible for; noting that the focus of the criteria for these projects is capacity for Councils to deliver.

Action: CNSWJO to follow-up on advice provided to Councils where those attending were unsure that this was the advice provided to Councils.

Action: CNSWJO to follow-up with Gerry Collins on how engagement with the Priority housing work stream - \$300m in NSW can be effected.

Action- CNSWJO to review the changed infrastructure policy, procedure and funding frameworks and provide policy advice to the incoming Board.

Action CNSWJO to follow-up on corridor planning status in NSW and advocate accordingly.

Action CNSWJO to review National Freight Strategy and provide policy advice to the incoming Board.

3. Ms Simone McDonnell

Advisor- Emergency Management

Representative from the Office of the Hon Jenny McAllister

Minister for Cities

Minister for Emergency Management

Action: CNSWJO to provide advocacy regarding in support of the idea that the state and federal governments of Australia should get together and sort a better way for natura disaster funding.

Action: Follow-up with Simon McDonnell regarding Wolgan Road issue.

Action: CNSWJO to provide feedback and advocacy regarding treating LWUs as non-commercial if they do not pay a dividend.

4. The Hon Kristy McBain (Host)

Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and the Territories

Cr Beatty thanked the Minister for coordinating the meeting and then renewed MoU with RDA Central West with oversight by the Minister.

Action: The Minister's Office to be thanks and a media release to issue.

5. The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Member for Riverina

6. Mr Matt Lowe

Deputy Secretary, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy

Representative from the Office of the Hon Julie Collins

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Minister for Small Businesses

Action: CNSWJO to provide follow-up on matters raised in this meeting around biosecurity, feral animals and weeds.

Meeting closed 1:45