

Report from the General Manager attending the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board 27 February 2025 in Oberon

Recommendations

That Council note the report from the General Manager on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board meeting on 27 February 2025 held in Oberon.

Please find following, advice from the recent meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held in Oberon on 27 February 2025. The minutes from the meeting are attached, as is the Draft Statement of Budget and Revenue.

Delegates were welcomed to Oberon by its Mayor, Cr Andrew McKibbin.

Speakers to the meeting were Local Government NSW President, Cr Phyllis Miller, and Chief Executive Mr David Reynolds. The Board then had a strategic session around the priorities into the federal election and for this term of Council. Updates were provided from the NSW Office of Local Government, Regional Development Australia Central West and the NSW Premier's Department.

More detail on reports to the meeting are below where the agenda can be found on the [CNSWJO website](#).



Image: The CNSWJO Board meeting at the Oberon Library and Community Centre

Forward budget

The Board adopted a draft Statement of Budget and Revenue and has put it on public exhibition. It can be found on the [CNSWJO website](#). While the website calls for feedback in 30 days, giving consideration to member Council meeting timeframes, please provide feedback by 30 April 2025 so this can be considered by the Board.

Considerations for the 2025/2026 budget include:

- taking up the rate peg increase of 3.8% for fees where this figure is the lowest rate increase in this region (Blayney);
- noting the decision by the Board to realise \$150K from internally restricted reserves to support the cyber security project;
- noting the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority (SSRP) will be finalised in November of this calendar year and changes to priorities will be funded in the budget;
- based on the pilot with Forbes Shire Council, growth in the service offering for the procurement function to include a “fee-for-service” procurement management service at a reasonable cost to members showing a conservative income stream of \$20K;
- inclusion of \$12,500 to support matching funding for energy projects;
- inclusion of grant funded projects for:
 - Disaster Readiness;
 - Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program; and
 - Water Loss Management.

Advocacy Plans

Every February the Board reviews its Advocacy Plans. These plans are used to inform submission, media, correspondence, ministerial briefings and other collateral.

Developed with the direction of the Portfolio Mayors, the following were adopted by the Board:

- [The Transport Advocacy Plan](#)
- [The Health and Ageing Advocacy Plan](#)
- [The Water Advocacy Plan](#)
- [The Regional Prosperity Advocacy Plan](#)
- [The Energy Advocacy Plan](#)



Picture 1 Example of advocacy collateral developed in 2022

Other key outputs adopted by the Board

Output	Description
Statement of Strategic Regional Priority Risk Management Plan	Undertaken internally, risks to the JO, region and Council are identified. All JO activities must give consideration to these risks and advice is provided to the Board in their quarterly meeting.
CNSWJO Social and Environmental Scan	Using an external provider, this report provides a snapshot of the region's data, opportunities and challenges. This advice informs forward strategy.
High level Destination Marketing Plan	Commissioned by the previous Board and undertaken externally this work informs the destination marketing being undertaken through the CNSWJO.
Leading Practice in Regional Development	At the request of the previous Board this work has been undertaken collaboratively between Central West Regional Development Australia (CWRDA) and the JO. RDA will take the lead in its implementation.
Draft MoU with SkillSet	CNSWJO has a growing number of MoUs and other instruments to facilitate collaboration. The most recent is with Skillset. Importantly, these MoUs identify initiatives to be undertaken collaboratively in the interest of Councils and communities in the CNSWJO region.
CNSWJO Regional Electric Vehicle Strategy - final	A support document for Councils and the JO in transitioning fleet to meet net zero carbon emissions targets.
EV Drive Day Event Report	A wrap-up report from the Electric Vehicle (EV) Drive Day held in Bathurst in December 2024.
New Councillor Event Final Report	<p>The Welcome Councillor event was held 28 November 2024. A report from the meeting made the following recommendations which will now be progressed as they have been adopted by the Board.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provide advice back to peak agencies included in this report; 2. develop a CNSWJO induction report for incoming Councillors with advice drawn from the event; 3. receive advice on resourcing of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. an informal network of Councillors; and b. specific support for Deputy Mayors; and 4. include advice from this report in its deliberations on forward programming for the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority and advocacy.

Advocacy Priorities leading into the federal election

The Board identified the following as priorities leading into the federal election.

1. Increase Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue and add a one-time \$3 billion payment to address past underfunding.
2. Recognise Local Government in the Constitution.
3. Recognise Central NSW's strengths in agriculture, mining, renewable energy, and proximity to cities and ports with the "Made in Central NSW" initiative.
4. Provide support and compensation for regional communities during the energy and mining transition.

5. Empower regional communities to become more energy independent and resilient.
6. Ensure energy security for regional communities during the transition to renewable energy.
7. Improve road funding with a focus on betterment and resilience.
8. Develop a safe, reliable, and efficient transport network linking Central NSW to Sydney and beyond for both passengers and freight.
9. Create a strong multi-modal freight network.
10. Address health workforce shortages, exacerbated by housing shortages, with better collaboration between state and federal services.
11. Despite the various interventions and inquiries over decades, local government is still battling health and aged care workforce shortages, the more remote the greater the challenge.
12. Improve health services, as 94% of our communities prioritises this.
13. Leverage the region's water security work to develop a regional water supply pipeline grid in partnership with the NSW and Federal Governments.
14. Include Water Supply and Sewer Assets in State and Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding.
15. Ensure the Murray Darling Basin Plan considers the social and economic impacts on communities while meeting environmental targets, especially during droughts and natural disasters.
16. Review the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act Section 10 process.

At the time of writing an event is being coordinated for 11 March which will include a session on federal priorities and meeting with candidates leading into the election. All Councillors in the region have been invited and the event is free to attend.

Further advocacy will be at the direction of the Mayors of the region under the leadership of the Chair, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne.

Priorities for the Joint Organisation for this term of Council

Similar to the Community Strategic Plan for Council, Joint Organisations must develop a Statement of Strategic Regional Priority. Under the auspices of the Mayors of the region, workshops have been held with new Councillors (28 November 2024), Executive Leadership Teams (31 October 2024) and the Board provided high level advice on priorities at the meeting in Oberon as follows. Staff will now pull together a program of work in support of this direction. Again, all feedback is welcomed.

80% of the JOs resources go to delivering operational support to Councils in helping with the financial sustainability challenge.

Priority One: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration

- 1.1 Drive efficiencies and effectiveness saving Councils money
- 1.2 Build capacity and networks across our Councils and the Joint Organisation network



Picture 2 Feedback from a stakeholder session on Council operational challenges for members

- 1.3 Work well with other peak agencies
- 1.4 Engage with State and Federal Governments to get better advocacy outcomes for the region.

Priority Two: Regional prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services

- 2.1 Initiatives for sustainable growth population-in the context of locational preference factors
- 2.2 Optimise land use and regional development planning and implementation
- 2.3 Advocacy and initiatives on skills and housing shortages
- 2.4 Infrastructure prioritisation through the CNSWJO Matrix
- 2.5 Leveraging the region's endowments and opportunities
 - a. Activation precincts including Parkes SAP
 - b. Pattern of settlement; livability, proximity to capital cities and ports – this region is a solution for growth outside Sydney
 - c. Agriculture focusing on value-add
 - d. Renewable energy generation
 - e. Mining
 - f. Visitor economy
- 2.6 Biosecurity

Priority Three: Better infrastructure and services in health and ageing

- 3.1 addressing the need for more palliative care in region
- 3.2 addressing the mental health challenge
- 3.3 identifying pathways through the challenging health frameworks to deliver better outcomes for regional communities

Priority Four: Telecommunications

Priority Five: Regional Transport Improvements

- 5.1 Multi-modal transport connectivity planning and implementation including road, rail and air passenger and freight
- 5.2 Optimal road funding framework including for natural disasters
- 5.3 High quality, efficient and safer road and rail networks

Priority Six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water

- 6.1 Regional water network planning and implementation including best practice skills development
- 6.2 Productive water
- 6.3 Leveraging the region's leadership in water utilities
- 6.4 Human critical need particularly urban water

Priority Seven: Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- 7.1 Transition to a sustainable, secure, just and affordable energy future
 - a. Energy efficiency and emissions reduction
 - b. Distributed energy resources
 - c. Circular economy and waste
 - d. Environment and biodiversity
- 7.2 Adapting to a warming climate
 - a. Disaster risk reduction, response and recovery
 - b. Betterment and prioritisation of resilient infrastructure
 - c. Leading practice in region and across NSW



AWARDS

Central NSW Joint Organisation proudly took home awards in 4 categories for Division D (for JO, ROCs and collaborations). These included:

- Water Management for the Regional Water Loss Management Hub Project
- Towards Net Zero Emissions for the 52 Shades of Green: CNSWJO Net Zero Accelerator Program
- Climate Change Adaptation for the Regional Resilience Program for Disaster Risk Reduction, and
- Innovation in Planning, Policies and Decision Making for Transitioning Local Water Utility Strategy Planning into the IP&R Framework.



Image: Meredith Macpherson and Brendan Guiney from NSW Water Directorate



Image: Kate Barker and Gillian Hinchcliffe from NSW DCCCEW

CNSWJO was also the overall winner in the Water Management and the Towards Net Zero Emissions categories.



The UN Youth Summit

In line with direction from the Opt-in Advocacy Mayors, councils were asked to sponsor local school students to attend a United Nations (UN) Youth Summit in Bathurst on 26 March 2025. This sponsorship has different forms in different LGAs and council staff have been working closely with the Executive Officer in this regard. Promotion of this event was also recommended through a media release. A proforma report and media release were provided to members and are available on request.

UN Youth Australia is a youth-led organisation that brings young people, community and global leaders together to equip the next generation of young leaders with the skills and inspiration to create meaningful change. All activities are designed to prepare students to be informed, responsible, and engaged participants in their local and global communities.

They run a broad range of peer-to-peer interactive education programs that give young people a deep understanding of the social and political issues the world faces today. From Model United Nations debates, Workshops, and our Interactive Problem-Solving simulations, the programs foster ideas and innovation to support young people in solving global problems. For more information please go to [About Us – UN Youth Australia](#)

Charles Sturt University is hosting the Regional Youth Summit on Wednesday 26 March 2025 in Bathurst and the CNSWJO has committed up to \$5K to support catering and other costs.

Charles Sturt University Scholarship Program

Charles Sturt University has provided the 2024 report to CNSWJO on the progress and success of the medical scholarship program. The CNSWJO committed \$75,000 in the form of three \$25,000 scholarships paid to the students in instalments over the course of their study.

Feedback from the students has been very positive. This funding concludes at the end of this financial year and the Board will receive a report on the program's value in due course for consideration for inclusion in the SSRP.

"Coming into medicine, I was working full-time, and I've got two kids at home, so the financial responsibilities have been a lot. With this scholarship, I don't have to think about finances, and I don't have to work as much. I can split my time between my kids and my study. I am just so grateful."
– Ms Sarudzai (Saru) Mukonowatsauka

"Like many students, I have two part-time jobs and this scholarship means I can get rid of one of those and focus on doing well in my degree. I also have my own shorthorn cattle stud and it's taken me so long to build up a sizeable herd. This scholarship means I can hold onto my best females and I don't have to get rid of them because I am strapped for cash."
– Miranda Eyb

"Having a scholarship gives you that boost of confidence, motivation and accountability to keep achieving within the course."
– Heidi Annand

Submissions

The following submissions have been lodged over the past quarter. All have been at the request of members and/or as part of supporting the advocacy policy of the Board. All previous submissions can be viewed on the CNSWJO website at [Submissions](#)

1. [Central West Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan – February 2025](#)
2. [Submission to the National Electricity Market \(NEM\) Review – Initial Consultation – February 2025](#)
3. [Submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of Renewable Energy Zones on Rural and Regional Communities in NSW – January 2025](#)
4. [Submission to the Discussion Paper on Review of Alternative Funding Models for Local Water Utilities – December 2024](#)
5. [Submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal review of prices for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation and WaterNSW – December 2024](#)
6. [Submission to the Inquiry into PFAS contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies – November 2024](#)
7. [Submission on the Councillor Conduct Framework Review – November 2024](#)

NSW Regional Consultation Guidelines

In September 2024 the [Regional Communities \(Consultation Standards\) Bill 2024](#) was passed. The object of this Bill is to provide that the consultation of regional communities by government bodies and agencies must be carried out in a proper and effective manner. The Bill calls for Guidelines to be developed. The Guidelines are based on advice from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) and have been informed by a Premier's Dept listening tour.

The draft Guide was provided for comment on 12 February with feedback sought until Monday 17 March via this web link: [Consultation with Regional Communities Guide](#).

CNSWJO will provide a response within existing policy calling for a fit-for-purpose approach and an accountability framework.

Value to Council

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 9.3:1 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.


Noteworthy from this meeting is that the Board has created an Enduring Council Financial Sustainability Subcommittee to give consideration to forward programming of the JO build on the work currently undertaken.

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](#) or to review last year's [Annual Statement](#).


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!)


Please find following some highlights from the various operational support programs taken from a recent newsletter. For the full newsletter please go to [CNSWJO Quarterly Newsletter - Edition 2 - February 2025](#)




The new Regional Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Mr Jordan Weldenlley commenced with the CNSWJO on 10 February. Jordan will work with member councils on their strategic approach to cyber|security.



The NSW Reconstruction Authority is leading the development of the regional Disaster Adaptation Plans (DAPs) for Central NSW, with CNSWJO supporting council consultations through DRF R2 funding




Modern Slavery is a focus for the JO's procurement team who is working with member councils to provide resources and support for annual reporting requirements and to ensure the products and services procured by councils are not the product of modern slavery.




CNSWJO has trialled a new fee-for-service procurement offering. A report will be provided to the Board at their February meeting seeking approval for the expansion of CNSWJO's procurement service to support member councils.


A Regional Procurement Working Group has also been established.



CNSWJO has recently taken on a student from the University of Sydney's Major Industry Project Placement Scheme (MIPPS) project. Austin Caie will ground-truth the DCCEEW Water Conservation Cost-Benefit Guidelines CBA model in the inland regional NSW context with the aim to come up with a more robust analysis of the value of a megalitre of town water




Councils currently have access to a tool called Planwisely which provides access to a wealth of spatial data from TNSW and other state government agencies. Please reach out to Jen Webber for more info.




Did you know that the electricity that keeps the lights and aircon on in councils is procured collectively by CNSWJO across all member councils?

A new procurement process is underway for small market sites.



CNSWJO is closely monitoring the status of the PFAS situation and how it affects councils.

A submission was lodged to the *Inquiry into per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies*




The EV Drive Day held in Bathurst on 4-5 December was a huge success. Click on the following link to read the [Event Report](#).

Tourism highlight!

'The Golden Touch, a bank conversion in regional NSW deserves credit where its due' is a 1-page review of Sona Molong featured in 'Travel & Luxury', The Weekend Australian. The article also touched on other things to see, do and taste locally while on a stay at this new accommodation.

The Weekend Australian is a national newspaper insert with a reach of 677,000.



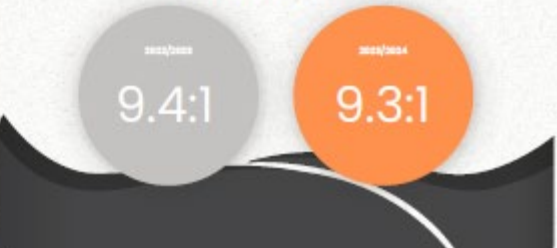
A New Councillor Welcome Event was hosted by CNSWJO in Orange in November 2024.

The purpose of the day was to welcome Councillors recently elected to the region by:

- providing demographic advice on the vital statistics of the region;
- introducing key regional peak agencies and their role especially in relation to councils;
- providing advice on the Joint Organisation; and
- seeking advice back from Councillors on what the Joint Organisation and peak agencies can do for them.

The event was attended by around 30 Councillors from across the region.

Return on Investment



Year	Return on Investment
2023/2024	9.4:1
2024/2025	9.3:1

Attachments

1. Draft Minutes of the CNSWJO Board meeting 27 February 2025
2. [Draft Statement of Budget and Revenue 2025/2026](#)

Attachment 1: Minutes of the Board meeting 27 February 2025 held in Oberon

Board members In Attendance*

Cr R Taylor	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr S Ring	Lithgow City Council
Cr B Reynolds	Blayney Shire Council	Cr A McKibbin	Oberon Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	Cr T Mileto	Orange City Council
Cr P Smith	Cowra Council	Cr N Westcott	Parkes Shire Council
Cr P Miller, OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Cr P Best	Weddin Shire Council
Cr J Medcalf, OAM	Lachlan Shire Council		

Associate Member delegates and others attending

Ms D Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council	Mr J Gordon	RDACW
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	OLG
Mr M Christensen	Cabonne Council	Ms G Collins	Premier's Dept
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Ms J Bennett	CNSWJO
Mr R Jane	Forbes Shire Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms J Webber	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council	Mr D Reynolds	LGNSW
Cr B Fry	CTWA		

*Voting members in **bold**

Meeting opened at 10.00 am, Chaired by Cr K Beatty

12. Acknowledgement of Country

13. Apologies

Cr C Coleman, Cr R Fagan, Mr S Loane OAM, Mr B Byrnes, Cr A Rawson, Mr C Harris, Mr K Boyd, Ms N Vu

Resolved

Cr P Miller / Cr J Medcalf

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 27 February 2025 listed above be accepted.

14. Conflicts of Interest

Resolved

Cr R Taylor / Cr A McKibbin

Cr B Fry re CSU

15. Speakers

LGNSW President Phyllis Miller and Chief Executive David Reynolds
Workshop on the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities and Federal Election Priorities

16. Minutes

6.a Noting of the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 6 February 2025 in Bathurst

Resolved

Cr B Reynolds / Cr T Mileto

That the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held 6 February 2025 in Bathurst were noted.

6.b Confirmation the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held on 13 November 2024 in Sydney

Resolved	Cr P Smith / Cr N Westcott
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That the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 13 November 2024 in Sydney were accepted.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes - Matters in Progress

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf / Cr P Miller
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That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.
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9a Financial Report

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr P Smith
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That the Board note the Financial Report.

9b Budget considerations 2025/2026: The Draft 2025/2026 CNSWJO Statement of Budget and Revenue

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr R Taylor
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The Board note the Statement of Budget and Revenue Report and;
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. adopt the draft Statement of Budget and Revenue and will place it on exhibition for 30 days;2. note that the budget for 2025/2026 includes a fee rise of 3.8% and a surplus for the year of \$923; and3. will provide advice in the Mayoral Board report regarding the Statement of Budget and Revenue seeking member feedback. |
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9c Advocacy Report

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf / Cr B Reynolds
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The Board note the Advocacy Report and
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. note the progress of the Portfolio Mayors and the Opt in Advocacy Subcommittee;2. will join the Country Mayors Association at \$1,237.50;3. adopt the Advocacy Plans for Regional Development, Water, Transport, Energy and Health;4. note a grant application by Skillset to progress the findings of the Spare Capacity in Housing Project and a reserve of \$20,000 for a potential co-contribution has been progressed between meetings under the hand of the Chair;5. renew the Terms of Reference for the Charles Sturt University Policy Lab under the hand of the Chair;6. approve and signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Skillset;7. endorse the following submissions that have been lodged:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Submission to the National Electricity Market (NEM) Review – Initial Consultation – February 2025;b. Submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of Renewable Energy Zones on Rural and Regional Communities in NSW – January 2025;c. Submission to the Discussion Paper on Review of Alternative Funding Models for Local Water Utilities – December 2024;d. Submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal review of prices for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation and WaterNSW – December 2024;e. Submission to the Inquiry into PFAS contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies – November 2024;8. note that policy on submission writing is under development with a view to reducing resourcing;9. that the advocacy priorities leading into the Federal election be:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Increase Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue and add a one-time \$3 billion payment to address past underfunding.b. Recognise Local Government in the Constitution.c. Recognise Central NSW's strengths in agriculture, mining, renewable energy, and proximity to cities and ports with the "Made in Central NSW" initiative. |
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- d. Provide support and compensation for regional communities during the energy and mining transition.
- e. Empower regional communities to become more energy independent and resilient.
- f. Ensure energy security for regional communities during the transition to renewable energy.
- g. Improve road funding with a focus on betterment and resilience.
- h. Develop a safe, reliable, and efficient transport network linking Central NSW to Sydney and beyond for both passengers and freight.
- i. Create a strong multi-modal freight network.
- j. Address health workforce shortages, exacerbated by housing shortages, with better collaboration between state and federal services.
- k. Despite the various interventions and inquiries over decades, local government is still battling health and aged care workforce shortages, the more remote the greater the challenge;
- l. Improve health services, as 94% of our communities prioritises this.
- m. Leverage the region's water security work to develop a regional water supply pipeline grid in partnership with the NSW and Federal Governments.
- n. Include Water Supply and Sewer Assets in State and Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding.
- o. Ensure the Murray Darling Basin Plan considers the social and economic impacts on communities while meeting environmental targets, especially during droughts and natural disasters;
- p. Review the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act Section 10 process; and

10. that Cr R Taylor be the replacement for the Charles Sturt University Policy Lab Steering Committee.

9d Statement of Strategic Priority Review Progress Report

Resolved	Cr A McKibbin / Cr T Mileto
The Board note the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority (SSRP) Review Progress Report and;	
1. adopt the Terms of Reference for the Enduring Council Financial Sustainability Sub-Committee;	
2. adopt the SSRP Risk Management Plan; and	
3. adopt the Social and Environmental Scan for the SSRP.	

Advice from Prioritisation Workshop:

Priority One: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration

- 1.1 Drive efficiencies and effectiveness saving Councils money
- 1.2 Build capacity and networks across our Councils and the Joint Organisation network
- 1.3 Work well with other peak agencies
- 1.4 Engage with State and Federal Governments to get better advocacy outcomes for the region.

Priority Two: Regional prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services

- 2.1 Initiatives for sustainable growth population-in the context of locational preference factors
- 2.2 Optimise land use and regional development planning and implementation
- 2.3 Advocacy and initiatives on skills and housing shortages
- 2.4 Infrastructure prioritisation through the CNSWJO Matrix
- 2.5 Leveraging the region's endowments and opportunities
 - a. Activation precincts including Parkes SAP
 - b. Pattern of settlement; livability, proximity to capital cities and ports – this region is a solution for growth outside Sydney
 - c. Agriculture focusing on value-add
 - d. Renewable energy generation
 - e. Mining

f. Visitor economy

2.6 Biosecurity

Priority Three: Better infrastructure and services in health and ageing with including

3.1 addressing the need for more palliative care in region

3.2 addressing the mental health challenge

3.3 identifying pathways through the challenging health frameworks to deliver better outcomes for regional communities

Priority Four: Telecommunications

Priority Five: Regional Transport Improvements

5.1 Multi-modal transport connectivity planning and implementation including road, rail and air passenger and freight

5.2 Optimal road funding framework including for natural disasters

5.3 High quality, efficient and safer road and rail networks

Priority Six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water

6.1 Regional water network planning and implementation including best practice skills development

6.2 Productive water

6.3 Leveraging the region's leadership in water utilities

6.4 Human critical need particularly urban water

Priority Seven: Climate change adaptation and mitigation

7.1 Transition to a sustainable, secure, just and affordable energy future

a. Energy efficiency and emissions reduction

b. Distributed energy resources

c. Circular economy and waste

d. Environment and biodiversity

7.2 Adapting to a warming climate

a. Disaster risk reduction, response and recovery

b. Betterment and prioritisation of resilient infrastructure

c. Leading practice in region and across NSW

9e Procurement Report

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr A McKibbin
The Board note the Procurement Report and;	
1. approve the expansion of the CNSWJO regional procurement service offering, which will provide member councils with a fee for service model to utilise if and when required; and	
2. approve the updates to the procurement plan.	

9f Regional Resilience Program

Resolved	Cr B Reynolds / Cr P Best
The Board note the Regional Resilience Program report and;	
1. acknowledge the success of the disaster risk reduction program, recognised at the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards in the climate change adaptation category;	
2. note that the NSW Reconstruction Authority is leading the development of the regional Disaster Adaptation Plan, which verbal advice anticipates five years to complete;	
3. acknowledge that funding negotiations for the Disaster Ready Fund Round 2 Integrated Preparedness project are ongoing and over a longer period than anticipated; and	
4. note the proposed interim local Disaster Adaptation Plan solution; and	
5. approve the application for Disaster Ready Fund Round 3 funding acknowledging that the Disaster Adaptation Plan solution mentioned above at No. 4 will be included in the submission.	

9g Regional Transport Report

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf / Cr P Smith
The Board note the Transport Report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. adopt the Integrity Testing Regional Report for the Fixing Country Bridges project noting that the Transport Technical Committee will take carriage of this moving forward;2. note the inclusion of a regional freight strategy, mapping tool, and Matrix projects through the Disaster Ready Fund Round 3 grant application;3. note that a submission to the Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan will be lodged in line with advice provided in the Advocacy Plan; and4. commend to members that they, and their communities, provide feedback into the Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan.	

9h Regional Water Report

Resolved	Cr R Taylor / Cr P Smith
The Board note the Regional Water Report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. acknowledge the recognition received at the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards for both the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework and the Water Loss Management Hub;2. note the successful application for funding of \$500k from the Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment Water for a Central NSW Joint Organisation-led cross-JO approach to Water Loss Management;3. note work through the University of Sydney Major Industry Project Placement Scheme to ground truth the State Government's water conservation cost-benefit guidelines for inland regional NSW;4. note the Central NSW Joint Organisation representation on the Western NSW Local Water Utility Reform Council Reference Group;5. invite Ms Kristanne Andersen, Director, Regional Water Strategies to speak to the Board on the Governance and Implementation of the Regional Water Strategies;6. correspondence be sent to the NSW Minister for Water, expressing concerns about the lack of tangible solutions in the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy; and7. continue to advocate to the Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment Water for:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. independent review or oversight of the Town Water Risk Reduction Program phase 2 and the Regulatory and Assurance Framework; andb. support for the formation of Stakeholder Advisory Panels to co-design with the Local Water Utility sector any solutions based on the NSW Productivity Commission's recommendations.	

9i Regional Energy Program Report

Resolved	Cr P Miller / Cr A McKibbin
The Board note the Regional Energy Program Report and	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. note the recognition of the CNSWJO net zero program received at the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards by being the winner of Division D and the Overall Winner for the Towards Net Zero category;2. endorse the JONZA Round 2 mid-term report;3. endorse the final Regional Fleet Transition Strategy, noting the targets have been reduced in line with council feedback; and4. endorse the EV Drive Day Event Report.	

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

Resolved	Cr B Reynolds / Cr R Taylor
The Board note the Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025 and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. adopt the report from the Welcome Councillors Event November 2024 including the following recommendations:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. provide advice back to peak agencies included in this report;	

- b. develop a CNSWJO induction report for incoming Councillors with advice drawn from the event;
 - c. receive advice on resourcing of:
 - i. an informal network of Councillors; and
 - ii. specific support for Deputy Mayors; and
 - d. include advice from this report in its deliberations on forward programming for the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority and advocacy;
2. adopt the Leading Practice in Regional Development Report co-authored by Regional Development Australia Central West (RDACW) and CNSWJO and seek support from RDACW in coordinating the structural arrangements needed to progress this initiative;
 3. adopt the Terms of Reference for the Destination Marketing Subcommittee;
 4. note the Board the High-Level Destination Marketing Plan for the region and seek advice from the Portfolio Mayors for Regional Prosperity on its recommendations;
 5. note that a review of the medical scholarships through Charles Sturt University will inform the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority; and
 6. update the CNSWJO Quarterly Risks Reporting in line with the Risk Management Plan adopted at this meeting.

9k RDA Central West Report

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf / Cr R Taylor
The Board note the Report provided by Regional Development Australia Central West.	

10. Updates from

Regional Development Australia Central West – Mr J Gordon

- Circular Economy conference in Sept 2025

The Premier’s Department – Ms G Collins

- Emphasis on youth crime, housing, renewable energy transition.
- RLE planning – continue inter-Govt collaboration.
- SSRP workshop to align priorities with state agencies – April TBC
- Consultation Bill – acknowledge member council participation in the consultation. 42 stakeholders attended. Additional comments through YourSay link or direct to Ms Collins.

The Office of Local Government – Ms Katrina Annis-Brown

- Apprentices and trainees “Fresh Start” program – resources on OLG Council portal.
- Responsible pet ownership – resources available in portal. Feedback on discussion paper by 4 May.
- Roads Act review by TfNSW. Issues paper released. Survey open until 28 March. TfNSW website.
- Open Streets Program. TfNSW launched next round of funding in early Feb. 3 years’ funding available. Up to \$350k funding. Applications close 14 March.
- Women’s in LG scholarship – leadership program. Registrations of interest close 28 March.
- Social cohesion grant. \$50-150k grants. Applications close 28 March. Cr Fry asked if there was an opportunity to look at Social Media.

11. Late Reports

Nil.

12. Matters raised by Members

Blayney – high court appeal likely re ATSIHP Section 10 re Dungeon Road.
Oberon – CSU Engineering Cadets regional approach.

13. Speakers to the next meeting

Ms Kate Lorimer-Ward from Local Land Services
Mr Ash Albury from Energy Co
Ms Kristanne Andersen from Regional Water Strategies
Professor Joseph Drew, University of Newcastle – to invite to a meeting later in the year.

14. Dates for the next meeting

29 May in Orange

13 and 14 August in Canberra

Meeting closed at 12.58pm.

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