

Draft Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting on 31 July held in Parkes

Voting delegates

Cr R Taylor	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr S Ring	Lithgow City Council
Cr B Reynolds	Blayney Shire Council	Cr K Graham	Oberon Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	Cr T Mileto	Orange City Council
Cr P Smith	Cowra Shire Council	Cr Neil 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

Mr D Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr A Rawson	Central Tablelands Water
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Cr B Fry	CTWA
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Mr M Jones	CTWA
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Ms R Fagan	RDACW
Cr Chris Roylance	Forbes Shire Council	Mr J Gordon	RDACW
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	NSW OLG
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms G Collins	NSW Premier's Dept
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr K Boyd PSM	Parkes Shire Council	Ms J Webber	CNSWJO
Mr L Sheehan	Weddin Shire Council	Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO

*Acting General Manager

*Voting members in **bold**

1. Meeting opened at 10.00 am, Chaired by Cr K Beatty
2. **Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Parkes from Cr Neil Westcott**
3. **Apologies**
Cr C Coleman, Cr A McKibbin, Mr S Loane, Mr R Jane, Mr C Harris

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 3

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 31 July 2025 listed above be accepted.

CARRIED

4. Conflicts of Interest

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 4

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CARRIED

5. Speakers

- **Mr Simon Bourke, General Manager – Advocacy and New Zealand Australasian Railway Association**
General overview of the ARA and strategic priorities and key activities
- **Ms Julia Andrews, Director of Regional Government Relations**
CSU Update and challenging disparities facing regional universities
- **Ms Kate Barker – Interim Executive Officer, CNSWJO**
Presentation on the draft Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029.
The Board provided verbal feedback in relation to the draft SSRP.

The Board resolved to move item 8c forward.

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

8c Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) 2025-2029 Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8c

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) Report and

1. adopt the draft Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) and place on exhibition for a period of 30 days,
2. provide a copy of the draft Strategic Plan and SSRP to all Councillors and key stakeholders seeking feedback during the exhibition period,
3. note the opportunities for engagement to date and in the future in relation to the development of the SSRP,
4. adopt the CNSWJO Communications and Engagement Plan,
5. adopt the CNSWJO Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Environmental Scan,
6. receive a report to the November meeting regarding the JO organisational structure in line with the SSRP,
7. note the substantive and interim organisational structures,
8. note the review and update of the individual and regional 'Placemats' will take place over the coming months through the IP&R Group and other key stakeholders,
9. include a new action in the Action Plan within the SSRP before it is placed on exhibition for 7.2.1 c) being 'Advocate to recognise snow and drought as a primary hazard in the State Disaster Mitigation Plan (SDMP) and funding frameworks', and
10. GMAC review the risk matrix and provide a report to the next Board meeting.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

6a Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting dated 29 May 2025 held in Orange

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 6a

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

That the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 29 May 2025 held in Orange were accepted.

CARRIED

6b Noting the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 24 July 2025 in Orange

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 6b

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

With the July meeting of GMAC being held on the same day that the Board agenda and business papers are due to be provided to the Board, the minutes from the July GMAC meeting will be provided to the Board for noting at the November Board meeting, along with the October GMAC meeting minutes.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes - Matters in Progress

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 7

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.

CARRIED

Cr Miller noted that she is a Board member of LGP.

8a Financial Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8a

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Financial Report and updated budget for 2025/2026.

CARRIED

8b Advocacy Report

RESOLUTION 25/05 – 8b

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Advocacy Report and

1. endorse the future structure of the Opt-In Advocacy Mayors Subcommittee to be:
 - a. the Subcommittee remains opt-in,
 - b. meetings to be informal with no formal reporting or decision making,
 - c. notes will be provided rather than minutes,
 - d. Mayors can raise emerging issues and provide input into the reports to the next Board meeting,
 - e. the Opt-In Advocacy Mayors Subcommittee should meet once per quarter between meetings of the Board (i.e. 6 weeks either side) rather than monthly, and
 - f. Chairs of Central Tablelands Water and Central Tablelands Weeds Authority be invited,
2. confirm the role of the Portfolio Mayor Groups is to support CNSWJO staff to review advocacy plans and provide ad hoc advice and guidance around submissions and other emerging issues as needed, to be reviewed once a new Executive Officer is appointed,
3. endorse Cr Tony Mileto as a Portfolio Mayor for the regional water priority,
4. provide advice on alternate and additional ways to engage with Ministers at both the State and Federal level,
5. write to Mr Phil Donato MP and Mr Roy Butler MP requesting them to host the upcoming State Parliament House visit on 13 November 2025,
6. note the final report from the Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health – The implementation of recommendations relating to cross-jurisdictional health reform and government consultation with remote, rural and regional communities and that the Portfolio

Mayors work with CNSWJO staff to update the Health Advocacy Plan to incorporate the Select Committee's relevant findings and recommendations,

7. endorse the following modifications to wording in the Water Advocacy Plan in relation to the Belubula Water Security Project:
 - a. 3. A multi-source approach that considers Triple Bottom Line (TBL) principles is needed to better manage critical town water for business as usual and in an emergency. This includes:
 - 3.1 Finalisation of the business case for the Belubula Water Security Project, including raising the Lake Rowlands Dam wall and **supported by** a 10-kilometre bi-directional pipeline between Lake Rowlands and Carcoar Dam, and
 - b. Leverage the region's water security work to develop regional **town** water supply **infrastructure** in partnership with the NSW and Federal Governments,
8. approve the development of a Regional Community Benefit Sharing Framework for member councils, including leveraging the JO Chairs' Forum where possible for this work,
9. endorse the following submissions:
 - a. Net Zero Commission – 2025 Consultation,
 - b. NSW Health – Draft MPS Strategy,
 - c. AEMO – Proposed Type 9 Metering Approach Under Flexible Trading Arrangements 2025,
 - d. IPART – Draft WAMC Pricing, and
 - e. Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety - Inquiry into the interventions to reduce road trauma in regional NSW caused by speeding, fatigue, drink and drug driving.

CARRIED

8d Procurement Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8d

Moved: Cr Paul Best

Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Regional Procurement and Contracts Report and

1. approve the updates to the procurement plan, and
2. approve the Modern Slavery Annual Report for the CNSWJO.

CARRIED

8e Regional Resilience Program Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8e

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Resilience Program Report and

1. endorse the Regional Resilience Group Terms of Reference and Plan on a Page, and
2. include risk #62 into the risk management plan: third-party handling of sensitive infrastructure data in externally led projects.

CARRIED

8f Regional Prosperity Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8f

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Prosperity Report and that a report will be provided on tourism marketing to GMAC and the Board in due course.

CARRIED

8g Regional Transport Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8g

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Transport Report and endorse the Regional Freight Strategy Project Plan.

CARRIED

8h Regional Water Report**RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8h**

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Water Report and

1. note that NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment-Water has granted \$400K (ex GST) for a variation to phase two of the Regional Water Loss Management and Water Efficiency Hub project; and
2. note the agreement executed with the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation for the rollout of the Regional Water Loss Management and Water Efficiency Hub project in their region in line with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment-Water approved project plan.

CARRIED

8i Regional Energy Report**RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8i**

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Regional Energy Report and

1. endorse the JONZA Round 2 End of Term Report,
2. note the successful JONZA Round 3 application, providing \$253k over an 18-month program to December 2026 funded through the NSW DCCEEW,
3. note the successful JONZA Round 3 variation application, providing \$200k over an 18-month program to December 2026 to provide landfill emissions abatement support to member councils and the JONZA network broadly, funded through the EPA,
4. note the 15.6% savings on energy prices achieved through the aggregated electricity procurement process, equating to approx. \$204k for FY26 across member councils,
5. note the average increase of 6.97% on Essential Energy's network charges across member councils based on FY25 consumption, equating to an estimated additional cost of \$415k in FY26, and
6. endorse a regional application under the DCCEEW Grid Enhancing Technologies grant.

CARRIED

8k Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025**RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8k**

Moved: Cr Robert Taylor

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

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

CARRIED

9a RDA Central West Update

The Board noted the RDA Central West Update Report.

9b NSW Premier's Department Update

The Board noted the NSW Premier's Department Update Report.

9c OLG Update Report

The Board noted the OLG Update Report.

10 Resolve into Confidential Committee of the Whole

RESOLUTION 25/05 – 10

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board

1. resolve into closed session to consider business identified,
2. pursuant to section 10A (2)(f) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A (2)(f) as outlined above, and
3. correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access.

CARRIED

10a Regional Cyber Security Program Report - Confidential

RESOLUTION 25/05 – 10a

Moved: Cr Steve Ring

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Cyber Security Program Report and:

1. note that a presentation on the regional cyber security strategy and implementation of the regional cyber security program will be delivered by the regional CISO at the July GMAC, and
2. that the Board will receive a presentation from the Regional CISO on the regional cyber security program, including brief cyber security training, at the November Board meeting.

CARRIED

11. Late Reports

Nil.

12. General Business

- **Lithgow** – sought advice from members as to whether there is interest in lodging a joint motion to the LGNSW annual conference regarding extending the timeframe for consultation on Environmental Impact Statements. Anyone interested is suggested to contact Cr Steve Ring.
- **Weddin** – sought support from the Board in writing to The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers in relation to bank closures, noting that smaller banks are closing in addition to the larger ones.
- Cr Reynolds raised a matter arising from the decision in relation to the ARIC as reported in the Finance Report to the May Board meeting. Ms Kate Barker advised that there is a meeting on 6 August in Sydney with Hunter JO to discuss the next steps in the shared ARIC arrangement and once more details are known, a report would be provided to the Board.
- The Chair thanked Mr David Waddell and Mr Greg Tory for their input and wished them well into the future.

13. Speakers to the next meeting

Future meetings

- Ms Kate Lorimer Ward – Local Land Services
- Mr Ian Smith – NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Ashley Albury - EnergyCo
- Ms Kristanne Anderson – NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water re regional water strategies
- Ms Kate McMullen – Homes NSW
- Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS)
- Biosecurity Commissioner
- Regional Australia Institute

14. Dates for the next meeting

- GMAC - 30 October 2025 in Orange
- Board – 12 + 13 November in Sydney - visit to State Parliament

Meeting closed at 1.07 pm

Page 7 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting minutes of meeting of 31 July 2025 held in Parkes.