

Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting on 12 November 2025 held in Sydney

Voting delegates

Cr R Taylor	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr C Coleman	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 Shire Council	Cr M Applebee	Parkes Shire Council
Cr J Webb	Forbes Shire Council	Cr P Best	Weddin Shire Council
Cr J Medcalf, OAM	Lachlan Shire Council		

Associate Member delegates and others attending

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

Voting members in **bold**

- 1 **Meeting opened** at 9.30am, Chaired by Cr K Beatty
- 2 **Acknowledgement of Country**
- 3 **Apologies** - Cr P Miller, Cr N Westcott, Mr D Sherley, Mr S Dunshea, Mr B Omundson, Mr B Fry

RESOLUTION 25/11 - 3

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 12 November 2025 listed above be accepted.

CARRIED

4 Conflicts of Interest

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 4

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CARRIED

5 Speakers

- **5a NBN** – Workshop on identifying the challenges and opportunities for improved telecommunications in Central NSW
- **5b Tribe Infrastructure Group** – Parkes Energy from Waste facility

- **5c Regional Chief Information Security Officer** – Mr Jordan Welden-Iley – Cyber Security training session for Board and General Managers
Action: Mr Welden-Iley to circulate the model AI policy to member councils

6 Minutes

6a Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting dated 31 July 2025 held in Parkes

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 6a

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 31 July 2025 held in Parkes be confirmed.

CARRIED

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

6c Noting the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 30 October 2025 in Eugowra

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 6b and 6c

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meetings held 24 July 2025 in Blayney and 30 October 2025 in Eugowra be noted.

CARRIED

7 Business Arising from the Minutes - Matters in Progress

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 7

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

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

CARRIED

8a Financial Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8a

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Financial Report and

1. approve the cash reserves for 2025/26 for employee leave entitlements, plant and equipment turnover, and working capital reserve,
2. note the correspondence from LGP rejecting member councils' request for the rebate to continue to be paid to the JO,
3. should subsequent requests for payment of the LGP rebate be paid to the JO instead of members be denied, member councils re-direct the funds received for the LGP rebate to the JO.

CARRIED

8b Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8b

Moved: Cr Robert Taylor

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 Report and

1. adopt the Central NSW Joint Organisation General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, and
2. circulate the confidential Audit Management Letter to Board members.

CARRIED

8c Governance Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8c

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Governance Report and

1. endorse the 2024/25 Annual Performance Statement, place it on the CNSWJO website and send a copy to the OLG,
2. note the advice on Code of Conduct complaint statistics,
3. note the Pecuniary Interest Returns under s450a of the Local Government Act 1993,
4. determine the dates for Board meetings for 2026 be:
 - 26 February 2026– Grenfell (Weddin)
 - 27 + 28 May 2026– State/Federal visit pending sitting dates once released
 - 26 + 27 August 2026– State/Federal visit pending sitting dates once released
 - 26 November 2026 - Bathurst
5. determine the dates for GMAC meetings for 2026 be:
 - 5 February 2026 - Orange
 - 30 April 2026 - Cowra
 - 30 July 2026- Orange
 - 22 October 2026 – Forbes

CARRIED

8d Policy and Procedure Review Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8d

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Cass Coleman

That the Board note the Policy and Procedure Review Report and

1. endorse the move from an annual to a 3-yearly schedule for policy reviews,
2. adopt the updated Code of Meeting Practice,
3. adopt the following new policies and procedures:
 - AI Use Policy,
 - Password Policy,
 - Higher Duties Policy,
 - Evaluation Panel Responsibilities Procedure,
4. note the amendments to various policies, including the revamped Advocacy Policy and Advocacy Procedure.

CARRIED

8e Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029 Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8e

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029 Report and

1. note the feedback provided during the exhibition period for the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities,
2. adopt the Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029,
3. note the Portfolio Mayors for the priorities for the SSRP 2025-2029 are:
 - Priority 1: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration - Cr Kevin Beatty
 - Priority 2: Regional prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services - Cr Neil Westcott and Cr Bruce Reynolds
 - Priority 3: Improved and fit-for-purpose infrastructure in health and ageing - Cr Phyllis Miller, Cr John Medcalf and Cr Neil Westcott
 - Priority 4: Telecommunications - Cr Kevin Beatty and Cr Phyllis Miller
 - Priority 5: Regional transport planning and infrastructure prioritisation - Cr Andrew McKibbin, Cr Bruce Reynolds and Cr Paul Smith
 - Priority 6: Regional water security and productive water - Cr Paul Smith, Cr Tony Mileto, Cr Robert Taylor, Cr Bruce Reynolds and Cr Andrew Rawson
 - Priority 7: Climate change adaptation and mitigation - Cr Cass Coleman, Cr Neil Westcott and Cr Andrew Rawson
4. endorse the interim organisational structure of the CNSWJO, and seek a report on a reviewed structure upon the appointment of the Executive Officer,
5. note the risk matrix has been reviewed and updated, and
6. that all Board members and General Managers respond to the SSRP Evaluation survey once issued.

CARRIED

8f Advocacy Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8f

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Advocacy Report and

1. endorse the proposed new Advocacy Framework,
2. endorse the creation of an Annual Advocacy Plan and Activities Schedule, to be provided at the February 2026 Board meeting for endorsement,
3. endorse the creation of Portfolio Position Statements to be embedded within each Annual Advocacy Plan and Activities Schedule,
4. endorse the creation of Advocacy Repositories for each Portfolio, with legacy “Advocacy Plans” content being migrated into each corresponding Repository,
5. seek an update from Penrith City Council on the status of the business case for the Castlereagh Corridor,
6. endorse the following submissions and place them on the CNSWJO website:
 - NSW EPA Climate Change Licensee Reporting Requirements,
 - NSW Legislative Council's Inquiry into Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform, and
 - Review of the Operations of the NSW Reconstruction Authority regarding the NSW East Coast severe weather, and
7. seek a presentation from Western Sydney Airport

CARRIED

8g Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8g

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Cass Coleman

That the Board note the Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing Report and

1. confirm its support and participation in a state-wide collaborative approach to community benefit sharing to:
 - a. understanding and applying the new benefit-sharing guideline for large-scale energy developments,
 - b. developing council policies and procedures for negotiating community benefits-sharing arrangements, and
 - c. advocating for clear planning processes, additional guidelines and retrospective arrangements to ensure net community benefit for regional host communities for all energy developments,
2. endorse the Draft *Discussion Paper: Lessons Learned on renewable energy projects in the region and Voluntary Planning Agreements*,
3. request that the CNSWJO Planners Group consider the Draft *Discussion Paper: Lessons Learned on renewable energy projects in the region and Voluntary Planning Agreements* at its next meeting and provide advice on the actions within the Discussion Paper to be progressed at a regional level, with a report provided back to the Board in due course,
4. seek a presentation from Mr Brad Cam from Mid-Western Regional Council at the February 2026 Board meeting in relation to an update on the progress of the significant number of developments and their impacts in that region, and
5. seek a proposal to facilitate a workshop with councils in relation to community benefit-sharing, and
6. follow up with Cr Sam Coupland in relation to the documents discussed at the 12 June meeting.

CARRIED

8h Procurement Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8h

Moved: Cr Paul Smith

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Procurement Report and approves the updates to the procurement plan.

CARRIED

8i Regional Resilience Program Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8i

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Resilience Program Report and

1. endorse the Regional Evacuation Centre Assessment Report and note the identified recommendations, including:
 - a. a total of \$3 million in upgrades for Council-owned sites have been recommended for evacuation centres across the region, which will require further funding to implement,
 - b. that councils consider their individual reports and supporting documentation in relation to the recommendations; and
 - c. consideration of future work to assess Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs), as outlined in the report, and

2. endorse the approved Disaster Ready Fund Round 2 variation request and note that the Milestone 2 claim will proceed in accordance with the revised project schedule and deliverables.

CARRIED

8j Regional Prosperity Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8j

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the Regional Prosperity Report and

1. write to the NSW Planning Minister in support of advocacy by Local Government NSW and the Country Mayors Association regarding the changes to the Planning Legislation, and
2. a report be provided to the Board for alternate options for the tourism operations delivered by the JO.

CARRIED

8k Health Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8k

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the Health Report and that the renewed MoU with RDN is under review to be signed in early 2026.

CARRIED

8l Telecommunications Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8l

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Telecommunications Report and endorse the development of a Regional Digital Plan including separate LGA plans in partnership with nbn Local, Regional Development Australia Central West and other providers including Telstra.

CARRIED

8m Regional Transport Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8m

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Transport Report.

CARRIED

8n Regional Water Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8n

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman

Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Water Report.

CARRIED

8o Regional Energy Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8o

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Regional Energy Report and

1. endorse the JONZA Round 3 project management plan,
2. lobby the relevant Federal Government department/s for the Grid Enhancing Technologies grant guidelines to be modified for the next round of funding to allow local government entities to apply,
3. endorse the Landfill Emissions Abatement Knowledge Sharing (LEAKS) Program project plan, and
4. endorse the Landfill Emissions Working Group terms of reference.

CARRIED

8p Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priority 2022-2025

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8p

Moved: Cr Robert Taylor

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

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

1. recognise the return on investment (ROI) for member councils in 2024/25 was 6.28:1, and
2. endorse the renewal of the MoU with RDA Central West, noting the 2026 collaborative activity schedule.

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 Confidential Session

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 10

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board

1. resolve into closed session to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. Pursuant to section 10A(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.
3. Correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access.

CARRIED

Stakeholders from RDACW, NSW Premier's Department, and NSW OLG left the room.

10a Regional Cyber Security Program Report - Confidential

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 10a

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the Regional Cyber Security Program Report and endorse the Regional Cyber Security Strategy & Roadmap.

CARRIED

CNSWJO staff left the room.

10b Confidential Session

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 10b

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman

Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That the Board resolve out of closed session.

CARRIED

11 Matters Raised by members

Lithgow – Seeking support from members for a notice of motion to the LGNSW conference in relation to the development of a State Assistance Grants program.

- Support was provided by members.

12 Late Reports - Nil

13 General business - Nil

14 Speakers to the next meeting

- Brad Cam, General Manager, Mid Western Regional Council re VPAs for renewable energy projects
- Western Sydney Airport
- NSW Farmers Federation
- Ms Kate Lorimer Ward – Local Land Services re feral pigs issue

Meeting closed at 4.33pm

Page 8 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting minutes of meeting of 12 November 2025 held in Sydney.