

## Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting on 26 February 2026 held in Grenfell

### Voting delegates

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

### Associate Member delegates and others attending

Mr D Cove	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr A Rawson	Central Tablelands Water
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Mr C Harris	Central Tablelands Water
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Mr M Jones	Central Tablelands Weeds
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Mr J Gordon	RDACW
Mr S Dunshea	Forbes Shire Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	NSW OLG
Mr I Greenham	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms G Collins	NSW Premier's Dept
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr S Maunder	Orange City Council		
Mr M Sykes	Weddin Shire Council		

Voting members in **bold**

- 1 **Meeting opened** at 10.02am, Chaired by Cr K Beatty
- 2 **Acknowledgement of Country**
- 3 **Apologies** - Cr C Coleman, Cr A McKibbin, Mr D Sherley PSM, Cr B Fry, Mr K Boyd PSM, Cr R Fagan

#### RESOLUTION 26/02 - 3

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 26 February 2026 be accepted.

CARRIED

#### 4 **Conflicts of Interest**

##### RESOLUTION 26/02 -4

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CARRIED

#### 5 **Speaker**

- Ms Megan Winter, General Manager, Basin Plan Review, Murray Darling Basin Authority

Welcome to Weddin Shire – Cr Paul Best

## 6 Minutes

### 6a Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting dated 12 November 2025 held in Sydney

#### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 6a

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 12 November 2025 held in Sydney be confirmed.

CARRIED

### 6b Noting the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 5 February 2026 in Orange

#### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 6b

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held 5 February 2026 in Orange be noted, with the following amendments:

- Mr Michael Jones from CTWA and Mr Charlie Harris from CTW be added to the attendees list,
- the conflict of interest declared by Mark Dicker be listed as a non-pecuniary, less than significant conflict of interest in relation to report 8g Regional Tourism Program Report.

CARRIED

## 7 Business Arising from the Minutes - Matters in Progress

#### RESOLUTION 26/02– 7

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board

1. note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested,
2. delete items 250529-9e-3a, 250529-9e-5, and 251112-8j-3
3. add Cr Phyllis Miller and Mr Scott Maunder to the Financial Sustainability Subcommittee, and
4. concentrate advocacy efforts on the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability, focusing on a 6-month campaign on restoring Financial Assistance Grants to 1%.

CARRIED

## 8 Correspondence

#### RESOLUTION 26/02– 8

Moved: Cr Steve Ring

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Outgoing and Incoming Correspondence.

CARRIED

## 9a Financial Report

#### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9a

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Financial Report.

Cr Phyllis Miller declared a conflict of interest in relation to report 9b, where she is currently on the Board of Local Government Procurement.

### 9b Draft 2026/2027 Budget and Statement of Revenue Report

#### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9b

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the Board note the Draft 2026/2027 Budget and Statement of Revenue Report and

1. adopt the draft 2026/2027 Budget and Statement of Revenue and place it on exhibition for 30 days,
2. note that the budget for 2026/2027 includes a fee rise of 3.0% and a surplus of \$216,
3. note the 4-year forecast budget, and
4. receive a report to the May meeting regarding the percentage increase required to cover the deficit from 2027/2028 onwards.

CARRIED

### 9c JO Framework Review Report

#### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9c

Moved: Cr Robert Taylor

Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the JO Framework Review Report and write to the Minister for Local Government:

1. insisting that the NSW Government refrain from undertaking major structural changes to the JO model and instead address the root causes of previous underperformance by implementing the ARTD review in full, which includes mandating state-agency engagement, strengthening OLG's support role, and ensuring that JO's operate within a consistent, state-supported framework, preventing a slide back into the fragmented mix of JOs, ROCs, alliances and ad-hoc arrangements that the JO model was designed to replace,
2. advising that the CNSWJO Board wishes to remain as a Joint Organisation and is open to exploring welcoming new members, and
3. requesting the following issues be further examined:
  - a. that ARIC, reporting, and audit requirements for Joint Organisations be reduced to reflect their lower risk profile,
  - b. that OLG advance the 2021 Joint Organisation Review recommendation to fund capacity building and provide ongoing investment in JOs, noting that state agencies benefit from JO collaboration and coordination yet do not contribute financially,
  - c. that General Managers be reinstated as voting members, and
  - d. that Mayors and General Managers be able to nominate an appropriate delegate to attend a meeting in their place, as needed.

CARRIED

### 9d Governance Report

#### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9d

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Governance Report and

1. adopt the following new Fraud Prevention Policy and the Statement of Business Ethics,

2. adopt the updated Cyber Security Policy,
3. note the minor amendments to the Charter, and
4. note the change of dates and locations for the May and August meetings, being:
  - 27 and 28 May at NSW Parliament House in Sydney, and
  - 12 and 13 August at Federal Parliament House in Canberra.

CARRIED

#### **9e Shared ARIC Report**

##### **RESOLUTION 26/02 - 9e**

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Shared ARIC Report and

1. endorse the Terms of Reference and the Memorandum of Understanding for the Shared ARIC with Hunter JO and Illawarra Shoalhaven JO, and
2. nominate Cr Bruce Reynolds as the non-voting member for the ARIC.

CARRIED

#### **9f Regional Procurement and Contracts Report**

##### **RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9f**

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

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

CARRIED

#### **9g Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029 Evaluation Report**

##### **RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9g**

Moved: Cr Steve Ring

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029 Evaluation Report and note that the process and outputs are compliant, delivered within allocated budget and well received.

CARRIED

Cr Paul Smith left the meeting at 12.43pm.

#### **9h Advocacy Report**

##### **RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9h**

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

That the Board note the Advocacy Report and

1. endorse the Annual Advocacy Plan and Activities Schedule 2026,
2. endorse the following Position Statements and Advocacy Asks embedded in the Plan for 2026:
  - Priority 1: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration
  - Priority 2: Regional prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services
  - Priority 5: Regional transport planning and infrastructure prioritisation
  - Priority 6: Regional water security and productive water

- Priority 7: Climate change adaptation and mitigation
3. note that the advocacy position statement for health will follow the CSU Policy Lab on Health Workforce and for the telecommunications priority will follow the development of the Regional Digital Plan,
  4. endorse the development and lodgement of a submission in response to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Discussion Paper- A New Approach to Strategic Planning.
  5. leverage the upcoming State Disaster Mitigation Plan review to advocate for snow and drought to be recognised as primary hazards in the plan, including writing to the NSW Reconstruction Authority,
  6. endorse the Regional Transport Priority List for 2026,
  7. advocate to the NSW Government for coordinated planning and action to address the intensifying drought conditions,
  8. endorse the following submissions and place on the CNSWJO website:
    - Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability,
    - Draft Central West & Orana Strategic Regional Transport Plan Submission, and
    - Bells Line of Road safety improvements, and
  9. advocate for changes to the National Water Grid guidelines to allow Local Government to apply directly.

CARRIED

#### 9i Regional Prosperity Report

##### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9i

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the Board note the Regional Prosperity Report and

1. endorse that Charles Sturt University be approached to collaborate on a Policy Lab examining skills shortages and the region’s capacity to leverage major infrastructure projects and increased service demands,
2. encourage attendance at the New Horizons Forum in Lithgow on 24 March aimed at progressing the development of the regional framework on renewable energy community benefit sharing, and
3. include the review of State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) processes in advocacy.

CARRIED

#### 9j Regional Tourism Program Report

##### DETERMINATION 26/02 – 9j

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board proceed with Option 2 – reduction in fees of \$25k p.a., with 3% increases year on year thereafter.

##### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9j

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Tourism Program Report and endorse Option 2 – reduction in fees of \$25k p.a., with 3% increases year-on-year thereafter, for the future service delivery of the regional tourism program by CNSWJO.

CARRIED

**9k Regional Health Report**

**RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9k**

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the Health Report and endorse the signing of the MoU with the Rural Doctors Network for a period of 3 years, with the activities schedule to be reviewed annually.

CARRIED

**9l Regional Telecommunications Report**

**RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9l**

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Telecommunications Report and progress on the development of a Regional Digital Plan including separate LGA plans.

CARRIED

**9m Regional Transport Report**

**RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9m**

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the Regional Transport Report.

CARRIED

Mr Scott Maunder left the meeting at 12.25pm

**9n Regional Water Report**

**RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9n**

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Water Report and endorse the quarterly report to NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment Water for the Water Loss Management and Efficiency Program.

CARRIED

**9o Regional Net Zero Report**

**RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9o**

Moved: Cr Steve Ring

Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Regional Net Zero Report and

1. endorse the NSW DCCEEW EV variation funding closure report, and
2. formally renew commitment to participation in Southern Lights and Networks, approving an annual commitment of up to \$15k from the CNSWJO budget.

CARRIED

## 9p Regional Resilience Program Report

### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9p

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Resilience Program Report and approve a regional application for Disaster Ready Fund Round 4 be prepared, which will include:

- a. Implementation of Evacuation Centre Assessment recommendations,
- b. Regional Disaster Readiness Officer(s),
- c. Continuation of the Regional Resilience Program Manager position, and
- d. CNSWJO continuing to support the development of the Disaster Adaptation Plan and, depending on timing, early implementation actions.

CARRIED

## 9q Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2025-2029

### RESOLUTION 26/02 – 9q

Moved: Cr Steve Ring

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

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. endorse the Sponsoring General Managers for the SSRP priorities are:
  - Priority 1: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration - Mr Mark Dicker, Mr Brad Byrnes, Mr Paul Devery and Mr Ross Gurney
  - Priority 2: Regional prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services - Mr Mark Dicker, Mr Paul Devery, Mr Scott Maunder
  - Priority 3: Improved and fit-for-purpose infrastructure in health and ageing - Mr Brad Byrnes, Mr Gary Wallace, Mr Matthew Sykes
  - Priority 4: Telecommunications - Mr Brad Byrnes, Mr Gary Wallace
  - Priority 5: Regional transport planning and infrastructure prioritisation - Mr Paul Devery, Mr Gary Wallace, Mr Kent Boyd
  - Priority 6: Regional water security and productive water - Mr Ian Greenham, Mr Kent Boyd, Mr Charlie Harris
  - Priority 7: Climate change adaptation and mitigation - Mr Brad Byrnes, Mr Paul Devery, Mr Gary Wallace, and
2. support the upcoming UN Youth Summit by promoting to local schools through various channels.

CARRIED

## 10 Confidential Session

### Resolution 26/02 – 10

Moved: Cr Neil Westcott

Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

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

#### **10a Regional Cyber Security Program Report - Confidential**

##### **RESOLUTION 26/02 – 10a**

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Cyber Security Program Report

CARRIED

#### **10b Confidential Session**

##### **RESOLUTION 26/02 - 10b**

Moved: Cr Steve Ring

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board resolve out of closed session.

CARRIED

#### **11a RDA Central West Update Report**

The Board noted the RDA Central West Update.

#### **11b NSW Premier's Department Update**

The Board noted the NSW Premier's Department Report

#### **11c OLG Update Report**

The Board noted the OLG Update Report.

#### **12 Matters Raised by Members**

##### **RESOLUTION 26/02 – 12**

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the matters raised by members and

1. write to the NSW Minister for Local Government seeking State funding for councils in relation to the cat containment provisions in the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) to support education, compliance and animal shelter capacity,
2. write to the Premier and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces expressing concern that the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025 reduces local planning control and transparency, increases risk of corruption in planning processes, and will decrease community input and confidence in planning decisions, and
3. seek support through the JO Chairs' Forum to strongly advocate against the cost-shifting of flood warning services onto local government.

CARRIED

**13 Late Report**

**14 General business**

- Lithgow City Council – seeking input from members on experiences regarding consistency in the application of DRFA rules and seeking support for improving the process
- Central Tablelands Weeds Authority (via Mayor of Bathurst) – seeking to amend the relevant policies to enable Board members to attend meetings via audio-visual link as needed.
  - A report will be provided to the May Board meeting

**15 Speakers to the next meeting**

- Western Sydney Airport
- Penrith City Council re progress on the Castlereagh Corridor
- Brad Cam, General Manager, Mid-Western Regional Council re VPAs for renewable energy projects

**16 Next meetings:**

Board Meeting dates:

27+28 May 2026 – State Parliament House visit in Sydney (note location change)

12+13 August– Federal Parliament House visit in Canberra (note date and location change)

26 November 2026 – Bathurst

GMAC Meeting dates:

30 April 2026 – Cowra

30 July 2026 – Orange

22 October 2026 – Forbes

**17 Confidential session**

Staff left the room while the Board received an update on the recruitment process for the Executive Officer position.

Meeting closed at 1.03pm

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