

Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting on 27 May 2026 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 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 K Brock	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	Cr B Fry	Central Tablelands Weeds
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Mr M Jones	Central Tablelands Weeds
Mr S Dunshea	Forbes Shire Council	Mr J Gordon	RDACW
Mr I Greenham	Lachlan Shire Council	Mr Reg Kidd	RDACW
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	NSW OLG
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr S Maunder	Orange City Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr M Sykes	Weddin Shire Council	Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO
		Ms J Webber	CNSWJO

Voting members in **bold**

- 1 **Meeting opened** at 11.02am, Chaired by Cr K Beatty
- 2 **Acknowledgement of Country**
- 3 **Apologies** – Mr D Sherley, Ms G Collins, Cr Ruth Fagan

RESOLUTION 26/05 - 3

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Cass Coleman

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 27 May 2026 be accepted.

CARRIED

4 Conflicts of Interest

RESOLUTION 26/05 - 4

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CARRIED

5 Speakers

- Overview and update on Western Sydney Airport and opportunities for the region to leverage in relation to freight, produce and economic development
 - Mr Ricky Puata - A/Director, Regional Economic Development – Strategic Initiatives,

- NSW Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development
 - Ms Julie Scott - Head of Economic Development & Strategy, Liverpool City Council
 - Gaya Arasaratnam – Coordinator Business Development, Liverpool City Council
 - **Action:** coordinate a tour for the Board to the Business Park
- Transport for NSW – Update on Great Western Highway
 - Mr Damien Pfeiffer - Executive Director Partnership & Integration
 - Ms Lisa Anderson – Executive Director Road Asset and Program Services
- Penrith City Council – Progress on the Castlereagh Corridor Business Case
 - Cr Todd Carney, Mayor
 - Mr Andrew Moore, General Manager

6 Minutes

6a Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting dated 26 February 2026 held in Grenfell

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 6a

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 26 February 2026 held in Grenfell be confirmed.

CARRIED

6b Noting the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 30 April 2026 in Cowra

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 6b

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held 30 April 2026 in Cowra be noted.

CARRIED

7 Business Arising from the Minutes - Matters in Progress

RESOLUTION 26/05– 7

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

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

CARRIED

8 Correspondence

RESOLUTION 26/05– 8

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the outgoing and incoming correspondence.

CARRIED

9a Financial Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9a

Moved: Cr Robert Taylor

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Financial Report and

1. an investment strategy be prepared for the Board's consideration.

CARRIED

9b 2026/2027 Statement of Budget and Revenue Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9b

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the 2026/2027 Budget Report and

1. note the 4% increase to fees, along with the \$500 per member council flat increase to the operational program fees,
2. note that no submissions were lodged in relation to the draft budget during the exhibition period,
3. adopt the 2026/2027 Statement of Budget and Revenue, and
4. that GMAC monitor the resourcing impact of the budget cuts on the operation of the CNSWJO.

CARRIED

9c Executive Officer Recruitment Outcome Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9c

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Executive Officer Recruitment Outcome Report and

1. note that the recruitment process for the Executive Officer position was undertaken and concluded in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and relevant organisational requirements,
2. note that contractual arrangements with the successful candidate have been finalised, and
3. note and congratulate Kate Barker on the appointment as Executive Officer.

CARRIED

9d Governance and Policy Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9d

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Governance and Policy Report be deferred pending clarification of the impact of the successful disallowance motion relating to the Code of Meeting Practice.

CARRIED

9e Shared ARIC Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 - 9e

Moved: Cr Robert Taylor

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Shared ARIC Report and

1. endorse the appointment of the following to the Shared ARIC with Hunter HO and Illawarra Shoalhaven JO:
 - Chair: Dianne Allen
 - Independent member: Rhonda Wheatley
 - Independent member: Emma Pryor

2. note that Cr Bruce Reynolds has been accepted as the Non-Voting Member of the Shared ARIC on behalf of CNSWJO.

CARRIED

9f Procurement Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9f

Moved: Cr Paul Smith

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

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

CARRIED

9g Advocacy Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9g

Moved: Cr Neil Westcott

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Advocacy Report and

1. endorse the advocacy position statement for Priority 3: Health and ageing,
2. write to Dr Joe McGirr MP in support of the *Better Care, Closer to Home Alliance* campaign and *Rural Health Action Plan*,
3. write to LGNSW in support of the “*Caring for our regions*” *Action Plan on for Rural and Regional Health*,
4. endorse the revised version of the advocacy position statements for Priority 5: Regional transport planning and infrastructure prioritisation to include additional wording around:
 - strengthening the Board’s position on Inland Rail, supporting reinstatement of funding for the full Melbourne to Brisbane corridor,
 - reaffirming the need for increased passenger rail connectivity between Sydney and the Central West,
5. write to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, expressing disappointment and concern in relation to the cancellation of the Inland Rail north of Parkes and seeking the reinstatement of funding to complete the Parkes to Brisbane sections of the Inland Rail project as originally committed,
6. endorse the following submissions:
 - a) Submission to the Department of Housing Planning and Infrastructure (DPHI) New Approach to Strategic Planning,
 - b) Submission to the Department of Housing Planning and Infrastructure (DPHI) on the Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (Explanation of Intended Effect),
 - c) Submission to the Federal Productivity Commission on National Water Reform 2026, and
 - d) Submission to the Murray Darling Basin Plan Review 2026

CARRIED

9h Great Western Highway Detour Collaborative Response Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9h

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Great Western Highway Detour Response Report and the value of CNSWJO-led collaboration with Regional Development Australia Central West, Business NSW and Destination Central West, and

1. CNSWJO's continued advocacy for NSW Government funding to extend the *Other Ways to the West* campaign to mitigate ongoing economic and visitor economy impacts arising from the prolonged detour of the Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass, and
2. that CNSWJO provide a report to the next Board meeting on the analytics of the Other Ways to the West campaign

CARRIED

9i Regional Prosperity Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9i

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Regional Prosperity Report and

1. endorse the development of submissions under the hand of the executive on:
 - a. Proposed statewide Community Participation Plan,
 - b. Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE) on Variations and changes to complying development; and
 - c. Discussion paper on Low-rise housing reforms and targeted assessment.

CARRIED

9j Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9j

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

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

1. endorse the *New Horizons* Workshop Event Report,
2. endorse the final version of the *Discussion Paper: Lessons learned on renewable energy projects in the region and Voluntary Planning Agreements*

CARRIED

9k Regional Health Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9k

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Health Report and

1. endorse the CSU Policy Lab event report including progressing the 4 key actions:
 - join Dr Joe McGirr MP's "Better Care, Closer to Home" Alliance,
 - collaborate with other Joint Organisations and other regional local government bodies, and councils to align regional initiatives and messaging,
 - work with key stakeholders to clarify roles and responsibilities between council, health services and partners at the local level by undertaking a mapping exercise with key stakeholders, and
 - work with key stakeholders to develop a graphic showing local governments role vs what local governments are delivering in relation to health services
2. send a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Board to the three CSU medical school scholarship recipients for 2026.

CARRIED

9l Regional Telecommunications Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9l

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

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 26/05 – 9m

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Transport Report.

CARRIED

9n Regional Water Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9n

Moved: Cr Paul Best

Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Regional Water Report and

1. endorse the quarterly report to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment Water for the Water Loss Management and Efficiency Program.

CARRIED

9o Regional Energy Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9o

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Regional Net Zero Report and

1. endorse the JONZA Round 3 Mid-Term Report
2. endorse the JONZA Round 3 Project Tracker
3. endorse the Landfill Emissions Abatement Knowledge (LEAKS) *Mid-term Activity Report* dated 30 March 2026
4. endorse the *Lessons from regional NSW councils: Existing waste-related Clean Energy Regulator projects and active landfill gas management Report*.

CARRIED

9p Regional Resilience Program Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9p

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Resilience Program Report.

CARRIED

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

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 10

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2025-2029 report.

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 Confidential Session

Resolution 26/05 – 12

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman
Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

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

12a Regional Cyber Security Program Report - Confidential

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 12a

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Cyber Security Program Report and

1. note the transition of the Regional Cyber Security Program from strategy development into accelerated operational delivery, supported by council specific Annual Operating Plans and governance dashboards now in effect across all member councils, and
2. note the ISSC and GMAC's endorsement of a regional Top 5 Strategic Risk Framework and the introduction of a structured quarterly governance pack with operational metrics.

CARRIED

12b Confidential Session

RESOLUTION 26/05 - 12b

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr Cass Coleman

That the Board resolve out of closed session.

13 Late Reports – Nil.

14 Matters Raised by Members

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 14

That the Board note the matters raised by members and

1. that CNSWJO develop a strategy for advocacy in relation to the Great Western Highway, including coordinating a delegation of regional, rural and remote council Mayors and General Managers to Parliament to highlight the GWH strategic importance and advocate for ongoing investment,
2. write to the Country Mayors Association of NSW seeking advocacy support regarding the Great Western Highway closure, and
3. seek information from member councils in relation to a possible change of date for regular Board meetings, noting the request from a member to move meetings from Thursdays to Wednesdays.

15 General business

16 Speakers to the next meeting

- National Water Grid
- NSW DPIRD, NBNC0 and Telstra – Regional Digital Plan

17 Next meetings:

Board Meeting dates:

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

November – Federal Parliament House visit in Sydney (date TBC)

GMAC Meeting dates:

30 July 2026 – Orange

22 October 2026 – Forbes

Meeting closed at 4.45 pm

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