

AGENDA

FWJO Board Meeting Thursday, 19 March 2020

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of the Far West Joint Organisation (FWJO) will be held on:

Date: Thursday, 19 March 2020

Time: 10:00AM (AEST)

Location: Councillors Rooms, Broken Hill City Council, 240

Blende Street, Broken Hill

Mark Forbes

Chief Executive Officer

Please be advised that in accordance with the adopted Code of Meeting Practice (cl. 5.18) meetings of the Far West Joint Organisation are webcast to the FWJO Website.

By speaking at the meeting, you agree to being recorded and to the recording being placed on

You are required to be respectful to other people at all times and to use appropriate language.

council's website.

The Far West Joint Organisation accepts no liability for defamatory or offensive remarks that may be made during these proceedings.

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- 1 OPENING OF MEETING
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
- 3 PRESENT
- 4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
- 5 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

File Number: NA

Raised by: Terry Litchfield, Infocouncil Support

Attachments: 1. FWJO Board Minutes 24 January 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FWJO action.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Far West Joint Organisation Board Meeting held 24 January 2020 be confirmed as circulated.

REPORT DETAIL

The Board is requested to confirm the attached minutes

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FWJO BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

24 JANUARY 2020



FAR WEST JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

24 JANUARY 2020

24 JANUARY 2020

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	FWJO BOARD MEETING	MINUTES	24 JANUARY 2020
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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Meeting was declared open at 11:05am.

2 PRESENT

Voting Members

Mayors:

Cr Henderics Wentworth Shire Council (Chair)

Bob Stewart Central Darling Shire
Cr Turley Broken Hill City Council
Cr Byron Balranald Shire Council

Non-Voting Members

Deputy Mayors

Cr Christine Adams Broken Hill City Council

General Managers:

Michael Kitzelmann Balranald Shire Council (by video)

James RonconBroken Hill City CouncilGreg HillCentral Darling ShireKen RossWentworth Shire Council

State Representatives:

Ashley Albury Department of Premier and Cabinet

Peter Evans Office of Local Government

Chief Executive Officer:

Mark Forbes Far West Joint Organisation CEO

<u>Guests</u>

Kris Kershaw Balranald Shire Council

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Karen Purser (OLG)

Resolution

That the Board notes the apologies received from Karen Purser (OLG)

Moved: Cr Turley Seconded: Bob Stewart

CARRIED

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FWJO BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

24 JANUARY 2020

4 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Far West Joint Organisation Board Meeting held 22 November 2019 be confirmed as circulated.

Resolution

That the Minutes of the Far West Joint Organisation Board Meeting held 22 November 2019 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved: Cr Turley Seconded: Bob Stewart

CARRIED

6 REPORTS

6.1 Financial Report and Budget Review

Summary

Provide the Far West Joint Organisation with a Financial Review report for the period 1 July 2019 to 19 January 2020.

The Board recorded their appreciation to Mr Kris Kershaw for this for assistance with the preparation of the financial report and management of the FWJO financial systems.

Recommendation

That the board receive and note the year to date financial review report.

Resolution

That the Board receive the Financial Review report for the period 1 July 2019 to 19 January 2020.

Moved: Cr Turley Seconded: Cr Byron

CARRIED

6.2 Canberra Board Meeting

Summary

A Board meeting has been scheduled to be held in Canberra on 18 June 2020. The Chief Executive Officer provided an update in relation to the Canberra meeting arrangements.

Recommendation

That the board note the Chief Executive Officer's update.

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FWJO BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

24 JANUARY 2020

Resolution

That the board note the Chief Executive Officer's update regarding arrangements for the Canberra Board meeting

Moved: Cr Turley Seconded: Cr Byron

CARRIED

6.3 JO Chairs Resolution

Summary

At the JO Chairs' meeting held on 31 October 2019 it was determined that an agreed definition of "Financial Sustainability" be adopted across all NSW Joint Organisations (JOs) for the purpose of establishing a taskforce into the long term financial sustainability of JOs.

Recommendation

That the definition of Financial Sustainability, for the purpose of the taskforce, be determined as a "A Joint Organisation will be financially sustainable over the long term when it is able to achieve sufficient funding and deliver on the Strategic Regional Priorities agreed with its members and stakeholders."

Resolution

That the definition of Financial Sustainability, for the purpose of the taskforce, be determined as a "A Joint Organisation will be financially sustainable over the long term when it is able to achieve sufficient funding and deliver on the Strategic Regional Priorities agreed with its members and stakeholders."

Moved: Bob Stewart Seconded: Cr Turley

CARRIED

7 Other Items

7.1 Action Items Review

Verbal update was provided by the CEO and action items list updated accordingly.

7.2 CEO Review

LG Solutions will provide report which will include the CEO's performance agreement for the coming 12 months. This will include a mid term review and the establishment of a review panel comprising two Board members.

7.3 Western Division Conference Motion

Central Darling Shire Council requested a motion be submitted from FWJO to Western Division Conference for continued funding for the FWJO by the State Government to ensure the sustainability of the JOs. Broken Hill City Council recommended the inclusion of a change in in JOs structure to reduce red tape. Suggested that a motion be drafted for submission to the Western Division and ALG Conference in Canberra to retain the independent capability of the JO operations.

7.4 Local Council Updates

7.4.1 Balranald Shire Council

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FWJO BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

24 JANUARY 2020

The Balranald Shire Council's tourism project has been endorsed by council and the project plan and estimates will be submitted by the next FWJO tourism infrastructure meeting to be held in February.

7.4.2 Statewide Mutual have made a request to present to FWJO relating to their services, including risk management, continuous improvement funding etc. It was determined that the presentation should be made first to the GMs meeting with recommendation to come from the GMs to the Board accordingly.

7.5 Apologies for next Board Meeting

Bob Stewart (CDSC) will be an apology for next Board meeting to be held at the Western Division Conference

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the FWJO Board is proposed to be held prior to registration at the Western Division Conference on 18 March 2020, to be held at Broken Hill.

9 CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 11:50am

7 **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

7.1 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

File Number: NA

Raised by: **Terry Litchfield, Infocouncil Support**

Attachments: Finance Officer Proposal (under separate cover)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Board will receive a Financial Report at each meeting. This report covers the period 1 July 2019 to 12 March 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the FWJO Board receive and note the year to date Financial Report; and
- (b) That the proposal for Finance Officer services be approved.

REPORT DETAIL

(a) Financial Report

The monthly financial report of the Far West Joint Organisation provides a "snapshot" of the Far West Joint Organisation financial performance, as at 12 March 2020.

Cashflow for the Far West Joint Organisation has resulted in a net draw down of cash reserves of (\$800,408) for the period 1 July 2019 to 12 March 2020.

Statement of Cash Flows

Far West Joint Organisation

For the period 1 July 2019 to 12 March 2020

Account	1 Jul 2019-12 Mar 2020
Operating Activities	
Receipts from customers	25,282.15
Payments to suppliers and employees	(287,509.71)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	(542,608.00)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(804,835.56)
Investing Activities	
Other cash items from investing activities	614.25
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	614.25
Financing Activities	
Other cash items from financing activities	3,813.53
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	3,813.53
Net Cash Flows	(800,407.78)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	6,366,701.42
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	5,566,293.64
Net change in cash for period	(800,407.78)

Item 7.1 Page 9 The net cash position as at 12 March 2020 is as follows (bank account balances):

Establishment funding (main account)	\$ 148,150.82
Credit Card	\$ 11,296.18
GST Holding Account	\$ 111.82
Term Deposit	\$ 505,694.04
Tourism Infrastructure Project Planning funding	\$4,450,577.74
NSW Public Works Business Case funding	\$ 225,231.52
Western Roads Plan funding	<u>\$ 225,231.52</u>
Total Balance as at 12 March 2020	\$5,566,293.64

For the period 1 July 2019 to 12 March 2020, the net actual result is (\$58,896). It should be noted that the Joint Organisation has received all grant funding prior to 30 June 2019 and will be required to draw down the grant funding throughout the 2019/20 financial year and beyond.

Budget Variance Far West Joint Organisation 1 July 2019 to 12 March 2020

Income	Budget	Actual	Variance Budget Remaining Ad	As a % ctual over Budget Received/ Spent
Establishment Funds	00.000	C2.054	27.040	69.95%
	90,000	62,951	27,049	72.23%
Interest Income	35,000	25,282	9,718	
Management - NSW Public Works Business Case	12,500	8,743	3,757	69.95%
Management - Regional Growth & Investment	62,500	0	62,500	0.00%
Management - Tourism Infrastructure Project Planning	166,667	116,576	50,091	69.95%
Management - Western Roads Plan Funding	8,333	5,829	2,504	69.95%
Total Income	375,000	219,381	155,619	58.50%
Less Operating Expenses				
Advertising	3.000	0	3.000	0.00%
Bank Fees	600	32	568	5.33%
Catering and Events	3,000	596	2,404	19.88%
Cleaning	1,100	0	1,100	0.00%
Conference Attendance	6,000	4,497	1,503	74.96%
Consulting & Accounting	39,120	7,254	31,866	18.54%
Depreciation	7,800	5,166	2,634	66.23%
Equipment Purchases (Minor)	2,000	195	1,805	9.74%
General Expenses	1,500	0	1,500	0.00%
Information Technology	3,000	1,802	1,198	60.07%
Insurance	8,196	1,099	7,097	13.41%
Legal expenses	0	75	(75)	0.00%
Licences	9,000	8,980	20	99.78%
Motor Vehicle Expenses	4,500	4,595	(95)	102.12%
Office Lease	11,050	9,455	1,595	85.56%
Printing & Stationery	2,850	1,600	1,250	56.13%
Project - Tourism Infra Balranald	500,000	0	500,000	0.00%
Project - Tourism Infra Broken Hill	500,000	0	500,000	0.00% 12.00%
Project - Tourism Infra Central Darling	500,000 500,000	60,000	440,000 500,000	0.00%
Project - Tourism Infra Wentworth Repairs and Maintenance	2,500	0	2,500	0.00%
Stakeholder Engagement	3,000	144	2,856	4.80%
Subscriptions	2,700	2,953	(253)	109.37%
Superannuation	18,822	12.430	6,392	66.04%
Telephone & Internet	3.000	3.824	(824)	127.47%
Travel Expenditure	22,000	19,188	2,812	87.22%
Wages and Salaries	184,044	122,630	61,414	66.63%
Website Expenses	17,500	11,760	5,740	67.20%
Total Operating Expenses	2,356,282	278,277	2,078,005	11.81%
Net Operational Result	(1,981,282)	(58,896)	(1,922,386)	2.97%

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If Project Tourism - Infrastructure is excluded from budge	et:			
Project - Tourism Infra Balranald	500,000	0	500,000	0.00%
Project - Tourism Infra Broken Hill	500,000	0	500,000	0.00%
Project - Tourism Infra Central Darling	500,000	60,000	440,000	12.00%
Project - Tourism Infra Wentworth	500,000	0	500,000	0.00%
Sub-Total Project Cost	2,000,000	60,000	1,940,000	3.00%
Net Operating Result for FWJO Excluding Projects_	18,718	1,104	17,614	5.90%

Financial Management of the FWJO funds are carried out with prudence, and consideration for every cost incurred. The CEO attempts to balance a pragmatic financial approach in keeping with the LG Act with being in constant action, as well as being innovative and creative, as that is where the real economic, social and strategic difference will be made in the Far West.

To achieve that balance, considerable travel has been involved, mostly by the FWJO vehicle. The CEO has travelled 37,700 kms in the 12 months that the vehicle has been owned and recorded the journeys in a logbook for FBT purposes (between business and personal use). On that basis the vehicle will have travelled 70,000 kms by the time his contract comes to an end in January 2021. The optimal time to replace the vehicle, based on km's travelled, is to be determined by the Board however, general practice is usually around 40,000kms. While the still holds a solid residual value it is proposed that the CEO investigates options and costs of trading into an updated model.

Travel allows the CEO to stretch his (and FWJO) influence. As the only employee of the FWJO, the CEO needs to be able to tell the FWJO story, lobby and advocate, and build a reputation for the FWJO that will inspire others to know more. This strategy will eventually result in powerful partnerships and joint ventures, funding being secured, investment into the region, greater visitation and economic spend through tourism, and an increase in water security. This is not a quick process, but it is already beginning to happen.

Audit NSW have determined the Audit of the FWJO to cover the period 2 July2018 (when the FWJO was officially established) to 30 June 2020. They have proposed their Annual Engagement Plan, which the CEO has with the Financial Officer and agreed to.

(b) Provision of Financial Officer Services

The FWJO has been supported through the provision of Finance Officer services by Balranald Shire Council. The Finance Officer has been assisting by processing the finance data and providing financial reports. The person who has been providing that support has recently resigned from his position with Balranald Shire Council.

The CEO is seeking the Board approval for the continued retention of that person's Finance Officer support services on a private contractor basis. This is essential for continuance of business reasons, given that person's understanding of the FWJO operation and finances. A proposal for the retention of services is **provided under separate cover** for consideration.

The CEO will work closely with the Finance Officer to in the lead up to the Audit to ensure that it runs smoothly. The Audit NSW process commences 18 May 2020 and runs through to 30 November 2020, their estimated cost is: \$18,070 (excluding GST).

CONCLUSION

That the FWJO Board are satisfied with the March 2020 Financial Report and Financial Officer's and approve the continuance of the Finance Officer's services as per the proposal.

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8 BOARD REPORTS

8.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

File Number: NA

Raised by: Terry Litchfield, Infocouncil Support

Attachments: 1. Outstanding Action Items (under separate cover)

2. Request for Extension of Time (under separate cover)

3. LGNSW Circular 20-06

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chief Executive Officer's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

- 1. Outstanding Action Items Update
- 2. <u>Tourism Projects Request for Extension of Time Update</u>
- 3. Canberra Meeting Update
- 4. Joint Chairs' Meeting Outcomes
- 5. FWJO Coronavirus Impacts

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board notes the information contained within the report from the Chief Executive Officer

REPORT DETAIL

1. Outstanding Action Items Update

An update of the outstanding action items is provided in the attached document.

2. Tourism Projects – Request for Extension of Time Update

As discussed at the Tourism Projects Committee meeting, the FWJO has requested an extension of time for completion of obligations under Clause 7.1 of the Funding Deed. A copy of the correspondence forwarded to the Department of Premier and Cabinet is attached. FWJO is yet to receive a response to this request.

3. Canberra Meeting Update

The Far West Joint Organisation has organized to hold the first of its annual board meetings at Commonwealth Parliament on 18 June 2020, coinciding with the National General Assembly of Local Government 2020, 14 - 17 June, at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. Meeting details are provided below:

Time: 11am – 3pm

Venue: Parliament House, Room 1R2

Meeting update is provided below:

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- The Hon Mark Coulton MP Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government: *Confirmed attendance at 12:00pm on 18 June 2020*
- Senator The Hon Simon Birmingham Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment: Not available due to prior commitments, his office has forwarded our request to the Office of The Hon Jonathan Duniam
- Sen The Hon Jonathan Duniam Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries; Assistant Minister for Regional Tourism: His Office have acknowledged our request, awaiting further advice
- The Hon David Littleproud MP Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management: *No response received*
- The Hon Michael McCormack MP Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development: *No response received*

4. Joint Chairs' Meeting Outcomes

Verbal update to be provided by CEO

5. FWJO Coronavirus Impacts

NSW OLG Circular 20-06 providing information to Councils relating to Coronavirus is provided for discussion to identify any collaboration or support that could be available or required by member Councils in the event of business disruption or other impacts.

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Circular to Councils

Circular Details	20-06 / 10 March 2020 / A694616
Previous Circular	NIL
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff / Specific
	business areas
Contact	Mr Chris Allen, Director Sector Performance and Intervention /
	02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Response to OLG / Council to Implement

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Development Updates

What's new or changing

- The NSW Human Influenza Pandemic Plan is the whole-of-government plan for an influenza pandemic in NSW. This plan is a sub plan to the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN). Under the EMPLAN, NSW Health is the combat agency for pandemic illnesses.
- The NSW Human Influenza Pandemic Plan details the coordination arrangements, responsibilities and mechanisms for all levels of government and compliments the federal government's Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- The Senior Officers Group of the NSW Government has been established to coordinate management of the NSW Government response to a pandemic. This group consists of Cluster Secretaries, the State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCON), Chief Health Officer and State Emergency Recovery Coordinator and others as required.
- The SEOCON has hosted a number of teleconferences with members of the State Emergency Management Committee since 28 January 2020 to facilitate emergency management planning and information sharing.
- The SEOCON has opened the State Emergency Operations Centre with liaison officers from key stakeholders and they are supporting the planning for potential impacts and consequences of COVID-19.
- NSW Health has existing policies and plans for the management of a pandemic which have been well tested.
- NSW Health will be advising local councils on measures that need to be implemented
 within the workplace. Current information and advice for the community and business
 is available here: www.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus.
- Information is also available on the national health website: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources#find-the-facts.

What this will mean for your council

- Councils should review their business continuity plans as a matter of urgency to
 ensure appropriate planning is undertaken to address any potential disruption to their
 operations and the provision of services to the community.
- NSW Health will issue instructions for all agencies and will liaise directly with councils on their role.
- Councils should take a precautionary approach in line with the principles of prevention
 and preparation as outlined in the State Emergency Management Plan regarding the
 COVID-19 outbreak, working collaboratively with NSW Health to implement strategies
 to minimise COVID-19's transmission.

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- All councils are advised to monitor the NSW Health website for updates: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx.
- The Office of Local Government (OLG) will continue close contact directly with affected councils for daily updates on any COVID-19 related developments within their Local Government Areas (LGA) in order to compile a daily report to SEOC. Councils can call OLG on 02 4428 4100, or OLG will contact affected councils as required.

Reports from affected councils will need to include the following information:

- 1. Any staff members affected by COVID-19
- 2. Actions implemented by Council to date to contain COVID-19
- 3. Issues/requests for action by Council that have been identified/received.
- Councils should continue to closely monitor issues reported or identified within their LGA, and actively engage with NSW Health Liaison Officers within their relevant Local Emergency Management Committees.
- Management of council operated facilities, such as council offices, childcare centres, swimming pools and public amenities must be maintained in accordance with most current NSW Health guidance and recommended processes.
- Councils should also review their delegations as a matter of urgency to ensure that
 decisions can be made quickly in response to any developments outside of the normal
 council meeting cycle.
- Councils can be assured that OLG has also undertaken its own contingency planning
 to identify possible regulatory changes that may be required to support council
 decision making should the need arise. Councils will be advised of any changes if and
 when they are required.
- Councils have been requesting advice regarding the conduct of public events. Please
 note the following advice issued by the Commonwealth Department of Health, from
 the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) dated 8 March 2020:
 https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-coronavirus-covid-19-statement-on-8-march-2020.
- Due to the ongoing developments of the COVID-19 outbreak and its implications for overseas travel:
 - All currently booked and approved international travel should be revaluated in line with the most up to date travel advice available at www.smarttraveller.gov.au
 - o International travel should be restricted to essential travel only
 - Any change to planned travel should be done in accordance with standing procedures for individual councils.

Key points

- Management of local COVID-19 issues should be undertaken at Council level and elevated where appropriate to Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC), when operational.
- The LEMC can further elevate operational or strategic issues to Regional or State Level as required.
- There is no vaccine nor antiviral medication available as this stage.
- The most important message from <u>NSW Health</u> is persistent, strict hand and respiratory hygiene, appropriate post exposure quarantine, provision of a nonjudgmental attitude toward those who are symptomatic and to ensure a proportionate and consistent response.
- COVID-19 is spread from an infected person to other people close to that person through contaminated droplets spread by coughing or sneezing, or by contact with contaminated hands, surfaces or objects. Signs and symptoms include respiratory symptoms and fever, cough and shortness of breath and/or diarrhoea.

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Where to go for further information

- For up to date information on the COVID-19 situation please visit: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources#find-the-facts.
- For any inquiries in relation to COVID-19, please ring the following health information line: 1800 020 080.
- For local operational issues in relation to COVID-19, please contact your LEMC.
- Contact details for local NSW Health Public Health Units are available here: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/phus.aspx.
- State level strategic or operational inquiries in relation to COVID-19 and Local Government can be directed to OLG for further investigation via the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
- For any concerns relating to 'what to do if stations and/or work areas have potentially been exposed to COVID-19', please contact NSW Health Public Health staff who will provide immediate post exposure advice.
- NSW Health has compiled a number of Frequently Asked Questions which can be found here:

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/coronavirus-fags.aspx#1-4.

Tim Hurst Deputy Secretary

Local Government, Planning and Policy

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8.2 CAPACITY BUILDING FUND

File Number: NA

Raised by: Terry Litchfield, Infocouncil Support

Attachments: Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 18 March 2020 the FWJO and FNWJO met to consider a collaborative tourism initiative that has been proposed by Destination NSW, OLG and DPC (DPIE).

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO and FNWJO Boards determine how to proceed with the collaborative partnership project as presented.

REPORT DETAIL

On 18 March 2020 the FWJO and FNWJO met to consider a collaborative tourism initiative that has been proposed by Destination NSW, OLG and DPC (DPIE).

The Capacity Building Fund introduced by OLG has resulted in an exciting and valuable opportunity for FWJO and FNWJO collaboration, namely a collaboration between the FNWJO and FWJO, combining funding of \$150k each to implement a joint tourism project. This funding amount would be supplemented by the State Government either as cash or in-kind value.

The concept comprises an online platform that will highlight the Night Sky and Astronomy, the Wonder of Gondwana, and Fossils - guiding visitors through an experience unlike anything else, and inspired by their family and friends. The key focus therefore, will be in establishing community engagement and targeting the Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) Market.

The FWJO Board is requested to confirm their agreement to continue discussion with the FNWJO with a view to entering into a collaborative partnership project as presented.

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8.3 WATER SECURITY

File Number: N/A

Raised by: Mark Forbes, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Agenda - Lower Darling Critical Water Advisory Panel (under separate

cover)

2. Lower Darling Critical Water Advisory Panel Outcomes - Feb 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The challenge of Water Security in Far West NSW is complex, seems to change by the day and has many moving parts and interdependencies which cross borders, challenges and fields such as agriculture and investment, community/social and political dynamics.

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO Board consider and discuss how best the FWJO can support the ongoing security of water in the Lower Darling River and ensure the benefits flow through for critical human need and farming requirements and advise accordingly.

BACKGROUND

The Murray–Darling Basin has been in drought for some time. Drought is a significant issue for the Basin and continues to impact its environment, industries and communities. The primary issue right now would seem to be to ensure that any embargo on draw-off for irrigation in the Darling remains in place to ensure that flows down the Darling are maximised as a primary factor which will make the biggest difference to critical human need and farming requirements. These restrictions are designed to ensure that critical town, domestic and stock and refuge pools can be replenished as well as ideally connecting river systems for the first time for many years. The recent significant rainfall and floods in Northern NSW and Queensland are a welcome relief after many, many months of drought conditions and hardship for communities and farmers.

REPORT DETAIL

Water NSW operations update reports that 230GL to 285GL will reach Lake Menindee over the coming weeks and months, ending a long period of no inflows. It is projected that two seasons of water will result out of the inflows currently delivered and should be enough to restart the Lower Darling and keep it running for the next 12 months (Andrew Reynolds, MDBA Executive Director).

However, no-one is saying that the drought is actually over. Approximately 150 fish have been moved from the Menindee Weir Pool into the water near Weir 32 where aerators will help to keep the fish alive.

A meeting is being held by the Lower Darling Critical Water Advisory Panel on Friday 13, from Wentworth Shire, Cr Susan Nichols, Cr Jane MacAllister, Geoff Gunn, Director Roads and Engineering have been invited to attend along with myself from the FWJO. A copy of the agenda is attached for reference together with outcomes from the February Panel meeting.

On Wednesday 18 March I will be attending a newly established Far West Drought Task Force Meeting in Broken Hill initiated by the Far West Regional Leadership Executive Group led by DPIE. I will update the Board further following those meetings.

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CONCLUSION

That the Board assess and discuss all of the up to date information and advise the CEO accordingly.

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The Barwon-Darling and Lower Darling Critical Water Advisory Panel held its fifth meeting on 19 February 2019.

The Barwon-Darling and Lower Darling Critical Water Advisory Panel was established in response to extended dry conditions in this river system. Further information on the function and membership of critical water advisory panels can be found in the Fact Sheet.

https://w .industry.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf_file/0013/203125/critical- ater-advisory-panels-fact-sheet.pdfw

A summary of the meeting outcomes is provided below.

Drought situation update

- Minimal inflows to the northern systems and to the Barwon-Darling and Lower Darling Rivers
- Bourke has about 6 weeks supply remaining in its weir pool and work is underway to install an
 emergency bore
- Release of Commonwealth and NSW environmental water in the northern valleys to the Barwon-Darling is being considered by governments with regard to timing and water quality impacts
- Walgett and Wilcannia have approval for weir upgrades but this work will not assist the current drought situation. Bore water is available in these towns.
- Copi Hollow has sufficient supply for Broken Hill until late April, and the pipeline from the Murray should be on line by early April
- 18 GL remains in Lake Wetherell and this can be used to top up supply to Menindee, however, Lake Wetherell will be dry by September
- · Releases have ceased over Weir 32 on the Lower Darling
- Water in the pools behind the block banks below Menindee Lakes should last for 6 months, although quality is poor.

The key issue will be managing the next inflows, as water quality issues (particularly high salt levels) are likely to be significant if inflows are low. Agencies are working closely together on the processes for managing delivery of water and ameliorating water quality impacts as much as possible.

The community drought meetings

To ensure that there is greater understanding of local issues to inform the Critical Water Advisory Panel, the Department of Industry and WaterNSW held a series of public meetings with communities in critical drought affected river systems between 6 and 14 February 2019. Copies of the presentations and a report on the key issues raised at the meetings are available from the Department of Industry website *Information sessions:* drought outlook and water availability at https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/update/information-sessions.

The key issues raised and corresponding actions for the Department of Industry and WaterNSW from the Walgett and Pooncarie community meetings are:

- Local Government to be represented on the Panels this has been initiated with Local Councils
 represented through the Joint Organisation of Councils. Representatives attended this panel meeting
- provide dedicated support for local Councils at risk James McTavish has been appointed by the NSW Government as the Regional Water Supply Coordinator to work directly with Councils on their water supply and water quality issues.
- provide further information on the drought and the impacts on water supplies through a range of media.

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 work with Office of Environment and Heritage to provide more information on the purpose and timing of environmental releases

- assess the impact of the drought on groundwater, including recharge, and come back to further community meetings in April/May with this information
- · ensure further community consultation occurs on floodplain harvesting policy and its implementation
- provide information on the purpose of the temporary water restrictions applied in some of the river systems, such as the Lower Darling (this information is available from the Department of Industry -Water website at https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/temporary-waterrestrictions
- work with NSW Health to ensure information is provided on the water quality monitoring results for Walgett's groundwater supply, but also provide information to the public more widely on the impacts of artesian water with higher sodium levels on town water supplies and community health.
- protect future flows into the Barwon-Darling and Lower Darling for critical human and environmental needs and water quality.

An action plan is to be developed to ensure that the issues raised are progressed.

Water carting for domestic supplies

The NSW Government provides assistance to Councils for emergency water caring of domestic water for towns and villages. The Government is also providing financial assistance to the local councils to cart water for rural residents that are normally supplied from regulated rivers provided if they do not have access to alternative supplies. However some landholders do not have sufficient tank capacity to store the carted water. The Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator will work with Lower Darling Councils to assess the extent of the problem and options.

There also needs to be a standard process for advising those receiving carted water that the water may no longer be classified as potable if approved water carting trucks are not used. The water's potability may also be impacted by the landholder's storage. The Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator will work with Councils and NSW Health on appropriate advice for the recipients of carted water.

Water for firefighting purposes

Some Councils are concerned that they may not have sufficient water for firefighting purposes. The Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator is addressing this with the NSW Rural Fire Service and through the Far West Regional Emergency Management Committee.

Assistance for those with medical conditions

The NSW Government is working with Walgett Shire Council to ensure that all residents have access to a safe and reliable water supply, and the provision of information and advice to the community.

Alerts for systems impacted by blue-green algae

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the health risks of contact with blue-green algae are not widely understood, particularly by recreational water users. It is not possible to sign-post whole stretches of rivers that are impacted by blue-green algae. Algal alerts are issued on WaterNSW's websites but a broader community campaign will be explored to explain that water affected by blue-green algae should not be used for recreational purposes. Agencies to work on linking of information and a broader campaign.

Restrictions on next system inflows

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The application of restrictions (embargoes) for the next system inflows depends on the size and timing of the inflow event. While first flush protection rules are being developed as part of the Barwon-Darling water sharing plan, in the interim, the Panel will convene at short notice if rainfall occurs or is forecast and an inflow event is possible.

Criteria for allocating water between high priority needs

The Department of Industry is developing a framework that can assist the Critical Water Advisory Panel assess water supply options and priorities if conditions continue to deteriorate. A key focus is identifying the critical survival needs for towns, industry and the environment. The broad considerations that will be taken into account when allocating water when river systems are at critically low levels include:

- Priorities under the Water Management Act 2000, including meeting critical human water needs.
- Connectivity with other river valleys
- · Ability to deliver water without incurring excessive losses
- · Equity of access between groups of similar priority users.

Water quality issues

The Extreme Events Policy released in October 2018 provides for Critical Water Advisory Panels to be established for both critical drought situations and for extreme water quality events. It was agreed that the existing Panels would need to consider both issues given the interconnection between water flows and water quality. Further consideration will be given to a broader approach for water quality management across the state.

Agencies Present

Department of Industry - Water

WaterNSW

NSW EPA

DPI Agriculture

DPI Fisheries

Rural Assistance Authority

Office of Environment and Heritage

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Local Land Services

Far South West Joint Organisation of Councils

Far North West Organisation of Councils

Next Meeting

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The next Panel meeting is likely to be convened in April / May 2019, coinciding with further community engagement. If conditions change, an earlier meeting may be arranged at short notice.

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8.4 COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

File Number: NA

Raised by: Terry Litchfield, Infocouncil Support

Attachments: 1. Draft Communications and Engagement Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Communications and Engagement Plan has been drafted and is provided for review.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board recommend that the Communications and Engagement Plan be adopted.

REPORT DETAIL

At its meeting on 27 August 2018, the Board resolved "that the matter of developing a Communications and Engagement Plan be deferred until such time as an Executive Officer is appointed".

A Communications and Engagement Plan has been drafted and is attached for review. The Board is requested to adopt the document.

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DRAFT

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

DRAFT

Introduction

Joint Organisations are local government entities with legal powers established by proclamation designed to bring regional and rural councils together for better regional outcomes.

The proclamation of the Far West Joint Organisation (FWJO) as a corporate entity within the NSW Local Government Act 1993, was formally announced on 4 July 2018.

The FWJO Membership consists of the following four member councils and covers an area of 101,381 square kilometres and a population of 28,953 people:

FWJO Member Councils









The operation and priorities of each Joint Organisation are determined by a Joint Organisation Board, which comprises voting and non-voting representatives.

The voting members of a Joint Organisation are representatives of member councils. A NSW government employee nominated by the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet also sits on each Board as a non-voting representative.

Each Board elects one of the member councils as the Chairperson. An Executive Officer supports the Board, performing the same role in a Joint Organisations that a General Manager performs in a council. This includes conducting the day to day management of the Joint Organisation in accordance with the regional priorities and other programs, strategies and policies of the organisation.

Joint Organisations will elevate the shared priorities and policies to perform three principle functions in their region:

- 1. Strategic Planning
- 2. Leadership and Advocacy
- 3. Intergovernmental Collaboration

This plan includes the key messages about the role of the FWJO and its commitment to achieving strategic regional priorities. It is to demonstrate how the FWJO can communicate with the community, stakeholders and its member councils.

About the Far West Region

The Far West region covers an area of over 100,000 km² classified entirely as Remote and Very Remote Australia. Central Darling Shire in the largest council by land area but has the lowest population ratio for the State.

The Far West region contributes over A\$2 billion to the NSW economy in gross value added, with 23% from mining and a further 18% from agribusiness. The Far West's population approaching 30,000 is largely employed in agriculture and services.

With over 30% of NSW territory, the Far West is the largest JO geographically. Irrigated farming is rapidly diversifying agribusiness and food manufacturing, supported by key water security projects. The region is strategically placed at the crossroads of Australia's largest state economies of NSW, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

While mining and agribusiness are the largest contributors to Regional Economic Output, renewable energy, particularly solar and wind, is already rapidly developing. Tourism visitor numbers have increased 4.0% annually since 2009-10, with expenditure increasing 9.8% annually in the same period to A\$369 million in 2016-17 (refer <u>Destination NSW</u>). Tourism growth is supported by the region's natural heritage, national parks and rich Aboriginal culture and artefacts. The Far West has the highest Aboriginal population per capita in NSW giving the region a unique cultural and historical identity.

(source: www.investregional.nsw.gov.au/regions/far-west)

Member Council	Population	Land Area (sq.km)	ATSI Population (AS%)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Avg. Household Income (\$)
Balranald	2,340	21,700	7%	5.30%	\$710
Broken Hill	17,734	170	8.50%	6.20%	\$830
Central Darling	1,837	53,511	39,60%	11.20%	\$554
Wentworth	7,042	26,000	9.60%	6.10%	\$692
JO Average / Total	28,953	101,381	11%	6%	\$769

(source: Australian Bureau Statistics www.abs.gov.au)

Strategic Alignment

The communication and engagement plan supports the objectives in our Statement of Regional Priorities 2019-2022. Good communication will help us achieve our vision and show how we abide by our principles.

Vision

The FWJO is founded on a strong connection to our people and places, enabling vibrant regional futures through collaborative and effective leadership.

Principles

- To work collaboratively
- To have respect for all member councils and have good governance frameworks
- To think regionally and focus on strategic visions for the region whilst supporting the sustainability of individual communities and council areas
- To work with other key partners eg state, federal and community
- To make informed decisions based on sound risk and financial assessment
- To apply sound project methodology to managing large projects for the region, ensuring capability to deliver on time and in budget

Communication and Engagement Objectives

The objectives of this communication and engagement plan are to:

- Develop an ongoing communications program to keep stakeholders and public informed about the FWJO operations and activities
- 2. Increase stakeholder and public awareness and understanding of the FWJO
- 3. Increase stakeholder participation in FWJO planning and activities

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 Build the FWJO reputation and identity through consistent messaging and an engaging visual presence

Achieving Our Objectives

In order to achieve our communication and engagement objectives, we will follow a number of guiding principles and will adopt an approach that is flexible and adaptive to the evolving FWJO planning and priority setting processes.

Conduct Communications and engagement in an inclusive, open and transparent way Conduct communications and engagement in an inclusive, open and transparent way Ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement by communicating and engaging early and in a timely and consistent manner Ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement by communicating and engagement throughout the engagement processes Build trust consistently throughout the engagement activities, having regard to FWJO's limited staffing and financial resources

Our Approach

In the implementation of the Communications and Engagement Plan we will endeavour to:

- Build effectively on initial communication and engagement efforts carried out by FWJO to date
- Develop clear and consistent messaging to all stakeholders about the vision and role of FWJO
- Recognise that there are various types of audiences interested in the NSW Government's Joint Organisations legislation, structure and charter
- Place emphasis on in-person engagement at an early stage to establish strategic relationships, and then move to online engagement as appropriate
- Provide opportunities for sharing information with, and soliciting feedback from, member councils and other stakeholders

Stakeholders

We are responsible for engaging with a wide range of stakeholders who have interests in developing or participating in both the core and non-core functions and activities of the joint organisation. The Communication and Engagement strategy recognises the diverse interests of these stakeholders, which include:

- The FWJO Mayors, Councillors and Officers
- Communities, businesses and residents within the member councils' areas
- The NSW Government, in particular the Premier, Deputy Premier, Minister for Local Government, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Office of Local Government
- Other State Government Agencies and Departmental Secretaries, Directors and Regional Managers, in particular those agencies involved in the Regional Leadership Executive.
- Various Federal Government Agencies, particularly in relation to Infrastructure, Regional Development, Water, Health, Education and Tourism

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- Destination New South Wales and Murray Region Tourism and other tourism organisations
- Regional Development Australia
- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW)
- Other NSW Joint Organisations and their member councils and communities
- Cross border (Victoria) Councils and Regional Groups of Councils
- · All forms of media, online, newspaper, TV and radio
- Others as appropriate from time to time

Communication and Engagement Program

The FWJO will engage with all stakeholders in a meaningful and transparent two-way communication process using effective and targeted communication, including media liaison, to enhance the awareness of the role and functions of the FWJO.

The FWJO will collaborate effectively with all stakeholders to ensure that its strategic priorities align closely with those of Government Agencies and that the priorities meet community needs and expectations

The FWJO will develop promotional materials and messaging to inform and educate audience members, tailoring materials as required, and using a variety of ways to reach out to stakeholders and the public.

Information will be available on the FWJO website (www.fwjo.nsw.gov.au) and other appropriate social media platforms. Information will also be distributed electronically via email and at various meetings and events.

Media Liaison

The FWJO Chairperson will under normal circumstances be the designated media spokesperson, or this function may be delegated as required from time to time to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer will have responsibility for preparing Media Releases, managing media enquiries and monitoring media coverage of FWJO's activities.

Key Messages

FWJO will develop clear and consistent messaging, which will support development of the promotional materials and be used by the Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer and members when engaging with stakeholders.

Key Activities

The key communication and engagement activities are outlined in Annexure A: Stakeholder Communication tools and include:

Meetings

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FWJO will also target other individual audiences as appropriate. These will be strategically scheduled in conjunction with Federal and State Agencies, or at other times to encourage public participation

Given the area covered by the FWJO and the location of key local and state government stakeholders, scheduled meetings will be offered with the option to video conference to maximise stakeholder participation

Online Engagement

FWJO will engage online where relationships with stakeholders are firmly established. Contact information will always be provided and FWJO will encourage feedback from external sources and the general public;

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Website

The FWJO website will aim to be informative, easy to follow, user friendly and will encourage feedback from stakeholders and the public.

The website will provide an avenue for stakeholders and public review and comment in relation to all draft policy and planning documents.

The website will be continually updated and regularly reviewed to ensure that that it is effectively targeting and addressing the needs of key audiences.

Social Media

FWJO will develop a social media strategy, targeting specific audiences and which will identify the types of information that needs to be shared via social media platforms.

Accountability and Transparency

The Chief Executive Officer will be the responsible for the effectiveness and implementation of the Communication and Engagement Plan and will arrange for the Plan to be reviewed and updated to ensure that the guiding principles are adhered to and that the goals and objectives of the Plan set out in Section 2 and the key activities set out in Section 5 are achieved.

Annexure A: Stakeholder Communication Tools

Internal Communication					
Medium	Source	Details	Schedule	Target Audience	
Meetings	FWJO Board	Committee Recommendations; Status Reports; Strategies; Issues; Budget;	Quarterly	FWJO Mayors; Deputy Mayors; General Managers; OLG & DPC Representatives	
	FWJO General Managers Advisory Committee	Committee Recommendations; Status Reports; Strategies; Issues; Budget;	Bi-Monthly / As required	FWJO General Managers	
	Engineering & Transport Committee Tourism Projects Committee	To inform, share ideas, make recommendations to Board on policy To implement tourism projects in the FWJO region, inform, share ideas and make recommendations to the Board	Bi-Monthly / As required Bi-Monthly / As required	FWJO member council Engineering & Transport representatives FWJO Mayors and General Managers	
Email	In Person Correspondence with JO Board and General Managers	Collaboration, partnership and strategies Formal and informal emails to JO Board Members and General Managers relevant to JO Business	As Required As Required	FWJO General Managers FWJO Board and General Managers	
External Communication					
Medium	Source	Details	Schedule	Target Audience	
Meetings	NSW JO Chairs In Person	Strategies; Issues; Budget; To inform, share ideas, determine opportunities for collaboration and partnership	Quarterly As required	NSW JO Chairs; OLG representatives Local, State & Federal representatives	
	In Person	To inform, share ideas, determine opportunities for collaboration and partnership	As required	Regional non-government organisations and businesses	
Email	Correspondence	Formal and informal emails to relevant stakeholders relating to FWJO business	As required	Local, State and Federal Government representatives; other key stakeholders	
Online	FWJO Website	Information relating to FWJO strategies, projects, meetings, events and other business	Daily	Everyone	
Social Media	Facebook	Information and stories relating to FWJO and member councils	As required	Local and regional	
Newspaper/Radio/Television	Media Releases	Information and stories relating to FWJO	As required	Local and regional	

8.5 FWJO REGIONAL WASTE STRATEGY

File Number: NA

Raised by: Mark Forbes, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Across Australia, councils are striving to deliver safe, affordable waste services whilst dealing with the challenge of growing populations, increasing waste generation per household, and evolving recycling and EPA expectations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board support the request for proposal and quote from NSW Public Works to deliver phases 1 and 2 as outlined in the report

BACKGROUND

Across Australia, councils are striving to deliver safe, affordable waste services whilst dealing with the challenge of growing populations, increasing waste generation per household, and evolving recycling and EPA expectations.

The FWJO has funds for the procurement of a business case and project management services from NSW Public Works. The FWJO believes it would be valuable to produce a business case and strategy for Waste Management, Recycling, Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements, including the collaborative management of shared resources and assets across the Far West JO Region

REPORT DETAIL

The process would be delivered in two phases:

1. Carry out a Regional Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Needs Assessment:

The purpose of this phase is to assess the various types, locations, availability and planned development of waste and resource recovery facilities throughout the region and to make recommendations for infrastructure required to meet future regional waste management needs.

The report would also provide a framework for understanding waste and resource recovery infrastructure, including an explanation of the facilities already established, the technologies they employ and the history of infrastructure development in the region.

2. Formulate a Regional Waste Strategy:

This would deliver a planned and collaborative approach to waste management intended to improve cost efficiencies, better support our communities and economy and improve resource recovery in line with State Government targets. Waste Management, like water and electricity, is a

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critical service, one delivered almost solely by local government in collaboration with the private sector, it is costly, resource intensive and critical.

The FWJO Regional Waste Strategy Vision is for a region wide, collaborative approach to the challenges and opportunities which are presenting, and strategically managing those for a cleaner, safer, and future focused delivery of waste management within our region.

The Strategy should:

- Promote waste avoidance
- Increase recycling
- Divert more waste from landfill
- Reduce litter
- Tackle illegal dumping
- Manage problem wastes better
- Improve regional governance, collaboration and asset management
- Reduce the costs associated with managing these processes by each individual council.

Legal, Strategic, Financial or Policy Implications

The Public Works funds that were allocated to the FWJO are intended for the procurement of a business case and project management services from NSW Public Works. This proposal is fully inkeeping with that intention. This project will provide an evidence base that can be used to secure future funding for Public Works, which are directly linked to a long-term Regional Waste Strategy.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Board support the request for proposal and quote from NSW Public Works to deliver phases 1 and 2 as outlined in this report.

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8.6 SUSTAINABILITY OF JOINT ORGANSIATIONS DRAFT MOTION

File Number: NA

Raised by: Terry Litchfield, Infocouncil Support

Attachments: 1. Draft Motion - Financial Sustainability of JOs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on 24 January 2020, the Board agreed that a motion be drafted for continued funding for the FWJO by the State Government to ensure the sustainability of the Joint Organisations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the draft motion and authorise its submission to the ALGA and LGA Conferences

REPORT DETAIL

At its meeting on 24 January 2020, the Board agreed that a motion be drafted for continued funding for the FWJO by the State Government to ensure the sustainability of the Joint Organisations.

The Board is requested to review the attached draft motion and approve its submission to the ALGA and LGA Conferences.

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Stronger Together

Wentworth Shire / Broken Hill City / Central Darling Shire / Balranald Shire

13 March 2020.

Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2020 Lovedale, NSW

Subject: Draft Notice of Motion - Funding and Structure of the Far West Joint Organisation

A Joint Organisation Advisory Task Force Committee was formed out the Joint Organisation Chairs Network who meet each quarter in Parliament, Sydney to progress the security and sustainability of Joint Organisations in NSW.

One of their key tasks was to design an Agreed Definition of Financial Sustainability and send a report to the Minister of Local Government – The Hon Shelly Hancock

The Agreed Definition of Financial Sustainability

A definition of financial sustainability was agreed by all Joint Organisations and has been endorsed.

'A Joint Organisation will be financial sustainable over the long term when it is able to generate sufficient funds and deliver on the Strategic Regional Priorities agreed with its members and stakeholders.'

The Committee Further Requested:

THAT, the Minister endorses the next steps for the Committee:

- To consult with Joint Organisations on the potential revenue streams.
- To review expenses streams of Joint Organisations.
- To seek, collate and analyse procurement models.
- To consult with Joint Organisations on the potential for cross regional and boundary collaboration.
- Draft the toolkit for financial sustainability.

Joint Organisations provide a significant opportunity for a new way of delivering collaborative outcomes between NSW State Government and LGA's, it is an exciting time, with many possibilities for adding value at a local and regional level. Joint Organisations also act as a portal for relaying important State Government information and opportunities at a local level, as well as communicating important local and regional goals, aspirations and information at a State level.

However, Joint Organisations must be either funded or able to self-fund sufficiently to enable them to add value and also provide the surety and confidence to their partners, that with careful management of the Joint Organisation business, they will remain solvent and sustainable in the long run. That result will require an ongoing evolution of how a Joint Organisations function under that LG Act to allow them to generate the revenue that will support their ongoing sustainability.

Joint Organisations are not Councils, even though they are structured under the Act as one. Joint Organisations do not have the resources that councils have to manage, but still have the high levels of compliance required under the LG Act. Joint Organisations do not have the revenue/rate base that supports them as a Council does, in fact Joint Organisations are often just one person (the EO / CEO). Joint Organisations are not Regional Organisations Council's either. They are, and, have to operate as a different business model, otherwise there would be no point in establishing them in the first place.

This Motion:

Is to state that any structural and operational changes that are required, whether as an amendment to the LG Act or otherwise, should be enabled so that Joint Organisations in general and the Far West Joint Organisation can be funded or able to self-fund sufficiently to enable them to continue to add value and provide the level of surety and confidence to their partners.

6 Midway Dr, Buronga, NSW 2738 Australia / 0400 - 655 441 / fwjo.nsw.gov.au



8.7 REGIONAL (FAR WEST) RISING

File Number: NA

Raised by: Terry Litchfield, Infocouncil Support

Attachments: Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chief Executive Officer attended a meeting with representatives from Regional Rising on 11 March 2020. The organisation would like an opportunity to make presentation to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board direct the Chief Executive Office to make arrangements with representatives from Regional Rising to meet with Board members at a future time to make presentation concerning their product and services and proposals for collaboration.

BACKGROUND

Regional (Far West) Rising launched in 2017 as a social enterprise operating out of Swan Hill, Victoria, and has now renamed the entity to Regional Rising.

The business began by delivering workshops and providing a co-working hub in its first year of operation and is looking to ensure future activities align with the needs of regional communities, particularly in the digital innovation and education space.

Regional Rising's key objectives are to:

- 1. Drive new and innovative business creation.
- 2. Position a regional innovation hub that promotes lifelong STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths) learning;
- 3. Inspire young people to stay or return to the region; and
- 4. Attract professionals and businesses to the region.

REPORT DETAIL

The Chief Executive Officer attended a meeting with representatives from Regional Rising on 11 March 2020. The organisation would like an opportunity to make presentation to the Board to introduce their organisation and in particular to discuss:

- Potentially formulating an agreement with FWJO, with a view to formalise a pilot program and conduct further activities (workshops, programs, webinars, provision of consulting services to the board)
- Collaborate on other initiatives with the FWJO such as;
 - A multi-day STEAM event connecting and engaging secondary school students with local industry partners to perform problem-solving activities in teams which we believe is an excellent tool to strengthen pathways into local industry.

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- Establishing a Code Club culture teaching young people computer language skills that are increasingly required by local industry (with the rapid advancements in AgTech as one prime, relevant example).
- Supporting businesses to apply and integrate technologies to enhance the capability and growth, (per: FWJO Regional Strategic Priorities 2019-2022). The tourism sector, for instance, could benefit from a better understanding of drones, 360 degree video/images and basic video editing skills to become better storytellers - dramatically influencing visitation to the region.
- Develop a framework to replicate the Regional (Far West) Rising model, and leverage 3
 years of experience operating a profitable rural coworking space, to develop and launch a
 'Far West Rising' to provide an entrepreneurial space and capacity-building resource for
 businesses in your region.
- Leveraging relationships with organisations such as News Corp, Amazon, Microsoft, IBM and other major technology companies to provide our region with a competitive advantage.

Regional (Far West) Rising is backed by nearly 50 years of combined working experience for globally listed entities. They have an international view of technology, industry, education, marketing, events, co-working and a range of key business skills which are now being applied to great effect across the regional, rural and remote parts of the country.

They are regional people with a focus on improving outcomes in regional communities. Their product and service offering is substantive, backed by people with deep expertise in technology and its practical applications within business, both internationally and in regional Australia.

It is the understanding of the FWJO – CEO that this organisation is already working with three of our four member councils, this proposal is a natural extension of that arrangement.

The Board is requested to determine whether they would like representatives from Regional Rising to make presentation at a future time, being at the FWJO Board Meeting on August 28 at Balranald Shire Council, and to make direction to the CEO accordingly.

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8.8 FAR WEST NSW EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARDS

File Number: NA

Raised by: Terry Litchfield, Infocouncil Support

Attachments: 1. Invitation - Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A sponsorship invitation has been received for the 2020 Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards. The Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards is open to all eligible businesses and organisations in the Far West region including Broken Hill, Central Darling Shire and the Unincorporated Areas of the Far West NSW region.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board agree to provide sponsorship of the Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards, at the identified level

BACKGROUND

In 2019 Regional Development Australia Far West celebrated its 6th year of the Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards event, recognising the outstanding achievements of apprentices, trainees, school based trainees, employees and the many successful businesses, new, small, medium to large organisations who achieved the honour of being a finalist and/or winner of one of the 15 categories.

The Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards is open to all eligible businesses and organisations in the Far West region including Broken Hill, Central Darling Shire and the Unincorporated Areas of the Far West NSW region.

These awards provide an opportunity to support and foster business excellence whilst receiving significant recognition for Sponsors valuable support to the region

REPORT DETAIL

FWJO have received an invitation to be a sponsor for the 2020 Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards. A copy of the invitation is attached.

This is seen as an opportunity to raise the profile of the FWJO in the region and to provide support to the development of local business.

There are a number of awards categories and sponsorship rates and benefits are provided below:

Zinc Sponsorship – Value \$2,400

- Brand recognition on all 2020 award electronic correspondence
- Business display banner at the Awards
- Business logo displayed at the awards throughout the evening on the sponsors loop
- Business logo displayed on all Social Media posts
- Business logo displayed on the gala night presentation program
- Business logo displayed on drinks menu

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- Brand logo recognition on email advertising signature tag
- 1 complimentary ticket to the gala awards evening

<u>Silver Sponsorship – Value \$3,800</u>

- Presentation to the winner in the award category you have sponsored
- Brand recognition on award/category winner you have sponsored
- Brand recognition on certificates/category you have sponsored
- Brand recognition on the nomination and entry forms (People's Choice awards)
- Acknowledgement by MC during proceedings
- Brand recognition on the gala night program
- Business display banner at the Awards
- Business logo displayed at the gala night throughout the evening on the sponsors loop
- 2 Complimentary tickets to the gala awards evening
- Brand recognition on radio advertising
- Brand on the front page of the Far West Business Awards website with a direct link back to your website
- Brand recognition included on all:
 - o TV
 - o Social Media
 - Advertising
 - o Print

As a representative or its member Councils, the FWJO supports economic growth and job creation and investment in the region, therefore it considers sponsorship of the Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards is in alignment with its regional priorities and therefore should be supported by the Board. The Board is therefore requested to direct the Chief Executive Officer to proceed with its identified level of sponsorship.

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2020 FAR WEST NSW EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARDS



ABOUT THE AWARDS

In 2019 Regional Development Australia Far West celebrated its 6th year of the Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards event, recognising the outstanding achievements of apprentices, trainees, school based trainees, employees and the many successful businesses, new, small, medium to large organisations who achieved the honor of being a finalist and/or winner of one of the 15 categories.

The Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards is open to all eligible businesses and organisations in the Far West region including Broken Hill, Central Darling Shire and the Unincorporated Areas of the Far West NSW region.

These awards provide an opportunity to support and foster business excellence whilst receiving significant recognition for Sponsors valuable support to the region.

Regional Development Australia Far West NSW 353 Blende Street, Broken Hill, NSW, 2880 Phone: 08 8087 8383 Fax: 08 8087 8413

Email: admin@rdafarwestnsw.org.au





AWARDS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Why sponsor the Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards?

SPONSORS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FAR WEST NSW EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARDS

Your involvement with the Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards provides your organisation with a unique opportunity to profile your company and its commitment to the business community of the Far West NSW.

You can play a key role in this event by becoming involved, and in turn benefitting from the outstanding promotional and commercial opportunities presented to your company.

Supporting the Awards and or part of our program is just the beginning of the long list of valuable marketing opportunities sponsors receive. Organisations gain great exposure to a diverse audience through the Award's extensive promotional campaign.

These Awards provide an opportunity to support and foster business excellence whilst receiving significant recognition for your valuable support the region.

Becoming a sponsor provides significant opportunities through;

- Heightened brand awareness among industry stakeholders
- Recognition as an industry leader
- Recognition as a supportor of the Far West Excellence in Business Awards
- ❖ Access to a wide ranging audience at the event and across the Far West region
- ❖ An opportunity to support local business development



2020 FAR WEST EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARDS INCLUDES:

PRESENTATION OF THE "THE OUTBACK SPIRIT AWARD" OVERALL WINNER

Awarded to the overall winner "The Best of the Best" of the Far West Excellence in Business Awards and selected from one of the category winners





CHOOSE A CATEGORY

Choose a Category

- Employee of the Year
- Apprentice of the Year
- School Based Trainee of the Year
- Trainee of the Year
- Best New Business of the Year (less than 2 years)
- Best Small Business of the Year (with 20 or less employees)
- Best Medium to Large Business of the Year (more than 20 employees)
- Excellence in Presentation and Marketing
- Excellence in Products and Supply
- Excellence in Customer Service
- Excellence in Tourism, Hospitality & Events
- Excellence in Professional Services

The People's Choice - Public voted Categories

- My Favourite Business
- Community Group/Organisation/Association
- Customer Service



SILVER SPONSORS

As a Silver Sponsor you have the opportunity to select and sponsor one of the award categories you will receive the benefits listed below..

Silver Sponsorship includes:

- Presentation to the winner in the award category you have sponsored
- Brand recognition on award/category winner you have sponsored
- Brand recognition on certificates/category you have sponsored
- Brand recognition on the nomination and entry forms (People's Choice awards)
- Acknowledgement by MC during proceedings
- Brand recognition on the gala night program
- Business display banner at the Awards
- Business logo displayed at the gala night throughout the evening on the sponsors loop
- 2 Complimentary tickets to the gala awards evening
- Brand recognition on radio advertising
- Brand on the front page of the Far West Business Awards website with a direct link back to your website
- Brand recognition included on all:
 - TV
 - Social Media
 - Advertising
 - Print



ZINC SPONSORS

Zinc are general sponsors of the Business Awards and will receive the benefits below.

Zinc Sponsorship Benefits

- Brand recognition on all 2020 award electronic correspondence
- Business display banner at the Awards
- Business logo displayed at the awards throughout the evening on the sponsors loop
- Business logo displayed on all Social Media posts
- Business logo displayed on the gala night presentation program
- Business logo displayed on drinks menu
- Brand logo recognition on email advertising signature tag
- 1 complimentary ticket to the gala awards evening



Sponsorship Agreement - Please tick

LEVEL OF	COST INCLUDING GST	PLEASE TICK
INVESTMENT		
SILVER SPONSOR	\$3800.00	
ZINC SPONSOR	\$2400.00	

Your Business Details

Business Name:						
	 	=	 			$\overline{}$

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Business Representative:

Email: ______

Signature:

Date:

Note: By signing this agreement you commit to having read and understood the Conditions of Sponsorship.

* Tax Invoices will be issued - Silver Sponsors please tick your award category.

AWARDS CATEGORIES	PLEASE
	TICK
OUTBACK SPIRIT AWARD –	
OVERALL WINNER	
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR	
APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR	
SCHOOL BASED TRAINEE OF THE YEAR	
TRAINEE OF THE YEAR	
BEST NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (LESS	
THAN 2 YEARS)	
BEST SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (WITH	
20 OR LESS EMPLOYEES)	
BEST MEDIUM TO LARGE BUSINESS OF THE	
YEAR (MORE THAN 20 EMPLOYEES)	
EXCELLENCE IN PRESENTATION AND	
MARKETING	
EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE	
EXCELLENCE IN TOURISM, HOSPITALITY &	
EVENTS	
EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
THE PEOPLES CHOICE – CATEGORIES	
MY FAVOURITE BUSINESS	
COMMUNITY	
GROUP/ORGANISATION/ASSOCIATION	
CUSTOMER SERVICE	



Conditions of Sponsorship

THE AGREEMENT

The full term of this agreement is from 01 June 2020 until 30 January 2021.

Regional Development Australia Far West will provide each sponsor with the benefits described for each level of sponsorship as outlined in this Prospectus.

Regional Development Australia Far West will issue a Tax Invoice to the sponsor for the amount due under this agreement.

All parties acknowledge that RDA Far West maintain all intellectual property rights for the Far West Excellence In Business Awards, including but not limited to: materials produced, copyright, registered designs and trademarks.

The parties acknowledge that all logos associated with the awards must not be used without the prior written consent of that party.

All parties acknowledge that RDA Far West will use logos for promotion and marketing of the awards, as described in the table of benefits as outlined in this Prospectus.

Either party may terminate this agreement;

- If the other party breaches the terms of this agreement and fails to remedy the breach within 14 days after receiving written notice.
- If the other party has a receiver appointed, or resolves to dissolve, or an application is made to the court for an order for that party to be dissolved.
- Should this agreement be terminated for any reason, the sponsor shall pay the cost price of the benefits that have been delivered up until the agreement termination date, as determined by RDA Far West

If a dispute arises between the parties, they agree, prior to commencement of any litigation to use reasonable efforts to settle the dispute by discussion between their senior representatives.

All company logo banners to be supplied as free standing roll up portable banner only.



2020 FAR WEST NSW EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARDS

CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN THE FAR WEST



9 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nil

10 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RECOMMENDATION

That Board considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

11.1 Regional Transport Strategy RFQ

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c, d(i), d(ii) and d(iii) of the Local Government Act, and the Board is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council and information that would, if disclosed, reveal a trade secret.

- 12 OTHER BUSINESS
- 13 NEXT MEETING
- 14 MEETING CLOSE