



BOARD MEETING

25TH FEBRUARY 2021

Minutes

The first Board Meeting of the Far West Joint Organisation (FWJO) of 2021
was held on:

25th February 2021

MEETING:	FWJO Board Meeting #1			
DATE:	Thursday 25 th February 2021			
TIME:	ACDT (Broken Hill): 4:30pm – 6:30pm or AEDT (NSW): 5:00pm – 7:00pm			
LOCATION:	Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/91959287634?pwd=WVAwd0o1L0JZSm4rUHpteTJsN1RuQT09 Meeting ID: 919 5928 7634 Passcode: 103310			
CHAIR:	Cr. Darriea Turley, Mayor Broken Hill City Council			
ATTENDEES:	Council / Agency	Mayor / Board Representative	Deputy Mayor / Organisational Proxy	General Manager
	Balranald Shire Council	Mr. Mike Colreavy	N/A	Mr. Oliver McNulty
	Broken Hill City Council	Cr. Darriea Turley	Cr. Christine Adams	A/g Mr. Jay Nankivell
	Central Darling Shire Council	Mr. Bob Stewart	N/A	Mr. Greg Hill
	Wentworth Shire Council	Cr. Susan Nichols	Cr. Tim Elstone	Mr. Ken Ross
	NSW Government - OLG	Mr. Peter Evans – OLG	N/A	N/A
	NSW Government – Regional NSW	Mr. Ken Harrison – Regional NSW	N/A	N/A
FWJO STAFF:	Ms. Bridgett Leopold – Interim Executive Officer E: bleopold@alburycity.nsw.gov.au M: 0408 498 534			
	Ms. Bridget De La Haye – Interim Executive Support E: BDeLaHaye@alburycity.nsw.gov.au M: 0436 370 772			
GUESTS:	Cr. Kevin Mack, Mayor of Albury City Council and Chair RAMJO Board			



MEETING MINUTES

Item	Topic	Time (ACDT)
1	Welcome & Apologies	4:30pm
2	Acknowledgement of Country	4:31pm
3	Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Conflicts of Interest	4:32pm
4	Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting of 17th December 2020 (Attachment A) Extraordinary Meeting of 27th January 2021 (Attachment B) 	4:33pm
5	Matters Arising from Previous Board Meetings	4:35pm
6	Office of Local Government Mr Peter Evans will provide a verbal update on behalf of OLG	4:40pm
7	Regional NSW Mr Ken Harrison will provide a verbal update on behalf of Regional NSW	4:55pm
8	Administration Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1 - MoU between RAMJO & FWJO 8.2 - Administration of accounts 8.3 - General Manager Advisory Committee (Attachment C) 	5:10pm
9	Governance Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.1 - Reporting requirements 9.2 - Policies 9.3 - Code of Conduct 	5:20pm
10	Finance Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.1 - General Purpose Financial Statements 10.2 - Review, reconciliation and implementation of new framework 10.3 - Budget Review & 2021-2022FY Preparation 10.4 - Ongoing Financial Sustainability 	5:40pm
11	Strategic Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.1 - Work plan for Strategic Projects 11.2 - OLG Capacity Building Project - Destination Management Plan 11.3 - Public Works Advisory - Regional Waste Strategy 11.4 - FWJO Regional Transport Strategy 	6:00pm
12	General Business	6:15pm
	Meeting Close	6:30pm

**MINUTES OF FAR WEST JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
Broken Hill City Council, Administrative Building, 240 Blende Street,
Second Floor Meeting Room
Thursday, 25 February 2021 At 4.30pmCST**

1. OPENING

Chairperson Cr. Darriea Turley welcomed Ms Bridgett Leopold FWJO Interim Executive Officer and guest RAMJO Chairperson Mayor Kevin Mack to the meeting.

PRESENT

Balranald Shire Council

Mr Mike Colreavy (Administrator)
Mr Oliver McNulty (General Manager)

Broken Hill City Council

Chairperson Mayor Darriea Turley AM
Mr Jay Nankivell (Acting General Manager/Chief Financial Officer)
Ms Anne Andrews (Acting Manager City Development and Planning)

Central Darling Shire Council

Mr Bob Stewart (Administrator)
Mr Greg Hill (General Manager)

Office of Local Government

Mr Peter Evans (Council Engagement Manager)

Wentworth Shire Council

Mayor Susan Nichols
Mr Ken Ross (General Manager)

Office of Local Government

Mr Peter Evans (Council Engagement Manager)

Regional NSW

Mr Ken Harrison (Acting Regional Director)

Visitors

Mayor Kevin Mack (RAMJO Chairperson)

Staff

Ms Bridgett Leopold (FWJO Interim Executive Officer)
Ms Bridget De La Haye (FWJO Interim Executive Support)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Deputy Mayor Christine Adams
Deputy Mayor Tim Elstone
Mr Ash Albury – Regional NSW (represented by Mr Ken Harrison)

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mayor Darriea Turley AM acknowledged the traditional owners of the land from which we met including Balranald, Wentworth, Central Darling and Broken Hill and pay our respect to elders past and present.



3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2020

(Attachment A)

RESOLUTION 01/21

Moved: Mr Bob Stewart

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 17 December 2020 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

CARRIED

4.2 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2021

(Attachment B)

RESOLUTION 02/21

Moved: Mr Bob Stewart

Seconded: Cr Susan Nichols

2. That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Board Meeting held on 27 January 2021 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

CARRIED

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS/ACTION LIST REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to ensure FWJO are informed on the status of actions required by previous resolutions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Far West JO Board note the status of matters arising from previous Board meetings.

RESOLUTION 03/21

Moved: Mr Mike Colreavy

Seconded: Cr Sue Nichols

1. That the Action List Report is received and noted.

The action register is currently been updated by the Interim Executive Officer to provide an accurate overview of all outstanding matters and will be available at the next Board Meeting. Various outstanding matters were also discussed below in other agenda items.

CARRIED

ACTION

Item 001 - Interim Executive Officer to provide updated Action List report at next Board meeting.

6. OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr Peter Evans, Council Engagement Manager, provided a verbal update from the Office of Local Government.

- The Office of Local Government are working to amend the Covid-19 Council meeting measures that were legislated in March 2020 (for a 12-month period) to ensure they are



balanced between needs of Councils and practicality (to be completed by 25 March and to be communicated via OLG Circular).

- Central Darling Administrator Mr. Bob Stewart welcomed flexibility to hold online meetings due to safety concerns including travel distance and road hazards at night.
- Balranald Administrator Mr. Mike Colreavy also welcomed ability to utilise online solutions which have been convenient during isolation periods and in emergency situations.
- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) framework review has received critical submissions which the Audit Office has noted. The framework is to be finalised and in place before March 2022 (6 months post general elections).
- Materials for online training and workshops for new Councillors are being developed in collaboration with stakeholders to increase compliance particularly with Code of Conduct measures. In person training will recommence once new Councils have been elected in September 2021.
- The Joint Organisation Review Terms of Reference have been finalised. Financial sustainability and the high cost of compliance will be key to address as will equity across the Joint Organisations where funding streams currently vary across the regions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Far West JO Board note the briefing from the Office of Local Government.

RESOLUTION 04/21

Moved: Mr Bob Stewart

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the update is received and noted.

CARRIED

ACTION

Nil

7. REGIONAL NSW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr Ken Harrison, A/g Regional Director, provided a verbal update from the Department of Regional NSW.

- Mr. Ash Albury is back on Monday 1st March 2021.
- Office of Regional Youth will focus of skills and workforce training, indigenous engagement and tailors deliverables.
- Gary Hopkins has confirmed Regional Executive Leadership membership rules will be relaxed.
- Major programs underway include Regional Jobs Creation fund, Transport and Regional Growth Funding streams including the Stronger Communities programs.
- Large scale adverse events – access is required to access the impacts
- Bob Stewart provided a comment regarding funding criteria and the applicability to regional areas, which should be considered.
- Blue Green algae and addressing drought impacts remains an ongoing focus. Drought is still impacting townships across NSW.



- Several questions seeking clarification of the Job Creation Fund were raised by Board Members, including key criteria assessment and eligibility.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Far West JO Board note the briefing from Regional NSW.

RESOLUTION 05/21

Moved: Cr. Sue Nichols

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the update is received and noted.

CARRIED**ACTION**

Nil

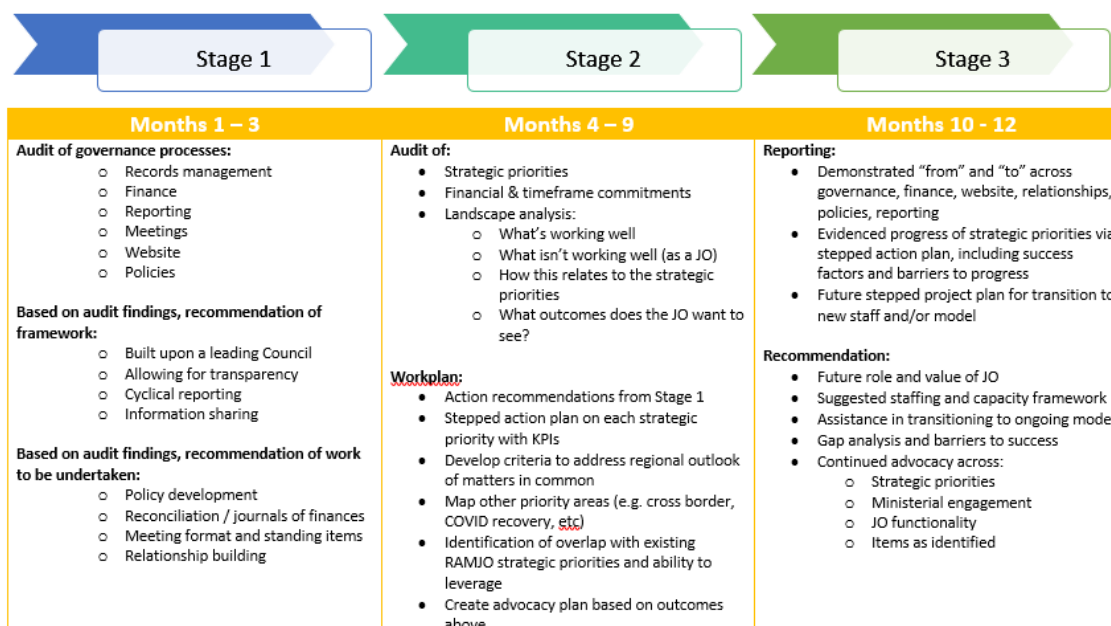
**8. ADMINISTRATION MATTERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****8.1 – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between RAMJO and FWJO**

The MOU between the FWJO and RAMJO was signed following the FWJO Extraordinary Meeting on 27th January 2021. Following this formal agreement, correspondence also approved by the Board was circulated to a list of stakeholders to inform various agencies and Ministers of the arrangement.

In the four (4) weeks following the agreement, progress relating to access to systems and information has been progressing, which will enable to planning and execution of tasks agreed under the MoU.

The original workshop between the two JOs identified Stage 1 being the first 3 months (see image below), and included a focus on governance, the implementation of an internal framework leveraged on Broken Hill City Council and reconciliation of finances. The JO is well on track to meet these expectations.

FWJO & RAMJO Partnership Approach



The resourcing of the work plan for the JO is as follows:

- Executive Officer (2 days per week)
- Office / Finance / IT Manager (2.5 days per week)
- Governance and Administration Support (4 days per week – full time)
- Contractor – Strategic and Advocacy Support (1 day per week)

Please note, the recruitment process for the Governance and Administration Support role is underway, with applications and interviews completed. The successful applicant is due to be appointed the week commencing 22nd February 2021.

- New RAMJO/FWJO Governance appointee to start to Tuesday 2nd March 2021
- Grant funding management transactional line items in Xero are to be confirmed and executed as directed within the grant rules. This forms part of the process of reviewing all records within the FWJO and creating organisational structure.

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO Board note the update relating to the resourcing of the agreed MoU deliverables.

RESOLUTION 06/21

Moved: Mr Bob Stewart

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the update is received and noted.

CARRIED

ACTION

Items 002 - Interim Executive Officer to inform Member Councils of the contact details of the new Governance and Administration Support Officer.



8.2 – Administration of Accounts

A significant number of accounts related to the FWJO have been in hibernation or without administration since September 2020 due to the departure of the previous Executive Officer. An audit of all accounts and systems related to the JO demonstrate disjointed approach to services provided to the JO. A review of the accounts and a recommendation for a more systematic approach to the required services for the JO will be provided at the April Board meeting. The Interim Executive Officer and Executive Support will continue to work with the General Managers Advisory Committee on these operational matters.

- The outsourced financial accounting support has not been paid and will shortly submit their invoice for services which will be paid as soon as possible by FWJO.
- Hard copy records are now in the possession of the FWJO Interim Executive Officer.

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO Board note the update relating to outsourced JO operations.

RESOLUTION 07/21

Moved: Cr Sue Nicholls

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the update is received and noted.

CARRIED

ACTION

Item 003 - FWJO to pay accounting support invoice as soon as possible when received.

Item 004 - The Interim Executive Officer to complete a review of all hard copy documentation and to sort and file as per records management requirements.

8.3 – General Managers' Advisory Committee

General Managers have a weekly meeting with the Interim Executive Officer to steer and guide weekly work outputs and maintain strategic direction. The General Manager's Advisory Committee meets bi-monthly, prior to each JO Board meeting to agree on Board agenda items and review longer-term priorities. This includes the collaboration on critical projects as discussed in Agenda Item 11. The minutes from the General Manager's meeting of 22nd January 2021 can be found at Attachment C.

- Interim Executive Officer Bridgett Leopold thanked the General Managers for their support and commitment to the JO.

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO Board note the minutes of the General Managers' meeting (Attachment C).

RESOLUTION 08/21

Moved: Mr Bob Stewart

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the update is received and noted.

CARRIED



ACTION

Nil.

**9. AGENDA ITEM 9 – GOVERNANCE MATTERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
9.1 – Reporting Requirements

A rapid review of outstanding reporting requirements has identified the following:

- Annual Performance Statement
- Code of Conduct
- PID

Ongoing grant reporting has been undertaken by General Managers over and above their existing roles. The Interim Executive Officer will undertake to complete these requirements in the coming weeks. A draft Annual Performance Statement has also been completed and will be provided for review prior to the Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO Board note the reporting requirements status update.

That the FWJO Board endorse the draft Annual Performance Statement (to be provided prior to the meeting).

RESOLUTION 09/21

Moved: Mr Mike Colreavy

Seconded: Cr Sue Nichols

1. That the Board note the reporting requirement status updates and complete outstanding.
2. Board note the requirement to endorse the Annual Performance Statement and delegate to the chair and deputy chair to sign.

CARRIED
ACTION

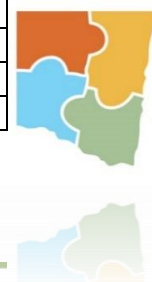
Item 005 - Chair and Deputy Chair to sign the Annual Performance Statement.

Item 006 - Interim Executive Officer to complete the outstanding governance and reporting requirements.

9.2 – Policies and Procedures

In consultation with the FWJO General Managers, a review of the FWJO website and system indicates a need for the creation of several governance policies relating to the organisation. These could include, but are not limited to, the list below:

Name of Document	Status
Charter	Complete
Statement of Regional Strategic Priorities	Complete
Expenses and Facilities Policy	Draft
Communication and Engagement Plan	Complete
Code of Meeting Practice	Complete
Privacy Management Plan	TBC
Revenue Policy / Annual Revenue Statement	TBC
Credit Card Policy	Draft



Other Plans and Policies for Consideration	Status
Office Procedures Guide	Draft
Public Interest Disclosure Policy	TBC
Drug and Alcohol Policy	Draft
Remote Work Operations	TBC
Gifts and Benefits Policy	No
Information Technology Policy	No
Motor Vehicle Policy	No
Records Management Policy	No
Procurement Policy	No
Risk Management Policy	No
Travel Policy	No
Work Health and Safety Policy	No
Vehicle Policy	No

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO Board note the analysis of policies in place and that the development of these policies will be undertaken by the new governance officer upon their appointment, in consultation with the General Managers Advisory Committee. Mr Bob Stewart also requested that the Code of Conduct be added to the list.

RESOLUTION 10/21

Moved: Mr Bob Stewart

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the Board note the policy requirements and direct the Executive to complete them.
2. That the JO resource utilise existing Council and Joint Organisation templates that are available.

CARRIED

ACTION

Item 007 - Add Code of Conduct to list (omitted in error)

Item 008 - Update all policies based on priority via risk assessment and needs basis

9.3 – Code of Conduct

Previously, Balranald Shire Council and Wentworth Shire Council were part of an EOI process and appointment of a Regional Panel of Code of Conduct reviewers in mid 2017 (through RAMROC).

Following the appointment of this Regional Panel, Councils were free to establish its individual Panel of Conduct Reviewers based on the appointed providers. The term for this panel was a 4-year period from 1st July 2017.

The term of this panel is due to expire on 30th June 2021, and the FWJO General Managers agreed that a joint approach for the FWJO would be beneficial, pending advice from Office of Local Government regarding possibilities of extending existing panels or providers. OLG have confirmed that extensions cannot be granted, and therefore the following options are available to FWJO Member Councils:



- 1 Allow the current list to expire and then each Council can undertake their own Code of Conduct Panel Process.
- 2 FWJO go to selective Eol for the services, appoint the list and share with member Councils to adopt their list. FWJO could use LGP Legal Services Panel as the reference/starting point in this scenario. **RECOMMENDED**
- 3 FWJO go to public Eol for the services, appoint the list and share with member Councils to adopt their list. **RECOMMENDED**

Upon consultation with the General Managers, option 2 or 3 are recommended.

Previously, RAMROC placed a public advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald and all local regional newspapers. This would perhaps allow for local businesses to provide a submission to the EOI if they were not currently on the LGP panels. However, those existing businesses on LGP panels have already been through a partial process, including vetting of matters such as insurances, licences, etc.

Should Member Councils wish for FWJO to undertake this task, it is anticipated it could be completed within existing resources, given the recruitment of a "Governance and Administration Support Office" role, partly funded through the cost sharing arrangement with RAMJO.

- Discussion concluded that option 2 is preferred due to JO resourcing as the panel cannot be extended as it is.
- Option 2 is endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board endorse either Option 2 or 3, endorsing FWJO to undertake this task on behalf of the Member Councils.

RESOLUTION 11/21

Moved: Mr Mike Colreavy

Seconded: Cr Susan Nichols

1. That Option 2 is endorsed. FWJO to undertake the selective Eol for the services, appoint the list and share with member Councils to adopt the FWJO list of Code of Conduct Panel reviewers.

CARRIED

ACTION

Item 009 – To undertake Option 2 to appoint new Code of Conduct Panel for the JO.



10. FINANCE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

10.1 2019-2020 General Purpose Financial Statements (GPFS)

Section 418 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Council/JO must meet to consider the signed/audited financial statements within 35 days of receiving the signed auditor's **reports (and give at least 7 days public notice prior to the meeting, inviting submissions)**.

At the December 2020 Board meeting, Resolution 0466/20 stated the following:

RESOLUTION 0466/20

Moved: Mayor Sue Nichols

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the Board receive and note the audited financial statements of the Far West Joint Organisation for the year ended 30 June 2020.
2. That the FWJO publicly exhibits the full version of the audited Annual Financial Statements including the Auditor's Reports for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Given the vacancy in the Executive Officer role, the GPFS have not yet been on public display. It is anticipated the GPFS will be available on the FWJO website from late February, and given the bi-monthly nature of FWJO's Board meetings, a report to the Board regarding any submission received will be provided at the April 2021 meeting.

Proposed Timeline for Finalisation of the Presentation of the GPFS:

- Late February/early March – GPFS published on FWJO website
- Late March – Submissions close
- 23rd April 2021 - Present submissions at FWJO Board Meeting
- 26th April 2021 – Report to OLG on the Board's resolution relating to the signed General Purpose Financial Statements and any submissions received.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Members of the FWJO Board note the FWJO's General Purpose Financial Statements will be available on the website from late February and any submissions received will be returned to the Board for consideration at the 23rd April meeting.

RESOLUTION 12/21

Moved: Mr Bob Stewart

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the update is received and noted.

CARRIED

ACTION

Items 010 – Interim Executive Officer to present any submissions received at the April Board meeting.



10.2 – 2019 – 2020 & 2020-2021 Review, Reconciliation and Implementation of Framework

Together with the A/g General Manager at Broken Hill City Council (BHCC), the Interim Executive Officer and Interim Executive Support (Bridget De La Haye) have been working to guarantee the handover of the financial management software (Xero) from the private contractor (Kris Kershaw) to the JO.

The intention is to establish an internal framework that allows for ongoing sustainability at a minimal cost, while leveraging the resources via the largest Council in the JO (Broken Hill City Council). Together with BHCC, the JO has commenced work towards reconciliation of the accounts over the entirety of the JO's operational history, along with matching relevant records where necessary.

A delay in receiving information from records held by the IT provider due to unpaid accounts has resulted in some outstanding information being unaccounted for. However, this matter is expected to be resolved in the coming days, with a full financial report to be provided to the Board at the April meeting.

In addition, hard copies of some records remain at Wentworth Council Offices. The Interim Executive Officer will collect these items in late February.

The FWJO Interim Executive Support (Bridget De La Haye) provides the following update items for the Board's information:

Completed:

- All outstanding supplier invoices have now been paid (~\$70,200)
- A segregated process has been introduced for all bills with copies of invoices and approvals saved into the finance system.
- Acting GM BHCC now has Bendigo Bank Signatory access

Outstanding:

- The credit card of the vacated Executive Officer is still in use for various subscriptions, some of which are being cancelled immediately.
- A review of all transactions since the JO conception has been undertaken and further investigation is required for greater understanding of some transactions.
- Hard copy financial records are being uplifted to the FWJO Interim Executive Officer for records management.
- New PO Box is being opened in Broken Hill on 19/2.
- A new credit card holder is required to be nominated (suggest BHCC GM EA)
- Xero Subscriber changeover process is underway.
- The acting Finance Officer is yet to provide an invoice for services provided over the term of his engagement.
- Review of grant funding transactions.

Recognition of the support from Ken Ross, Kris Kershaw (acting Finance Officer) and Jay Nankivell for the coordinated and professional approach to managing the JO's finances over the past 2 years and in the commitment to transitioning to the new model.

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO Board note the status update for the review and reconciliation of the JOs financial accounts and implementation of an internal framework with support from BHCC.



RESOLUTION 13/21

Moved: Mr Bob Steward

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the update is received and noted.

CARRIED**ACTION**

Items 011 – Interim Executive Support Officer to provide an update on progress and remaining outstanding matters at the April Board meeting.

10.3 - 2020-2021 Budget Review & 2021-2022 Budget Preparation

Pending the actions abovementioned, it is the intention of the JO to have a full financial report available, including a review of the JO spend against budgeted items, at the Board meeting on 23rd April 2021.

This report will assist the Board with decision making regarding the ongoing financial sustainability of the JO, and the achievements to date against the budgeted items. It is also anticipated that a draft 2021-2022 Budget will be presented at the April meeting for Board consideration.

Following from this, a quarterly report will be generated demonstrating budgeted items versus expenditure (and the reported variance) at each meeting to keep Board members informed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board note the timeframe for future financial reports and for the preparation of the 2021-2022 draft budget.

RESOLUTION 14/21

Moved: Cr Susan Nichols

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the update is received and noted.

CARRIED**ACTION**

Items 012 – Interim Executive Support Officer to prepare and present quarterly budget report for the April Board meeting.

10.4 – Ongoing Financial Sustainability

At the General Managers' meeting on 22nd January 2021, the interim Executive Officer requested the approval of the General Managers to commence a report on the ongoing financial sustainability of the Joint Organisation.

It is anticipated that decision making regarding future budgets, resourcing models and priorities will depend on the ability to remain financially sustainable under the current JO funding model.

It should also be noted that the Office of Local Government is scheduled to commence a review of Joint Organisations in early 2021. The terms of reference are provided below, via correspondence addressed to the FWJO from the Minister for Local Government:



I thank JOs for providing suggestions for the TOR and assure you that those suggestions have informed the proposed TOR. The proposed TOR for this study are:

- Analysis of what has worked in the establishment of the JOs, and what barriers exist to good governance.
- How effective the JO model has been in supporting JOs to deliver against the core objectives of advocacy, strategic leadership and better outcomes for regional communities.
- How the delivery of core objectives can be measured.
- How other NSW and Commonwealth agencies work with the JO network and value the contribution of the JO network.
- How the \$150,000 capacity building funding has been used and the value of that funding program to the ongoing sustainability of JOs.
- Identification of barriers to success of the JO model.
- What a successful JO network looks like and how it can be realised.

The review is due to be completed by mid-2021, and it is hoped this process will drive out common concerns across NSW regarding the JO model, including the ability for it to remain financially sustainable, among other barriers and opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO Board note the undertaking of a report into financial sustainability of the Joint Organisation under the current funding model, with a view to provide alternative funding models while considering outcomes of OLG's review into Joint Organisations.

RESOLUTION 15/21

Moved: Mr Bob Stewart

Seconded: Mr Mike Colreavy

1. That the update is received and noted.

- The Executive Officer is to consider all items prior to developing the budget.
- There is a workshop on the Joint Organisations at the upcoming Chair's meeting in Sydney next week that will also review the JO financial sustainability.
- The OLG Engagement Manager confirmed the tourism project funding must be expended by 2022.

CARRIED

ACTION

Items 013 – Interim Executive Officer to prepare a report on financial sustainability at the April Board meeting.

11. STRATEGIC ITEMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

11.1 – Work plan for Strategic Projects

As agreed at the weekly General Managers meetings, the Executive Officer will work directly with one General Manager from each Council on the outstanding strategic priorities. They are as follows:

Project	Resource & Contractor	General Manager
OLG Capacity Building	Executive Officer & specialised agency via select Request for Quote (RfQ)	Greg Hill
Regional Transport Strategy	Executive Officer & Tonkin FWJO Engineering Group	Oliver McNulty
Public Works Advisory Regional Waste Strategy	Executive Officer & Public Works Advisory	Ken Ross
Tourism Infrastructure Funding Agreement	Executive Officer	TBC

11.2 – OLG Capacity Building Project – Destination Management Plan

Following the Extraordinary Board meeting on 26th January 2021, the Interim Executive Officer is currently drafting the select RfQ together with the General Manager of Central Darling Shire Council. In addition, a detailed project plan is also in development to guide the delivery within a tight timeframe.

11.3 – Public Works Advisory Regional Waste Strategy

The General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council, along with the RAMJO waste team (includes 4 members), have agreed to assist in managing the Public Works Advisory project. Some further considerations are required regarding Wentworth Shire Council and Balranald Shire Council's participation in RAMJO's Murray Waste Group Strategy, which includes a range of actions to be delivered over the coming 18 months. These actions and education tasks can be reviewed as to whether they would benefit Broken Hill City Council and Central Darling Shire Council and could be extended to those Councils. Alternatively, a change in regional waste groups could be considered.

Detailed project plans and updates will follow in the April Board meeting.

11.4 – Far West Joint Organisation Regional Transport Strategy

The General Manager of Balranald Shire Council in conjunction with the Interim Executive Officer will undertake to work with the Tonkin, the appointed consultant on progressing a Regional Freight Transport Strategy for the Far West JO.

Detailed project plans and updates will follow in the April Board meeting.

Discussion regarding the strategic priority projects included the following:

- The consultant undertaking the Regional Transport Strategy was appointed in May 2020 following a procurement process.
- Workshop to drive out the best results for the Regional Transport Plan is to be arranged in Wentworth in the coming months.



- Regional Waste Strategy / Public Works Advisory (DPC grant funding) requires review. Mr. Ash Albury from Regional NSW or Gavin Priestly from Public Works Advisory to confirm details. The timeframe for execution of this grant can be negotiated.
- Presentation at the Board \$250k seed arrangement for jobs for infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION

That the FWJO Board note the interim status update of the strategic projects of the JO.
That the FWJO note that under the agreed work plan, more intensive project work will commence in Stage 2 of the MoU.

RESOLUTION 16/21

Moved: Mr Mike Colreavy

Seconded: Cr Susan Nichols

1. That the update is received and noted.

CARRIED**ACTION**

Item 014 – Interim Executive Officer to expand the table to include more details information (including funding source and timing) as a regular summary report to each Board meeting.

Item 015 – Workshop in Wentworth for the Regional Transport Plan to be arranged by GM of Balranald and the Interim Executive Officer.

Item 016 – Confirm details of Regional Waste Strategy funding and requirements with Mr Ash Albury (Regional NSW) and Gavin Priestly (Public Works Advisory).

12. CALL FOR GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 12.1** The FWJO Board would like to invite Clyde Thomson AM GM (Chair Destination Country and Outback) or Gavin Priestly from Public Works regarding the Regional Waste Strategy project to the April Board Meeting.
- 12.2** Destination Country and Outback Forum will be attended by Pete Evans, Tim Hurst, Tim Gibbs and Karen Worhurst and the Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock.
- 12.3** Water Policy Statement - Mr. Bob Stewart suggested that the FWJO form a Water Policy Statement that includes the JO wants to see a 'healthy connected river'. Cr Turley and Cr Nichols suggest research and data collation would be required. This item will be further address at the April meeting.
- 12.4** Next meeting to be held at either Broken Hill or Wentworth Councils – preference for all members to be available face to face.
- 12.5** Minister Keith Pitt will be in the Murray River Region next week.
- 12.6** RAMJO's Office Manager will be finishing on 5 March in Albury, however, will continue to work remotely for the foreseeable future and will be focused primarily on FWJO.



RESOLUTION 17/21

Moved: Mr Mike Colreavy

Seconded: Cr Sue Nichols

1. Invite Clyde Thomson (DCONSW) or Gavin Priestly from Public Works to the next FWJO Board meeting
2. Water Policy Statement to be discussed at the next meeting.

CARRIED

ACTION

Item 017 – Invite Clyde or Gavin from Public Works to the next FWJO Board meeting

Item 018 – Water Policy Statement on the next meeting agenda

NEXT MEETING

The next FWJO Board Meeting will be held on 19th April 2021 (noting, this is a move from the previous date of 23rd April 2021) to align with the Western Division Conference.

MEETING CLOSE

The Meeting closed at 5.58pm

