

## AGENDA

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the **BOARD** of Namoi Joint Organisation of Councils trading as NAMOI UNLIMITED will be held on **TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2018** in the Training Room at Gunnedah Shire Council commencing at **11.30AM**.

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Rebel Thomson  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
28 November 2018

**Wishing Member Councils, staff and their families  
the very best for the festive season and 2019.**



## **BUSINESS PAPER**

## 1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER

The Mayor of Gunnedah Shire Council will welcome Members to the meeting and introduce observing Councillors from Gunnedah Shire Council.

## 2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

An Application for a Leave of Absence was received from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATION:	THAT, the applications for a leave of absence for the December Board meeting for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet</li></ul> is accepted.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	

## 3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Nil requested at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

#### 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Author Executive Officer

Policy NIL

Legal NIL

Financial NIL

Strategic Link NIL

Attachments **ATTACHMENT A** – Minutes of the Extraordinary Board Meeting held 15 October 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:** THAT, the minutes of the Board meeting held 15 October 2018 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PURPOSE: -

BACKGROUND: -

COMMENTARY: -

**ATTACHMENT A – Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Members held - 15 October 2018**

**MINUTES**

MINUTES of the meeting of the **BOARD** of Namoi Joint Organisation of Councils trading as NAMOI UNLIMITED held on **MONDAY 15 OCTOBER 2018** at Parliament House in Canberra commencing at **1.40PM**.

**1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER**

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the meeting acknowledging that the Members were meeting on the lands of the Ngunawal people.

The Chairperson also welcomed Councillor Paul Moules, Acting Mayor Liverpool Plains Shire Council.

**2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**RESOLUTION:**

THAT, apologies from Councillor Andrew Hope, Mayor Liverpool Plains Shire Council and Alison McGaffin from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

**ENDORSED**

**MOVED:**

Walcha Council

**SECONDED:**

Gwydir Shire Council

**CARRIED**

**3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS**

Nil requested at time of the Meeting.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION:**

THAT, the minutes of the Board meeting held 2 October 2018 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**ENDORSED**

**MOVED:**

Tamworth Regional Council

**SECONDED:**

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

**CARRIED**

**5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Noted was the disclosure to Members *Item 10.1 Correspondence from Virginia Black Management Business Service*, that Ms Black is a Councillor with Namoi Unlimited Member Council Liverpool Plains Shire.

**6. CHAIRPERSON MINUTES**

Nil

## **7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

Nil

## **8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION**

Nil

## **9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**

### **9.1 2017-2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

<b>RESOLUTION:</b>	THAT, the 2017-2018 Financial Statement for Namoi Unlimited is endorsed and is signed by Members.
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ENDORSED

<b>MOVED:</b>	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
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<b>SECONDED:</b>	Walcha Council
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CARRIED

## **10. ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS**

### **10.1 CORRESPONDENCE FROM VIRGINIA BLACK MANAGEMENT BUSINESS SERVICE**

<b>RESOLUTION:</b>	THAT, the correspondence is received and provided to Members. THAT, this is acknowledged to Ms Black.
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ENDORSED

<b>MOVED:</b>	Gwydir Shire Council
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<b>SECONDED:</b>	Tamworth Regional Council
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CARRIED

## **11. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES**

Noted was that the Executive Officer had attended the Northern NSW Renewables Forum in Ballina and that a report will be provided to the next meeting.

## **12. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

## **13. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

The meeting closed at 2.03pm.

## 5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and specifically Section 451 of the Local Government Act, 1993 declarations of interest are required by Councillors and designated staff attending the meeting.

MEMBER	ITEM	REPORT	Type of Interest Declared (P, SNP, LSNP, RC)	REASON
STAFF	ITEM	REPORT	Type of Interest Declared (P, SNP, LSNP, RC)	REASON
P – Pecuniary, SNP – Significant Non Pecuniary, LSNP – Less than Significant Non Pecuniary, RC – Remain in Chamber during consideration/discussion of item.				



## **6. CHAIRPERSON MINUTES**

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

## **7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

## **8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION (IF APPLICABLE)**

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

## 9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES REPORTS

### 9.1 Water for the Future - Trade and Investment Strategy

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	Strategic Regional Priority 1 – Intergovernmental Collaboration Water for the Future Trade and Investment Strategy
Attachments	<b>ATTACHMENT B – Itinerary for the 2019 Study Tour to China</b> <b>ATTACHMENT C – Application Export Hub Namoi Region</b> <b>ATTACHMENT D – Correspondence from the Hon Niall Blair MLC</b>

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the draft itinerary for the 2019 Study Tour to China is endorsed. THAT, the application to establish an Export Hub in the Namoi region is endorsed and correspondence from The Hon Niall Blair MLC Minister for Trade and Investment is noted.
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PURPOSE:	To provide Members with an update on activity aligned to the Trade and Investment Strategy.
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BACKGROUND:	Strategic Regional Priority 1 – Water for the Future included in the 2018-2019 Business Plan – is the development of, and funding for a Trade and Investment Strategy
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COMMENTARY:	<p>As previously reported to Members, interest from exporters in a November mission to China was minimal due to drought. A new proposal for a Study Tour to China in May 2019 has been developed as is included as <b>ATTACHMENT B</b>.</p> <p>As part of the Project Brief for the Trade and Investment Strategy is the potential to have a dedicated resource to build export and investment activity among agriculture, agri-business, services, education and tourism.</p> <p>On the 15 October 2018, the Executive Officer made application to the Australian Government the Small and Medium Enterprises Export Hubs grant program. The objectives of the grant opportunity are to support the establishment and/or operation of SME export hubs (export hubs) in a Growth Centre sector: Namoi Unlimited's identified growth centre is food and agribusiness.</p> <p>A summary of the project details is provided at <b>ATTACHMENT C</b>. A full copy of the Expression of Interest can be provided to Members on request.</p> <p><b>ATTACHMENT D</b> is correspondence received from the Minister referring Namoi Unlimited to the program.</p> <p>The Working Group has made a request to the NSW Government via the Minister for Trade and Investment, for a co-contribution to this program of \$150,000. A financial contribution from the NSW Government will be critical for this application. This will require further advocacy to local Members of Parliament and the Minister.</p>
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## ATTACHMENT B – Itinerary for the 2019 Study Tour to China

DAY/DATE		ACTIVITY	Overnight	Coordination	OUTCOMES/MEASURES
1.	Wed 08/05	Depart Sydney for Guangzhou Arrive Guangzhou	Guangzhou	Flights and Visas Transport and accommodation	Travel
2.	Thu 09/05/18	Conduct Trade and Investment Seminar with the NSW Trade and Investment team in Guangzhou with business matching opportunities Welcome dinner (Showcase for Sinda Foods and their contacts)	Guangzhou	Coordination of the Seminar and business matching meetings	To foster new areas of engagement across businesses
3.	Fri 10/05/18	China, Hong Kong and Taiwan market briefing. Meetings with specific avenues of assistance for producers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia China Alumni Association</li> <li>• CCPIT Huizhou</li> <li>• Guangdong Cross border E-Commerce Association</li> <li>• Guangdong (China) Imported Food Association</li> </ul>	Guangzhou	Market briefings Coordination business matching meetings	To foster new areas of engagement across businesses
4.	Sat 11/05/18	Free Day travel to Hong Kong (Shenzhen)	Hong Kong		
5.	Sun 12/05/18	Travel to Ningbo	Ningbo		
6.	Mon 13/05/18	Meetings with matched business and government opportunities Welcome and Showcase dinner	Ningbo	Coordination business matching meetings	To foster new areas of engagement across businesses
7.	Tue 14/05/18	Ningbo market briefing. Meetings with specific avenues of assistance for producers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Ningbo Company contacts</li> </ul> Farewell dinner	Ningbo	Market briefings Coordination business matching meetings	To foster new areas of engagement across businesses
8.	Wed 15/05/18	Travel to Shanghai Meeting with NSW Trade and Investment team in Shanghai Shanghai Trade and Investment Seminar Welcome and Showcase Dinner	Shanghai	Shanghai NSW Trade and Investment (Shanghai)	To facilitate dialogue, develop business networks to strengthen bilateral activity To strengthen the foundations of engagement between Australia and

					China
9.	Thu 16/05/18	Attend Inspire the Future of Food Business Asia's largest and the 4th biggest food innovation exhibition in the world, SIAL China	Shanghai		To foster new areas of engagement across businesses
10.	Fri 17/05/18	FREE Day Shanghai Depart Shanghai		Flight to Guangzhou Accommodation Guangzhou	
11.	Sat 18/05/18	Arrive Sydney Depart Sydney for Tamworth			Travel

## ATTACHMENT C – Application Export Hub Namoi Region

**Project Title**                      **Namoi Export Hub**

**Project Description**

Namoi Unlimited is proposing to establish a new Export Hub in the Northern Inland region of NSW to support at least 50 exporters of products and commodities, services, education and tourism in the agricultural sector across five Local Government Areas.

Namoi Unlimited proposes to employ an experienced business development professional to manage the Export Hub, to work directly with exporters to; address barriers to export, assist producers to value add and participate in global supply chains, increase the knowledge and capability of businesses through training, resource sharing and market intelligence. Namoi Unlimited will support the Hub by initiatives to improve access to global markets, conduct advocacy for the sector and address regional skill and workforce shortages.

**Estimated Project Commencement Date**

1/03/2019

**Estimated Project Completion Date**

31/12/2020

**Project budget Total eligible project expenditure (\$A)**

\$909,780

**Program grant amount sought (\$A)**

\$419,780

**Detailed project description and outcomes**

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**Provide a detailed description of your project including the project scope and key activities.**

**You should include a brief description of any current export hub activities. Also provide details of the length of hub operation, services, governance structure and the number of active participants in hub activities and services.**

Namoi Unlimited is proposing to establish and operate a new Export Hub in the Northern Inland region of NSW to support at least 50 exporters of products and commodities, services, education and tourism in the agricultural sector across five Local Government Areas.

Namoi Unlimited worked with an existing group of exporters in the 2017-2018 financial year to establish market access into the Ningbo region in China, facilitated learning opportunities with NSW Trade and Investment representatives in China, Japan and Korea. Activities to support and promote export opportunities conducted in this first half of 2018-2019 include; a delegation of business and government representatives (mainly importers) toured the Namoi region and met with businesses and Local Government representatives.

A proprietor of major food business and restaurants visited the region to understand the extent of produce available in the region, an initiative for bio-energy with the cotton industry has commenced, and negotiations for investment in agri-processing opportunities are ongoing. The Trade and Investment focus of Namoi Unlimited developed out of research conducted by the Regional Australia Institute called 'Shaping the Future of the Namoi' which advised Namoi Unlimited to support agriculture and agricultural innovation, engage in overseas markets, understand export and commodity cycles, urbanisation and leverage a regional brand to attract people to live and work in the region. The report concluded that if Namoi Unlimited could harness the potential of these levers, the economy of the region could grow by \$900million by 2030. Namoi Unlimited proposes to employ an experienced business development professional to manage the Export Hub, to work directly with exporters to; address barriers to export, assist producers to value add and participate in global supply chains, increase the knowledge and capability of businesses through training, resource sharing and market intelligence.

The value of this resource and the Export Hub project and initiatives would accelerate the uptake of export opportunities and grow SMEs and jobs in the region. Namoi Unlimited will work to provide market access to global markets, conduct marketing campaigns and advocacy for the sector, and address regional skill and workforce shortages. The Export Hub services and Manager outputs will be;

- To create and establish an Export Hub and network between the agriculture industry, Local Government and businesses.
- Develop, analyse, provide and conduct market and consumer briefings for agriculture.
- Facilitate and coordinate opportunities for learning and conduct training and skills development activities with forums, workshops and study tours.
- Facilitate opportunities for resource sharing, supply chain development, value add, transport and logistics, and infrastructure.
- Provide individual and group support and encourage exporters businesses to participate in exports and trade.

Namoi Unlimited's outputs will be;

- Facilitate and coordinate Government to Government relationships in international markets.
- Conduct domestic and international branding, marketing and communications campaigns for the region.

#### Advocacy

It is proposed that the Export Hub is supported for 22 months with funding from the Export Hub Program, the NSW Government and Namoi Unlimited. Post this initial period and an assessment of the outputs and outcomes, results should enable Joint Organisation and members of the Export Hub to continue the Export Hub and or seek additional assistance from exporters and the three levels of Government. Namoi Unlimited is a Joint Organisation of Councils in NSW tasked with delivering on Strategic Regional Priorities, advocacy and leadership, and inter-governmental relations. The Board of Namoi Unlimited is the Mayors of the five Member Councils. The Board is responsible for the delivery of identified Strategic Priorities and Advocacy. The Board is supported by an Executive Officer and a Joint Organisation Leadership Group which is the General Managers of the Member Councils.

Joint Organisations in NSW are expected to deliver key economic and community development opportunities for the region. There are three Strategic Regional Priorities identified for 2018-2021; (1) Water for the Future and the Trade and Investment Strategy (2) Enabled and Connected Infrastructure and (3) Engaged People Seeking Skills. Namoi Unlimited also has a Trade and Investment Working Group who with the Executive Officer guides the directions of projects and information for the Board.

#### **Provide a summary of the expected project outcomes.**

Namoi Unlimited will be responsible for the delivery of the project outcomes. Coordination of the project activities to outcomes is to be shared between Namoi Unlimited and the Export Hub, demonstrating true collaboration in this project.

The Export Hub and the support of the employed business development resource is expected to deliver the following outcomes for the agricultural sector and SMEs in the region;

- Address the identified barriers, challenges and opportunities to export and global supply.
- Increase business capability, capacity and resilience by accessing new markets and undertaking export.
- Establish the network to increase the flow of information to businesses.
- Adoption of new technologies and innovation.
- Increased understanding of the opportunities for commercialisation.
- Uptake of cyber security measures and risk management practice across SMEs.
- Resource sharing opportunities as they emerge. Working with the Export Hub and SMEs, Namoi Unlimited is expected to deliver the following outcomes;
- New market access for the agriculture sector in the region.
- New opportunities for export activity in the Namoi region.
- Address skill shortages and workforce needs in the region.
- Generate leverage for regional infrastructure projects.
- Increased awareness of SMEs and the region in new markets.
- Advocacy
- Regional growth and jobs.

## ATTACHMENT D – Correspondence from the Hon Niall Blair MLC



**The Hon Niall Blair MLC**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

OM18/1943

Ms Rebel Thomson  
Executive Officer  
Namoi Unlimited  
r.thomson@namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au

Dear Rebel

I am writing to you regarding the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Export Hubs initiative that was announced in the 2018-19 Federal Budget and has now opened for Expression of Interest (EOI) applications.

The initiative will support SME Export Hubs in the development of local, regional and Indigenous brands through business collaborations in the identified areas of competitive strength. It will provide grants of up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs, to be matched by the successful recipient. The minimum available grant amount is \$150,000 while the maximum is \$1.5 million.

The initiative will provide grants to help establish and/or operate SME export hubs in the six sectors aligning with six Industry Growth Centres, namely:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Cyber Security
- Food and Agribusiness
- Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals
- Mining Equipment, Technology and Services
- Oil, Gas and Energy Resources.

EOI applications close on 15 October 2018 at 5PM AEDT. If your EOI is successful you will then be invited to submit an SME Export Hub grant application.

Enquiries regarding the program should be directed to the business.gov.au hotline on 13 28 46. Further information including eligibility criteria is available at <https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/small-and-medium-enterprises-export-hubs>.

I have also attached a copy of the SME Export Hubs factsheet for your reference. The NSW Government is supportive of increasing the number of SME exporters from NSW. I encourage you to consider applying for the Export Hub grant initiative to provide export support for your local businesses.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon Niall Blair MLC**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

5 OCT 2018

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GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001  
Phone: (61 2) 8574 7190 Fax: (61 2) 9339 5560 [www.nsw.gov.au/ministerblair](http://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerblair)

## 9.2 Enabling and Connected Infrastructure - Inter-governmental Collaboration

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	Strategic Regional Priority 2 – Enabling and Connected Infrastructure 2018-2019 Business Plan – Namoi Roads Network Strategy – Stage 2
Attachments	N/A
<b>RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:</b>	THAT, the Expressions of Interest for the Namoi Roads Network Strategy – submitted to the NSW Government and the approach to the Australian Government is noted.
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To provide an update to the Board about the Namoi Roads Network Strategy – Stage 3 Funding
<b>BACKGROUND:</b>	<p>There are three phases to the Namoi Roads Network Strategy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 1 – the document that outlines the strategy and the pinch points for the region</li> <li>• Stage 2 – the Business Case analysis of the pinch points and verification of the corridors</li> <li>• Stage 3 – approaches on the process and funding for the region</li> </ul>
<b>COMMENTARY:</b>	<p>After the completion of Stage 2 with consultancy Rhlem a number of actions were completed.</p> <p>A briefing and correspondence was sent to the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet Executive Director Chris Hanger.</p> <p>A further briefing was provided to The Hon Scott Bucholtz, Assistant Minister for Roads. This detail was provided to Sarah Leeming, General Manager South East Infrastructure Investment  Infrastructure Investment Division Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities who advised that she was moving on her replacement would be in contact.</p> <p>The Executive Officer has followed up on both of these contacts since returning from Annual Leave.</p>



### 9.3 Engaged People and Skills

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	Strategic Regional Priority 3 - Engaged People seeking Skills for the Future Inter-governmental Collaboration item 3.3 identify opportunities to grow education, research and business development programs and institutions and item 3.4 collaborate to address local and regional skill shortages, support talent and specialist skills sharing in the region.
Attachments	<b>ATTACHMENT E – Parts of the Application for a Women's Week Grant</b>
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the funding application for \$5,000 for Women's Week is endorsed.
PURPOSE:	To provide the Members with details of an application submitted to the NSW Department of Family and Community Services for 2019 Women's Week.
BACKGROUND:	NSW Women's Week grants encourages charities, not-for-profits, companies limited by guarantee and local government organisations within NSW to apply for grant funding to hold events and activities that celebrate women during the State's inaugural NSW Women's Week.
COMMENTARY:	<p>The 2019 NSW Women's Week to be held 3 - 9 March, grants provide local organisations with an opportunity to deliver a range of education, mentoring and participatory activities that will provide direct benefit to local women and girls.</p> <p>Funding sought is \$5,000 for events across the Namoi region.</p> <p>Parts of the application describing what Namoi Unlimited is seeking is provided in <b>ATTACHMENT E</b>.</p>

## ATTACHMENT E – Parts of the Application for a Women's Week Grant

**The NSW Women's Week events grants are aligned to the NSW Womens Strategy 2018-2022.**

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**Which of the 2019 Women's Week program focus areas does your project address? \***

- ☒ economic opportunity and advancement.
- ☐ health and wellbeing
- ☒ participation and empowerment

**Please provide a brief 250 word summary about your project \***

Namoi Unlimited is a Joint Organisation of Councils in NSW coordinating collaborative activity for five member Councils around Walcha, Tamworth Regional Council, Liverpool Plains Shire, Gunnedah Shire and Gwydir Shire. Local Government is the spine of community leadership and regional employment in the Namoi region.

One of the regional and strategic priorities for the Joint Organisation is people and skills for the future. People and skills are fundamental to shaping and the growth of our economies, our communities and our lifestyle into the future.

Local Government has an important role to play in developing the skills and employment opportunities for people in the community and the region, enabling them to participate in the regional workforce and undertake a career with Local Government.

The program of activity planned will be five events, (one in each of the Local Government Areas) to celebrate and promote women in Local Government, leaders and staff. The program will engage with women and young people - targeting Year 9 high school students, their mothers and carers.

Activities will showcase Local Government as a large, stable and flexible employer in local communities that can provide access to training, employment and careers for women and girls.

Local Government can offer women a pathway across a range of careers including; administration, human resources, trades, infrastructure, management, marketing, tourism, events, water operations, governance, risk, finance and audit. Such a pathway can lead to financial wellbeing, security and economic advancement for women in their local community.

**What are the expected outcomes of the event and/or activity? How will the event and/or activity provide benefit to girls and/or women. \***

The expected outcomes of the events and activity to be held are:

- \* Conduct presentations and distribute information to develop a greater understanding of the diverse and flexible employment opportunities, skills, jobs and careers in Local Government
- \* Establish communication networks between Local Government, schools and students about specific training and employment opportunities
- \* Provide opportunities for economic and career advancement for women in Local Government across a geographic region
- \* Profile and promote the achievements of women in Local Government

Benefits provided to girls and women include;

- \* Greater understanding of the local and regional training and employment prospects with Local Government
- \* Empower women and girls to undertake a career with Local Government
- \* Empower women and girls to see value in a job, career and contribution to their local community

**How will you determine the success of your event and/or activity? What measures will you use? \* Success of the five events will be determined by;**

- \* Active participation in the planned and development of the events with high schools in the community by central planning and coordination by Namoi Unlimited and stakeholders
- \* Active participation of training providers in the Women's Day events will be measured by the uptake of, and participation of providers at the events

- \* Positive promotion of Women's Week, Local Government, skill shortages and careers by media coverage and promotion on all forms of media including social media
- \* Avenues for contact on training and jobs between schools, training providers, Local Government and students is established
- \* Career pathways with Local Government are described and distributed to students and schools information and contacts about career pathways with Local Government covering; apprenticeship, traineeships, internships, scholarships is distributed

## 9.4 Advocacy and Leadership – CANBERRA

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	A principal function of Namoi Unlimited is to provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities.
Attachments	<b>ATTACHMENT F – Canberra Advocacy Summary</b> <b>ATTACHMENT G – Correspondence from The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP</b>
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the Canberra Advocacy Summary and subsequent recommendations included in ATTACHMENT E are noted.
PURPOSE:	To table to the Board the report on Advocacy activities in Canberra held on Monday 15 October 2018.
BACKGROUND:	<p>A principal function of Namoi Unlimited is to provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities.</p> <p>Formally positions of advocacy will be conducted twice a year with NSW Government and Australian Government representatives. The program of advocacy will be determined by the Members.</p> <p>Noted is that future reports of advocacy and positions of advocacy for Namoi Unlimited will be detailed in the Advocacy Register which is currently under development.</p>
COMMENTARY:	<b>ATTACHMENT F</b> provides a summary for Members.

## ATTACHMENT F – Canberra Advocacy Summary

### Minister for Education – The Hon Daniel Tehan MP

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#### Positions of Advocacy

Namoi Unlimited supports a proposal being developed by Tamworth Regional Council and partners to develop a university campus in the city that services the region.

#### Lead Member for Advocacy

Tamworth Regional Council

#### Opportunities for the Namoi region

##### Development of University Campus in the region

In a recent study completed by the Northern Inland Regional Development Board survey results<sup>1</sup> indicated that the majority of businesses in the region who responded to the survey are seeking to grow their business and that an inability to find suitably skilled staff was the major impediment.

The solutions are now included in one of the Regional Economic Development Strategy<sup>2</sup> documents completed by the NSW Government under Infrastructure Priorities are to improve access to education and training facilities including new Trade Training facilities and/or a university campus within the Region.

#### Recommendations

*Policy on a future and further focus on regional placements is expected from the Government.*

### Senior Adviser Tim Neal to the Minister for Energy - The Hon Angus Taylor MP

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#### Positions of Advocacy

Members are seeking decisive and consistent directions on mining, coal seam gas extraction, water and energy to favour affordable pricing for the community and encourage business development across the Namoi region.

#### Lead Member for Advocacy

Strategic Priority 2 – Gwydir Shire Council and Walcha Council

#### Opportunities for the Namoi region

Namoi Unlimited will continue to be involved in a project with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet to explore renewable energy opportunities across the region.

Given the volume of waste from agricultural commodities produced in the region, and the waste from feedlots, the abattoir and other operations, there may be an opportunity to produce energy from bio-mass and waste. Projects under consideration include: the Gwydir Shire — Circular Economy project, harnessing waste from horticulture and poultry production and processing.

#### Recommendations

*Namoi Unlimited is expected to develop its priorities for energy in 2019.*

### Member for Parkes and Member for New England

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#### Positions of Advocacy

Members of Namoi Unlimited specifically seek support for the following three projects:

- Namoi Roads Network Strategy – Stage 3 funding for identified priorities of up to \$300million.
- \$419,780 for the Namoi Trade and Investment Strategy – Business Development resource through the Export Hub Program.
- Ongoing funding and support for projects that will drive the sustainability of the Joint Organisation in the three year Strategic Regional Priorities Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Skills for the Future NORTHERN INLAND NSW A study into the skill needs of businesses in the Northern Inland region of New South Wales – NORTHERN INLAND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

<sup>2</sup> Lower North West Regional Economic Development Strategy – 2018 to 2021 Main Report

## Recommendations

1. *Correspondence provided to the local member officers on the projects identified for funding in the Namoi Roads Network Strategy.*
2. *Provide correspondence to the local member officers about the potential impact of Inland Rail on local roads in the Namoi Region.*
3. *Namoi Unlimited needs to identify potential funding sources with the release of budget papers April 2019 to determine funding opportunities for future initiatives.*

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### Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

#### Positions of Advocacy

THAT the Minister and Assistant Minister support the Water for the Future project at a regional level by providing access to data and information, and matching the funding allocation from the NSW State Government to the amount of \$50,000.

#### Lead Member for Advocacy

Strategic Priority 1 – Water for the Future Gunnedah Shire Council and Tamworth Regional Council

#### Opportunities for the Namoi region

Recommendations from the Water for the Future project should make strong recommendations on surety, distribution and infrastructure efficiency for industry in the Namoi region.

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### Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment

#### Positions of Advocacy

Namoi Unlimited seeks the assistance of the Minister and Assistant Minister in pursuit of its Trade and Investment Strategy including support from the Assistant Minister in applying for funding from the Export Hubs program.

#### Lead Member for Advocacy

Strategic Priority 1 – Water for the Future Gunnedah Shire Council and Tamworth Regional Council

#### Opportunities for the Namoi region

Namoi Unlimited should follow developments and release of any trade partnership considering the benefits for the region.

Establish strong links with overseas Austrade representatives in key markets.

## Recommendations

*A letter of support from The Hon Mark Coulton Assistant Minister for Trade for the Export Hub application is provided.*

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### Canberra Region Joint Organisation of Councils

The members of Namoi Unlimited and Canberra Joint Organisation engage in discussions to identify opportunities to share knowledge, skills and processes that may address the identified Strategic Regional Priorities identified.

#### Lead Member for Advocacy

Chairperson, Namoi Unlimited

#### Opportunities for the Namoi region

Canberra Joint Organisation is in the process of developing its Strategic Regional Plan, their potential priorities are;

- Road corridor enhancement and connectivity
- Water security and safe and secure water
- Digital connectivity
- Social infrastructure
- Waste and recycling
- Rail line development

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### Minister for Regional Services, Minister for Sport, Minister for Local Government and Decentralisation

#### Positions of Advocacy

Namoi Unlimited seeks recognition from the Australian Government of the Joint Organisation of Councils network in NSW and their role in regional development for NSW.

Namoi Unlimited seeks discussions about how to quantify the value of regional priorities among agencies and programs to support initiatives from the Namoi region.

#### **Lead Member for Advocacy**

Chairperson, Namoi Unlimited

#### **Opportunities for the Namoi region**

Prioritise support for key future infrastructure such as Inland Rail and those that provide opportunities for businesses and producers to access new or existing markets.

Opportunities for decentralisation should be identified within the community.

#### **Senior Adviser Minister for Communications**

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##### **Positions of Advocacy**

Digital technologies are transforming production, business models and operations quickly. Customers are responding to direct communications and this is changing consumer behaviours.

In the agricultural sector, high quality mobile phone coverage and access to data is becoming increasingly important for agriculture, logistics management, crop management, remote sensing and control systems, irrigation management systems, business management and accessing research, training and education.

The Regional Economic Development Strategies of Members of Namoi Unlimited provide the basis for the focus on delivering improved access and services to telecommunications such as;

- Maximising the economic benefits of digital technologies including how to maximise service accessibility from the NBN and broadband.
- Addressing extent of gaps in mobile coverage that have the potential to impact on productivity and safety.
- Upgrading of the telecommunications network requires direct investment by the telecommunication companies and arrangements need to be carefully managed and require specific skills not readily available in all Councils or the community.
- Addressing poor internet access for rural students to complete school, vocational and tertiary training or work.
- Support initiatives to deliver better and connected health services.
- Extending and augmenting water, sewerage and power infrastructure to enable the more efficient delivery of services and the development of key industrial estates, transport and logistics hubs.
- Support initiatives to providing high speed internet services (fibre to the premise) to the industrial precincts.

Namoi Unlimited is seeking key infrastructure specifically Black Spot Funding that will enable improvements in business productivity and profitably and having capacity to support growth. Improving mobile telecommunications in the region will encourage the adoption of technology and innovative land management and business practices in the Namoi.

Namoi Unlimited seeks the provision of support and or funding to identify technical details and opportunities for upgrading of the telecommunications network. Such support and funding could also be used manage and or provide specific skills not readily available in all Councils or the community.

#### **Lead Member for Advocacy**

Strategic Priority 2 – Gwydir Shire Council and Walcha Council

#### **Opportunities for the Namoi region**

- Telecommunications corridor that may become available with the development of the Inland Rail project.
- Review the results of the Telecommunications Review available December 2018.

#### **Senior Adviser, Small Business and Senior Adviser, Skills - Minister for Small and Family Business, Skills and Vocational Education**

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##### **Positions of Advocacy**

Namoi Unlimited will formalise positions on Local Government skill shortages and opportunities after a workshop in December 2018.

#### **Lead Member for Advocacy**

Strategic Priority 3 – Liverpool Plains Shire Council

## **Assistant Minister for Roads and Transport**

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### **Positions of Advocacy**

The Commonwealth Government integrates the work undertaken to identify regional road and freight network priorities across the Namoi region into the National Transport Strategy, and partner with Namoi Unlimited to develop a collaborative approach between the three tiers of government to fund the identified works.

### **Lead Member for Advocacy**

Strategic Priority 2 – Gwydir Shire Council and Walcha Council

### **Opportunities for the Namoi region**

Support for the Namoi Roads Network Strategy as a ‘Corridor of Commerce’.

### **Recommendations**

*Correspondence and a copy of the Namoi Roads Network Strategy is provided to the Assistance Minister.*

## **Drought Envoy**

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### **Positions of Advocacy**

A formal position of Namoi Unlimited regarding the impact and recovery from drought events is to be prepared early 2019.

### **Lead Member for Advocacy**

Chairperson, Namoi Unlimited

### **Opportunities for the Namoi region**

Namoi Unlimited and its members will present a proposal for funding at a regional level for water access in communities, stock ramps on local roads and community facility renovations or upgrades early 2019.





Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

31 October 2018

Ms Rebel Thomson  
Executive Officer  
Namoi Unlimited  
PO Box 555  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Via e-mail: [r.thomson@namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au](mailto:r.thomson@namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Thomson

Thank you for your e-mail message of 29 October, 2018, further to Namoi Unlimited's recent meetings in Canberra, with which you forwarded a copy of the Namoi Roads Network Strategy Stage 2 document, information about gaps and opportunities identified by Namoi Unlimited during the process of developing positions in its Trade and Investment Strategy as well as the China Engagement Project and a copy of Namoi Unlimited's Expression of Interest for the SME Export Hub Program.

I have noted your further comments in relation to these matters, as well as the contents of the documents you have forwarded, and appreciate receiving this additional information.

In regard to the Namoi Roads Network Strategy, as requested I have written to the Assistant Minister for Roads and Transport, the Hon Scott Buchholz MP, asking if consideration could be given to your enquiry in relation to funding for these projects and for his advice.

I have also written to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, and the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the Hon Karen Andrews MP, regarding the gaps and opportunities identified in relation to Namoi Unlimited's Trade and Investment Strategy as well as the China Engagement Project and have asked for their advice. In addition, I have also expressed my full support for Namoi Unlimited's Expression of Interest for the SME Export Hub Program.

I look forward to receiving further details in due course regarding Namoi Unlimited's position on how Local Government can support businesses and communities in the event of drought and future and strategic water priorities for growth in the Namoi region.

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**Principal Office - Tamworth**

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Authorised by Barnaby Joyce MP, The Nationals, Tamworth, NSW

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Thank you once again for writing and I will be in touch with you when I receive replies to my representations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BJ', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP  
Federal Member for New England

bj.lt.tam

## 10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

### 10.1 ACTIONS LIST

Author Executive Officer

Policy NIL

Legal NIL

Financial NIL

Strategic Link NIL

Attachments ATTACHMENT H – Actions List

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: THAT, the actions undertaken by the Executive Officer since the last meeting are noted.

PURPOSE: To provide Members with an update on actions undertaken since the previous meeting.

BACKGROUND: -

COMMENTARY: Refer to ATTACHMENT H.

## ATTACHMENT H – Actions List

### ACTION LIST FROM RESOLUTIONS

Completed
  Underway
  Not yet commenced

Date	Strategic Regional Priority	Resolution	Action	Status
4/9/2018	Water for the Future – Planning and Prioritisation	THAT, an Expression of Interest to tender for the consultancy is issued.	Recommendations on the EOI process tabled at the December 2018 meeting.	Completed
4/9/2018	Engaged People seeking Skills for the Future - Planning and Prioritisation	THAT, strategic priority sponsor Liverpool Plains Shire Council with the assistance of Gunnedah Shire Council and Tamworth Regional Council are endorsed.	Workshop with Members to be held on the 4 December 2018.	Completed
02/10/2018	Water for the Future – Planning and Prioritisation	THAT, the role and functions of a Water Alliance for member Councils is reconsidered by members of Namoi Unlimited after the completion of the Water for the Future Strategy.	A meeting of member representatives to discuss the future of the Namoi Water Alliance, its involvement in the Water for the Future project was held in November. Member representatives endorsed continuing to work together another meeting is to be planned before the end of 2018.	Underway
02/10/2018	Water for the Future – Trade and Investment Strategy	THAT, the Executive Officer submits an Expression of Interest for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Export Hubs grant.	Completed	Completed
02/10/2018	Budget and Administration	The Executive Officer is to remove the GST reference from the income and expenses of the budget and create a new record of GST payments and receipts.	Report being prepared for December JOLT meeting.	Underway
02/10/2018	Advocacy and Leadership	Work to commence on the areas discussed for the register of advocacy positions in workshopping.	Timetable for consideration to be prepared for December JOLT meeting.	Underway
02/10/2018	Advocacy and Leadership	The Executive Officer writes to the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) expressing their support for a joint approach to TROPICAL SODA APPLE.	Completed, further advice is expected from Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.	Underway

## 10.2 2018-2019 First Quarter – Gwydir Shire Council Reconciliation

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	2018-2019 Gwydir Shire Council Reconciliation
Strategic Link	NIL
Attachments	N/A

<b>RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:</b>	THAT, the Board endorses the payment of \$47,945.75 to Gwydir Shire Council for first quarter 2018-2019 Executive Officer expenses, on receipt of an invoice to this amount.
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<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To reconcile expenses from Gwydir Shire Council for the Executive Officer.
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<b>BACKGROUND:</b>	Gwydir Shire Council administers on behalf of Namoi Unlimited the employment of the Executive Officer and corporate credit card.
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<b>COMMENTARY:</b>	Gwydir Shire Council has provided a reconciliation of Purchase Card and Payroll expenses for the period 01/07/2018 to 28/09/2018.  Purchase Card Expenses TOTAL           \$6,128.25 including \$557.10 GST  Payroll Expenses being Gross Amount \$36,111.83, Tax \$11,210.00, Super 9.5% \$3,430.62 and Workers Compensation 6.3% \$2,275.05 TOTAL           \$41,817.50
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### 10.3 Calendar of Planned Activities

Nov	22-23	Investment Attraction Training for LGAs (DPC)	Sydney	Accepted
	26	NSW Joint Organisation Network Meeting	Sydney	Accepted
	29	Namoi stakeholders environmental water management forum (OEH)	Gunnedah	Accepted
Dec	4	Namoi Unlimited Board Meeting and Workshops	Gunnedah	
	13	NENW Regional Plan Delivery Coordination Monitoring Committee (DPE)	Uralla	Accepted
	17	JOLT December Meeting	Tamworth	
Jan	21	JOLT January Meeting	Tamworth	
Feb	5	Namoi Unlimited Board Meeting	Quirindi	

## 11. ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

### 11.1 FUTURE OF WORK EVENT (UNE)

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	Strategic Priority 3 – Engaged People and Skills (Inter-governmental Collaboration)
	3.3 Identify opportunities to grow education, research and business development programs and institutions.
	3.4 Collaborate to address local and regional skill shortages, support talent and specialist skills sharing in the region.
Attachments	N/A
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the priorities are noted.
PURPOSE:	To provide the Members with information collated from community gathering at the Future of Work Event in Tamworth.
BACKGROUND:	The UNE brought together 120 leaders from business, community, education and government across the New England North West region to connect from a government, education and business perspective on the future of work.
COMMENTARY:	<p>Professor Derek Baker facilitated a session on ‘what Government, Education and Business did to prepare for 2030’ and the following statements received the most votes on the night.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communities need Government to share the vision, work to meet local priorities and enable the change we need.</li> <li>2. Business is about building the engine room for jobs and educating regional talent. Business needs the learning to be real and timely, so that business can grow the region.</li> <li>3. We need Education to make sense to learners, so that the curriculum is personalised, affordable, collaborative and takes them where they want to go either locally, national or globally.</li> </ol>

## 11.2 NORTHERN NSW RENEWABLE ENERGY EVENT

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	Strategic Priority 2 - Enabled and Connected Infrastructure Planning and Prioritisation and Inter-governmental Collaboration
Attachments	NIL

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the report is noted. THAT, the report is referred to the next meeting of JOLT to discuss the opportunities and role for Namoi Unlimited.
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PURPOSE:	To provide Members with a report on the Northern NSW Renewable Energy Event held in Ballina on 8 October 2018.
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BACKGROUND:	The Northern NSW Renewable Energy taskgroup is an initiative of the Regional Leadership Executive. DPC coordinated a forum in Ballina on the 8 October 2018, the Executive Officer of Namoi Unlimited and representatives from Tamworth Regional Council and Gwydir Shire Council attended the event.
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COMMENTARY:	<p>The program for the forum was;</p> <p><b>A. Presentations from Agencies and Experts</b></p> <p>Presentations and documents from the event have been provided to the General Managers including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSW Clean Energy Programs</li><li>• Financing Clean Energy Projects, CEFC\</li><li>• Utilitas Group</li><li>• Enova</li></ul> <p><b>B. Meeting of the Regional Leadership Executive taskgroup</b></p> <p>Potential outcomes:</p> <p><b>NSW Government (DPE) - Community Energy Project Fund</b></p> <p>\$30million program to support regional communities to take control over their energy bills and benefit from the transition to a modern energy system. Grant funding for community energy groups to implement innovative or dispatchable projects with benefits to the local community.</p> <p>Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Council and Walcha Council have been nominated to be supported in this program.</p> <p><i>Future possible directions for consideration:</i></p> <p><i>The Executive Officer has had discussions with the program coordinator to extend a pilot to the five Member Councils of Namoi Unlimited to improve the information exchange, capacity and capability across the region to support the smaller Member Councils. Discussions are ongoing.</i></p> <p><b>NSW Government (DPE) - Emerging Energy Program</b></p> <p>The \$55 million Emerging Energy Program will provide grants to support feasibility and commercialisation of large-scale energy projects to unlock a</p>
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pipeline of technologies, such as pumped hydro and batteries that provide energy on-demand and give us a cheaper, cleaner and more secure energy supply. And help prepare NSW for future power station retirements. In doing so, the program is expected to leverage hundreds of millions of dollars in private sector investment and a significant number of jobs for regional NSW.

*Future possible directions for consideration:*

*If Namoi Unlimited is to pursue a waste to energy project with cotton growers in the Namoi region, there is potential for support through this program.*

CEFC's mission is to accelerate Australia's transformation towards a more competitive economy in a carbon constrained world, by acting as a catalyst to increase investment in emissions reduction.

CEFC's Local Government Finance Program provides flexible and competitive fixed-rate, long-term finance for councils, targeting major investment projects with the potential to make a significant difference to a council's energy consumption.

Eligible projects include:

Energy from waste - to create an energy source from council waste, reducing both landfill and energy costs

Street lighting upgrades – to reduce energy, operating and maintenance costs, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve urban amenity and safety

Leisure and Aquatic Centres - to address these high energy users, with better heating, ventilation and air conditioning solutions and renewable energy resources

Rooftop solar PV on council buildings - to provide a renewable energy source using the council's own assets

Building upgrades - to improve energy efficiency through a broad range of options, reducing energy costs

Electric and low emissions vehicles - to lower council fuel bills at the same time as lowering emissions; can include related infrastructure such as charging stations

*Future possible directions for consideration:*

*If Namoi Unlimited can identify its regional priorities in the energy arena CEFC may be a local or regional partner.*

Enova exists as an established Social Enterprise to:

- Assist the community take control of its own power
  - Assist the community to reduce carbon emissions
  - Benefit the community and keep as much as possible from power bills in the region
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## 11.3 JOINT ORGANISATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS MEETING – 26 November 2018

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	The principal functions of Namoi Unlimited are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities.</li> <li>B. Provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities.</li> <li>C. Identify and take up opportunities for intergovernmental collaboration on matters relating to the joint organisation area.</li> </ul>
Attachments	NIL

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	<p>THAT, the report is noted.</p> <p>THAT, JOLT develops a position for Namoi Unlimited and expresses interest in assisting the Department to increase its engineering and infrastructure, planning and water security resources by partnering with local councils in the region to solve critical water safety and security issues.</p>
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PURPOSE:	To provide members with a report on discussions between the Executive Officers of the NSW Joint Organisation network on Monday 26 November 2018 in Sydney.
BACKGROUND:	<p>The Executive Officers of Joint Organisations across NSW have agreed to meet regularly with staff from the NSW Government as the role and function of Joint Organisations in NSW evolves.</p> <p>The November meeting had a focus on (1) transport and freight and (2) water.</p>

COMMENTARY:	<p><b>WATER</b></p> <p>The NSW Government has announced changes to the Safe and Secure Water Program a funding arm of the Regional Growth Fund.</p> <p>The funding source had strict criteria around the cost-benefit ratio.</p> <p>Executive Officers and others have been advocating for change to the program funding guidelines. Changes to the program mean that the remaining \$500 million (from the original \$1 billion) available for eligible projects will not be contingent on a Cost-Benefit-Ratios which allows us to fund projects based on need and known issues, rather than on economic viability.</p> <p>This means that once a community's issue is an identified priority the NSW Government will work with Council until it has been resolved.</p> <p>The Department will also be increasing the engineering and infrastructure, planning and water security specialists to partner with local councils and water utilities to solve critical water safety and security issues. Previously, the NSW Department of Industry was responsible for assessing submissions and providing technical advice, while Infrastructure NSW managed the funding process and monitored and evaluated the overall program, as well as</p>
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individual projects. From now on, the NSW Department of Industry will be responsible for both of these functions.

It may be more appropriate for the Department to build the capability of Councils in the development of solutions by providing additional resources for the region and that the Department conduct the evaluation. Members and Namoi Unlimited may assist with the monitoring and contractual arrangements.

A new application process is being developed and the program will transition to the new arrangements in April 2019.

Councils with applications in the system during the program transition:

have a project funded under the Safe and Secure Water Program

The changes to the program announced will not have an impact on the funding of your project.

**Submitted detailed applications**

Detailed applications will continue to be assessed under the SSWP Restart NSW Guidelines and we look forward to providing you with feedback on the project's assessment.

**A project has been deemed eligible to submit a detailed application**

The NSW Department of Industry will enable projects to be submitted under the SSWP Restart NSW Guidelines up to 1 April 2019.

You have the option of continuing with your submission or transitioning to the revised Safe and Secure Water Program.

When the new guidelines are released, the NSW Department of Industry will contact Councils to discuss.

**A project hasn't been submitted under an expression of interest yet**

There is still be an opportunity to submit an expression of interest up to 1 December 2018 or a Council can wait until the program transitions.

**TRANSPORT**

NSW Transport – Freight and Ports branch will be conducting a workshop with the Board at the meeting on the 4 December 2018.

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## 12. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

### 12.1 JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIR'S MEETING – 21 October 2018

Author	Chairperson
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	<p>The principal functions of Namoi Unlimited are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities.</li><li>B. Provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities.</li><li>C. Identify and take up opportunities for intergovernmental collaboration on matters relating to the joint organisation area.</li></ul>
Attachments	<p><b>ATTACHMENT I</b> – NSW Joint Organisations Chair's Network Terms of Reference</p> <p><b>ATTACHMENT J</b> - Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Organisations Chairs held in Albury on Sunday 21st October 2018</p>

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	<p>THAT, the report is noted.</p> <p>THAT, the summary of Strategic Regional Priorities, for information and discussion as to which priorities can best be supported and collaboratively pursued with the State Government for implementation across the Joint Organisations network is referred to the next JOLT meeting.</p>
PURPOSE:	To provide the Members with an update of discussions at the NSW Joint Organisation's Chairpersons meeting held in Albury on the 21 October 2018.
BACKGROUND:	<p>Members of Namoi Unlimited discussed the draft Terms of Reference at its meeting in October, a number of amendments were tabled after the meeting and presented to the Chairs Forum in Albury.</p> <p>The Chairs at the Albury Forum accepted all of the amendments recommended by Namoi Unlimited.</p>
COMMENTARY:	Refer ATTACHMENTS I and J.

## **ATTACHMENT I – NSW Joint Organisations Chair’s Network Terms of Reference**

### **NSW JOINT ORGANISATIONS (JO) CHAIRS FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE (GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS)**

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#### **1. Preamble**

Any meetings of the NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs’ Forum are to be guided by this Terms of Reference.

#### **2. Objective**

To meet as regional representatives of Joint Organisations to engage and exchange information on best practice and excellence in the pursuit of strategic regional priorities and collaboration activities to achieve value for the Joint Organisation network.

#### **3. Role**

- To monitor implementation of the three statutory core functions of NSW Joint Organisations as being:-
  - (i) Strategic planning and priority setting
  - (ii) Intergovernmental relations
  - (iii) Shared successes, leadership and advocacy
- To identify opportunities for best practice, excellence and potential collaboration between the thirteen Joint Organisations

#### **4. Membership**

The JO Chairs’ Network comprises the Chairs of the following thirteen (13) Joint Organisations proclaimed by the NSW Government during 2018:-

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (i) Canberra Region JO       | (viii) Namoi JO              |
| (ii) Central NSW JO          | (ix) New England JO          |
| (iii) Far North West JO      | (x) Orana JO                 |
| (iv) Far South West JO       | (xi) Northern Rivers JO      |
| (v) Hunter JO                | (xii) Riverina and Murray JO |
| (vi) Illawarra Shoalhaven JO | (xiii) Riverina JO           |
| (vii) Mid North Coast JO     |                              |

#### **5. Meetings**

- The Joint Organisations Chairs’ Forum will meet at least three times per year or as required from time to time;
- Meetings of the Forum shall be scheduled for March, August and November of each year and coincide with other Local Government related meetings or events
- Meetings shall be held if possible at Parliament House in Macquarie Street, so as to facilitate engagement with the Premier, Deputy Premier, Ministers and Government Officials.
- If a Parliament House meeting facility is not available, the Secretariat will arrange an alternative Sydney CBD venue;
- For each meeting of the Forum, the Secretariat shall endeavour to arrange attendance by Parliamentarians and Government Officials relevant to the meeting’s business agenda;
- The Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government (or their representatives) shall be invited to attend all meetings of the JO Chairs’ Forum.

**6. Convenor**

- The JO Chairs' Forum shall appoint a Convenor for each meeting rotating across the regions;
- The Convenor shall chair the meeting of the JO Forum.

**7. Secretariat**

- The Executive Officer of the Joint Organisation from which the Convenor has been appointed shall carry out the administrative functions on behalf of the Forum for the nominated meeting, in liaison with the Office of Local Government.

**8. Financial arrangements**

- Each Joint Organisation shall meet any expenses of its Chairs in attending meetings and other events associated with the conduct of the JO Chairs' Forum.

**ATTACHMENT J - Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Organisations  
Chairs held in Albury on Sunday 21st October 2018**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT ORGANISATIONS CHAIRS FORUM - HELD IN THE  
ROBERT BROWN ROOM OF THE ALBURY CITY COUNCIL'S ADMINISTRATION CENTRE AT  
ALBURY ON SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2018 AT 2.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

<b>Canberra Region JO</b>	Cr Rowena Abbey, Ms Gabrielle Cusack
<b>Central NSW JO</b>	Cr John Medcalf, Ms Jennifer Bennett
<b>Hunter JO</b>	Cr Bob Pynsent, Mr Roger Stephan
<b>Illawarra Shoalhaven JO</b>	Cr Gordon Bradbery, Mr Jim Fraser
<b>Namoi JO</b>	Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mr Max Eastcott
<b>New England JO</b>	Cr Michael Pearce
<b>Northern Rivers JO</b>	Cr Isaac Smith,
<b>Orana JO</b>	Ms Belinda Barlow
<b>Riverina and Murray JO</b>	Cr Kevin Mack, Mr Ray Stubbs
<b>Riverina JO</b>	Cr Rick Firman, Mr Tony Donoghue
<b>Mid North Coast JO</b>	Cr Liz Campbell, Mr Craig Milburn
<b>Far North West JO</b>	Cr Lillian Brady, Mr Peter Vlatko
<b>Far South West JO</b>	Cr Melisa Hederics
<b>Office of Local Government</b>	Melissa Gibbs, Virginia Errington, Cameron Templeton

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY CHAIR OF RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION**

Cr Kevin Mack extended a warm welcome to the meeting of the JO Chairs Forum to the Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Executive Officers of the thirteen Joint Organisations from throughout regional and rural NSW.

**See following pages for the specific agenda items**

## **AGENDA ITEM 2 – MEETING CHAIR**

It was agreed that this meeting be chaired by Cr Kevin Mack Chair of RAMJO.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3 - APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the following:-

Cr Danielle Mulholland – Chair Northern Rivers JO

Cr Doug Batten – Chair Orana JO

Tim Williamson – Interim Executive Officer Northern Rivers JO

Craig Swift-McNair – Interim Executive Officer Mid North Coast JO

Ms Rebel Thomson – Executive Officer Namoi JO

Ms Julie Briggs – Interim Executive Officer Riverina JO

Mr David Rowe – Executive Officer Canberra Region JO

**RESOLVED that the apologies be noted and accepted.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 – CONFIRMATION OF MEETING NOTES – INITIAL CHAIRS MEETING HELD AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018**

**RESOLVED that the Meeting Notes of the JO Chairs meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 be noted and accepted.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 5 – PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JOINT ORGANISATIONS FORUM**

The meeting discussed the various matters set out in the report concerning the governance and operational arrangements for the Joint Organisations Chairs' Forum, particularly in relation to future meetings and arrangements for convening thereof.

**RESOLVED that the amended Terms of Reference document as presented by Namoi Joint Organisation be adopted, including the name NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs' Forum (a copy of a final document is attached to these Minutes).**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Premier and Cabinet / Office of Local Government be requested to fund the secretarial functions of the JO Chairs Forum, including meeting venue and associated expenses.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 – ALIGNMENT OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

The meeting discussed at length the nine strategic priorities as per the agenda reports and how these priorities might be addressed both at an individual JO basis and also potentially on a statewide basis, with specific actions being pursued with the combined support of the Chairs' Forum.

The meeting agreed that there are a number of potential projects that can be considered in further detail for implementation on a whole of Joint Organisations statewide basis, with the following being mooted:-

- Southern Lights Project - LED Street Lighting and Smart Controls
- Waste to Energy projects
- Crushed glass recycling for road construction materials
- Water and wastewater - infrastructure needs and prioritisation analysis
- Youth employment strategy programs

**RESOLVED each Joint Organisation refer to their next Board meetings the Summary of Strategic Regional Priorities, for information and discussion as to which priorities can best be supported and collaboratively pursued with the State Government for implementation across the Joint Organisations network.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that at the next Chairs' Forum meeting in early 2019, that a number of Joint Organisations be invited to make a presentation in relation to the following:-**

1. Riverina JO – Southern Lights Street Lighting and Smart Controls Project
2. Canberra Region JO – Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Prospectus
3. Illawarra Shoalhaven JO – Youth Employment Strategy (YES) Program
4. New England JO – Waste to Energy Programs – Funding Proposal to Governments
5. Central NSW JO – Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement

*(Note:- it is suggested that each of these presentations to the meeting should be no longer than 15 minutes)*



#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 - LGNSW PROPOSAL FOR JOINT ORGANISATIONS MEMBERSHIP**

Consideration was given to the draft consultation proposal submitted by LGNSW, including proposed membership opportunities and a JO fee structure.

**RESOLVED** that no action be taken at this stage in relation to the LGNSW consultation proposal for membership of the Joint Organisations with LGNSW; however that LGNSW be advised that the individual Joint Organisations and the JO Chairs' Forum will continue to maintain dialogue and engage with LGNSW on key matters of mutual Local Government significance and importance.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8 – NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the JO Chairs' Forum be held in early 2019 on the Thursday prior to the Country Mayors first meeting in 2019 and that the meeting be convened and chaired by the Chair of Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation Cr Gordon Bradbery, with the Office of Local Government requested to provide secretarial assistance and to facilitate preparation of the Meeting Agenda and to make meeting arrangements.

It was also agreed that the venue for the meeting be Parliament House (if available)

*Note:-*

*The meeting schedule being proposed for the November Country Mayors meeting has the first meeting in 2019 scheduled for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019. On that basis, the next meeting of the JO Chairs Forum is likely to be Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Confirmation of the date and venue will be advised as soon as possible.*

**There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3.50 pm**

## 12.2 MEETING WITH NINGBO AGRICULTURAL BUREAU AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE

Author	Chairperson
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	Strategic Priority 1 – Water for the Future Trade and Investment Strategy
Attachments	N/A

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	<p>THAT, progress with the Ningbo Government relationship is noted.</p> <p>THAT, JOLT develops and prepares content for a draft Memorandum of Understanding at their next meeting.</p>
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PURPOSE:	To provide Members with an update on a meeting between the Chairperson, the NSW Trade and Investment Commissioner Tony Zhang, Mr Mao Ningbo Agricultural Bureau and Mr Xu Pingyuan, the Deputy Director General of Ningbo Foreign Affairs Office on Monday 19 November 2018.
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BACKGROUND:	Namoi Unlimited has a relationship with the Ningbo Agricultural Bureau and in order to progress this relationship beyond agricultural exchange into a strategic trade and investment relationship between the Ningbo and the Namoi regions, negotiations have commenced with the Ningbo Foreign Affairs Office.
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COMMENTARY:	<p>A meeting was held in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province China on Monday 19 November 2018 and was attended by the Chairperson Councillor Jamie Chaffey and NSW Trade and Investment Commissioner, Shanghai Tony Zhang.</p>
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The outcomes of that meeting were:

- Both parties reaffirmed their intent to continue to develop the trade and investment relationship.
  - A potential business mission to China from the Namoi in 2019 was welcomed.
  - Namoi is to develop a draft Memorandum of Understanding and a three year action plan and provide an agreed draft to Ningbo Government.
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## 12.3 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE – NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

Author	Director, New England & North West DPC Regional - NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
Policy	NIL
Legal	NIL
Financial	NIL
Strategic Link	<p>The principal functions of Namoi Unlimited will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities.</li><li>• Identify and take up opportunities for intergovernmental collaboration on matters relating to the joint organisation area.</li></ul>
Attachments	<b>ATTACHMENT K</b> - Communique from the Meeting of the New England & North West Leadership Executive held on 12 October 2018

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	That the Communique from the meeting of the New England & North West Leadership Executive held on 12 October 2018 be received and noted.
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PURPOSE:	To identify collaborative opportunities between the NSW Government and Namoi Unlimited in driving outcomes for the regional community.
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BACKGROUND:	<p>The Regional Leadership Executive is the principal governance body within the NSW Government's regional governance framework.</p> <p>The purpose of the RLE is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drive and support whole-of-government priorities in the region</li><li>• Articulate the regional strategic context</li><li>• Scan for and respond to emerging opportunities and issues</li><li>• Lead cross-government actions, provide strategic advice and broker solutions.</li></ul> <p>The Executive Officer attends the quarterly meetings of the NE&amp;NW RLE on behalf of Namoi Unlimited.</p>
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COMMENTARY:	<p>The RLE dedicated significant time at the October meeting to reviewing progress of initiatives included in the RLE's Statement of Intent (Sol) 2018-2020. The four Regional Priorities identified under the Sol are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional development and growth in employment</li><li>• Harnessing the region's leadership capacity</li><li>• Developing local solutions to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders through LDM</li><li>• Working with communities and places to address their specific needs.</li></ul> <p>The RLE considered reports from the Sub-Committees and Task Groups established to drive delivery of each initiative, with strong progress demonstrated across the majority of initiatives.</p> <p>At the October meeting, the Executive Officer of Namoi Unlimited guided the RLE through Namoi Unlimited's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. The RLE now understands the rationale behind the three priority areas: water for the future; enabled and connected infrastructure; and engaged people seeking skills for the future. Also discussed were the primary projects being implemented under each of the three priority areas and where collaboration between the JO and State Government will potentially support delivery.</p>
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## **ATTACHMENT K - Communique from the Meeting of the New England & North West Leadership Executive held on 12 October 2018**

### **Communique**

**12 October 2018**

#### **Progress of Initiatives under the New England & North West Statement of Intent 2018-2020**

- **Armidale Refugee Resettlement**

This Place Based Initiative is focused on establishing Armidale as a successful regional refugee resettlement location, not only for those currently arriving under the Humanitarian Settlement Program, but for refugees and migrants arriving under a variety of visa arrangements. At the inception meeting of the Armidale Refugee Settlement Task Group, a number of service integration issues were reviewed and discussed. The Task Group agreed to work through challenges associated with transport; language barriers; lack of interpreters; employment; and high health needs to identify and implement solutions. A series of co-design workshops will be held during November with the aim of identifying community development initiatives to build the sense of belonging and connection the refugees feel to the Armidale community, with implementation envisaged to occur in 2019.

- **Drought Task Group**

The Drought Task Group (DTG) raised two key issues: the impact of drought on businesses; and the need for improved coordination of events, information and messaging to community. DTG continues to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding services, assistance measures and events across member agencies. Ways of better connecting New England and North West farming families and primary industry businesses with mental health services are being developed and put into action by a Mental Health Action Team established under the DTG. Members observed that key stress points for vulnerable individuals and families develop around Christmas and New Year.

- **Thriving Small Towns Initiative**

In discussing the proposed initiative scope; the RLE endorsed the definition of a thriving small town. “A town with a population between 200 and 5000 people; not projected to grow, but maintains optimism by continuing to invest in itself to drive improvements in lifestyle and amenity for current and future generations”. Using two case studies; one in Liverpool Plains Shire, and the other in Tenterfield; this initiative will look holistically at key factors supporting towns to thrive, including harnessing existing community strengths, leveraging government services/infrastructure and capitalising on each town’s natural endowments.

- **Toomelah–Boggabilla Steering Committee**

The RLE noted the outcomes of the MAANG Think Tank held Friday 21 September 2018 at Boggabilla TAFE. Attendee feedback indicated it was a very positive experience; with the community excited to be influencing the direction of the Steering Committee. The RLE agreed to specifically acknowledge the efforts of Education in elevating the Committee’s focus, establishing strategic direction and engaging the community.

- **New England Violence Prevention Initiative**

Following the conclusion of the Inverell White Ribbon Community initiative, the Task Group will now focus on piloting training for government and non-government staff in non-therapeutic roles.

- **Renewable Energy**

The RLE noted the progress of the Northern NSW Renewable Energy Initiative. The initiative is developing a suite of resources such as templates for feasibility assessments and business case preparation; to support councils and industry start renewable energy projects in their local government areas. This is an important initiative being undertaken in collaboration with the four Joint Organisations in Northern NSW.

- **Regional Leaders Network (RLN)**

Workforce capability and development are critical factors for effective service delivery in regional areas. The reinvigorated RLN will focus on both leaders and emerging leaders across all three levels of government to explore opportunities related to mobility, professional development and collaborative capacity. NSW Public Service Commission’s Assistant Commissioner; Scott Johnston, will present to the RLN at its first network event scheduled for Wednesday 21 November 2018. A workshop session will follow the PSC’s presentation that will allow regional leaders to drive the Network’s strategic agenda for 2019.

**Participating Clusters include: Education, Health, Planning & Environment, Family & Community Services, Industry, Premier & Cabinet, Finance, Services & Innovation, Justice, Transport, Local Government – Namoi Unlimited**

### **13. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

## **14. CLOSED REPORTS**

### **Grounds on which Meetings can be Closed to the Public**

14.1.1 The Joint Organisation may close to the public so much of its Meeting as comprises the discussion or the receipt of any of the following types of matters:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than representatives);
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Joint Organisation is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
  - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it;
  - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Joint Organisation or Local Councils; or
  - (iii) reveal a trade secret;
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudices the maintenance of law;
- (f) matters affecting the security of the Joint Organisation, voting representatives, staff or Joint Organisation property;
- (g) matters affecting the security of the Local Councils, staff or property;
- (h) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;
- (ii) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land; or
- (j) alleged contraventions of the Code of Conduct.

(s.10A(1) and (2) of the Act).

14.1.2 The Joint Organisation or a Committee of the Joint Organisation may also close to the public so much of its Meeting as comprises a Motion to close another part of the Meeting to the public (s.10A(3) of the Act).

## **15. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**