

## 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 6 AUGUST 2019** commencing at 10.30am by videoconference.

|  |    |
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# **BUSINESS PAPER**

## 1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER

Councillor Jamie Chaffey will welcome Members to the meeting.

| MEMBERS                        |                                       | PRESENT | APOLOGY |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Cr Jamie Chaffey (Chairperson) | Gunnedah Shire Council                | ✓       |         |
| Cr John Coulton                | Gwydir Shire Council                  | ✓       |         |
| Cr Andrew Hope                 | Liverpool Plains Shire Council        |         | ✓       |
| Cr Col Murray                  | Tamworth Regional Council             | ✓       |         |
| Cr Eric Noakes                 | Walcha Council                        | ✓       |         |
| Steve Orr<br>Alison McGaffin   | NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet | ✓       |         |
| NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES     |                                       |         |         |
| Eric Groth                     | Gunnedah Shire Council                |         | ✓       |
| Max Eastcott                   | Gwydir Shire Council                  |         | ✓       |
| Ron Van Katwyk                 | Liverpool Plains Shire Council        |         | ✓       |
| Paul Bennett                   | Tamworth Regional Council             | ✓       |         |
| Jack O'Hara                    | Walcha Council                        | ✓       |         |
| Rebel Thomson                  | Namoi Unlimited                       | ✓       |         |
| BY INVITATION                  |                                       |         |         |
| Jodie Healy                    | NSW Office of Local Government        | ✓       |         |
| Elle Rixon                     | Media Contractor                      |         | ✓       |

## 2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Author                       | Executive Officer   |
| Policy                       | Code of Meeting Practice Namoi Joint Organisation of Councils   |
| Legal                        | -   |
| Financial                    | -   |
| Strategic Link               | -   |
| Attachments                  | -   |
| RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: | THAT, applications for a leave of absence and apologies for the August meeting are accepted.  |
| AMENDED/ENDORSED             |   |
| MOVED:                       |   |
| SECONDED:                    |   |
| REJECTED/CARRIED             |   |
| PURPOSE:                     | -   |
| BACKGROUND:                  | -   |
| COMMENTARY:                  | Applications for leave for this meeting from Member have been received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Councillor Andrew Hope, Liverpool Plains Shire Council</li></ul> Apologies for the meeting have also been received from; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ron Van Katwyk, Liverpool Plains Shire Council</li><li>▪ Eric Groth, Gunnedah Shire Council</li><li>▪ Max Eastcott, Gwydir Shire Council</li><li>▪ Elle Rixon, Media Contractor</li></ul> |

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

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

#### 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ATTACHMENT A

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|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Author         | Executive Officer  |
| Policy         | Namoi Unlimited Code of Meeting Practice                             |
| Legal          | -  |
| Financial      | -  |
| Strategic Link | -  |
| Attachments    | ATTACHMENT A – Minutes of the Board Meeting held Tuesday 2 July 2019 |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: | THAT, the minutes of the Board meeting held Tuesday 2 July 2019 are a true and accurate record of the meeting. |
|------------------------------|--|

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: -

BACKGROUND: -

COMMENTARY: -

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**MINUTES**

A meeting of the **BOARD OF NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS TRADING AS NAMOI UNLIMITED** was held on **TUESDAY 2 JULY 2019**, commencing at 12.30pm in the Council Chambers at Liverpool Plains Shire Council.

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

Councillor Andrew Hope, Mayor of Liverpool Plains Shire Council welcomed Members to the meeting and to the lands of the Kamilaroi people and paid his respects to Elders past, present and future.

| MEMBERS                        |                                       | PRESENT | APOLOGY |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Cr Jamie Chaffey (Chairperson) | Gunnedah Shire Council                | ✓       |         |
| Cr John Coulton                | Gwydir Shire Council                  |         | ✓       |
| Cr Andrew Hope                 | Liverpool Plains Shire Council        | ✓       |         |
| Cr Col Murray                  | Tamworth Regional Council             | ✓       |         |
| Cr Eric Noakes                 | Walcha Council                        | ✓       |         |
| Darren Keegan                  | NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet | ✓       |         |
| NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES     |                                       |         |         |
| Eric Groth                     | Gunnedah Shire Council                | ✓       |         |
| Max Eastcott                   | Gwydir Shire Council                  | ✓       |         |
| Ron Van Katwyk                 | Liverpool Plains Shire Council        | ✓       |         |
| Paul Bennett                   | Tamworth Regional Council             | ✓       |         |
| Jack O'Hara                    | Walcha Council                        | ✓       |         |
| Rebel Thomson                  | Namoi Unlimited                       | ✓       |         |
| BY INVITATION                  |                                       |         |         |
| Jodie Healy                    | NSW Office of Local Government        |         | ✓       |
| Elle Rixon                     | Media Contractor                      | ✓       |         |

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

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| MOTION | THAT, applications for a leave of absence and apologies for the July meeting are accepted. |
|--------|--|

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTARY:

Applications for leave for this meeting from Members were received from:

- Clr John Coulton, Mayor Gwydir Shire Council
- Cr Catherine Egan, Deputy Mayor Gwydir Shire Council
- Alison McGaffin , NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

An apology for the meeting was received from Jodie Healy, NSW Office of Local Government.

### 3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

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

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ATTACHMENT A

MOTION: THAT, the minutes of the Board meeting held Tuesday 7 May 2019 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

### 5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

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

| MEMBER  | ITEM | REPORT                               | Type of Interest Declared (P, SNP, LSNP, RC) | REASON  |
|---|------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Nil   | Nil  | Nil                                  | Nil  | Nil   |
| STAFF   | ITEM | REPORT                               | Type of Interest Declared (P, SNP, LSNP, RC) | REASON  |
| Rebel Thomson   | 16.1 | Recruitment of the Executive Officer | Pecuniary                                    | Rebel Thomson is the current Executive Officer and has applied for the position to be discussed.<br><br>Rebel Thomson will remove herself from this part of the meeting agenda by leaving the room. |
| 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.



## 7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil.

## 8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION

Nil.

## 9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES REPORTS

### 9.1 Water for the Future – ATTACHMENT B and ATTACHMENT C

**MOTION:** THAT, the draft Water for the Future reports Volumes 1 and 2 are endorsed by the Board for a period of public exhibition for 28 days.

AMENDED

**MOVED:** Tamworth Regional Council

**SECONDED:** Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY:** Members noted that the Board has had discussion about the content and commended the consultants Rhelm on the work done in these reports.

The Chair believes that the reports will drive focus and directions for water resources as a region, guiding the organisation for the next 3-5 years.

### 9.2 Water for the Future Recommendations – ATTACHMENT D

**MOTION:** THAT, the identified actions and structures detailed in ATTACHMENT D are to be incorporated into the 2019-2020 Annual Business Plan.

ENDORSED

**MOVED:** Tamworth Regional Council

**SECONDED:** Walcha Council

CARRIED

### 9.3 Water for the Future – China Study Tour Report ATTACHMENT E

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:** THAT, draft report is endorsed and the recommendations are referred to the working group to consider.

ENDORSED

**MOVED:** Tamworth Regional Council

**SECONDED:** Walcha Council

CARRIED

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY:** Tamworth Regional Council noted that the highlights of the report for the region should be;

- The training and education opportunities that were facilitated by the Executive Officer for regional producers.
- The engagement with the business community is the way to facilitate outcomes for businesses looking to export.

The Chair thanked the Executive Officer for her efforts in the pursuit of the strategy and the coordination of the trip. The other significant outcome was the formalisation of the agreement with Ningbo, China.

Businesses in Gunnedah who attended have actively shared their experience and the opportunities with the business community.

#### **9.4 2019-2020 Business Plan – ATTACHMENT F**

**MOTION:** THAT, the 2019-2020 Business Plan is endorsed.

ENDORSED

**MOVED:** Liverpool Plains Shire Council

**SECONDED:** Walcha Council

CARRIED

#### **9.5 Building Capacity and Capability with Contaminated Lands**

**MOTION:** THAT, the report is noted.

ENDORSED

**MOVED:** Tamworth Regional Council

**SECONDED:** Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

### **10. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

#### **10.1 Increasing Resilience to Climate Change (Round 1)**

**MOTION:** THAT, the report is noted.

ENDORSED

**MOVED:** Liverpool Plains Shire Council

**SECONDED:** Walcha Council

CARRIED

**COMMENTARY:** Tamworth Regional Council sought to confirm that the work will encompass all the levels of waste water produced by all member Councils. The outcomes need to reflect the strengths and variation in waster water. The Executive Officer confirmed that this was the expectation from the project.

Gunnedah Shire Council asked when the project may commence, the Executive Officer reported that contracts had to be executed and a new project plan completed. The project should commence in this quarter of the year.

### **11. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP**

Nil.

## **12. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**

### **12.1 Action List – ATTACHMENT G**

**MOTION:** THAT, the actions of the Executive Officer are noted.

ENDORSED

Tamworth Regional Council

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY:** Actions for the NSW Office of Local Government are now complete.

### **12.2 Correspondence Received**

Nil.

### **12.3 Calendar of Planned Activities - ATTACHMENT H**

**MOTION:** THAT, activity is NOTED.

ENDORSED

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Walcha Council

CARRIED

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY:** Recognised that there were a number of authorising bodies involved in solar and wind proposals. Some development approvals rest with Councils, some are significant and rest with the NSW Government.

The development of reliable and sustainable energy and networks is a concern for all of the Councils. Energy is critical for growth across the region.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council asked the Executive Officer to clarify the intent of the workshop planned for the 15 July 2019. The workshop is an offer from the NSW Government representatives to provide information to the General Managers and Councils about what programs and services are available to assist small business, seeking export and seeking investment.

Tamworth Regional Council asked that the information from the Solar Farm Briefing conducted by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment is distributed to members.

Members agreed that David Kitto and staff are asked to give a briefing to the Councils, and Councils assist with the coordination and communicating of information to communities.

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

Nil.

## **14. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES**

### **14.1 Briefing from the Resource and Energy Team (NSW Government)**

**MOTION:** THAT, David Kitto and staff are invited to brief the Member Councils on the development of solar and energy proposals in the region.

ENDORSED

Tamworth Regional Council

Walcha Council

CARRIED

## **14.2 Briefing from the NSW Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator**

**MOTION:** THAT, James McTavish Cross Border Commissioner and NSW Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator is invited to brief the Member Councils on the Water for the Future Strategy.

ENDORSED

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Walcha Council

CARRIED

## **14.3 Submissions to IPART**

**MOTION:** THAT, the Board delegates to JOLT the authority to make submissions on behalf of the region on the current consultations.

ENDORSED

Tamworth Regional Council

Walcha Council

CARRIED

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY:** IPART recently released a number of reports including ratings, regulation and compliance and elections.

JOLT is to review these documents and prepare submissions for review.

## **15. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

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

## **16. CLOSED REPORTS**

### **16.1 Recruitment of the Executive Officer**

**MOTION:** THAT, Ms Rebel Thomson ne offered the role of Executive Officer for Namoi Unlimited, that the contract be for a term of 4 years, the total remuneration package commence at a value of \$200,000.

ENDORSED

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Walcha Council

CARRIED

**17. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

The meeting concluded at 1.30pm.

## 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.

| <b>MEMBER</b>   | <b>ITEM</b> | <b>REPORT</b> | <b>Type of Interest Declared<br/>(P, SNP, LSNP, RC)</b> | <b>REASON</b> |
|---|-------------|---------------|---|---------------|
|   |             |               |   |               |
| <b>STAFF</b>  | <b>ITEM</b> | <b>REPORT</b> | <b>Type of Interest Declared<br/>(P, SNP, LSNP, RC)</b> | <b>REASON</b> |
|   |             |               |   |               |
| 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**

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

## 9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES REPORTS

### 9.1 Water for the Future Reports - ATTACHMENT B

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Author         | Executive Officer/JOLT  |
| Policy         |   |
| Legal          |   |
| Financial      |   |
| Strategic Link | Water for the Future  |
| Attachments    | ATTACHMENT B - Water for the Future Report Recommendations and Potential Outcomes |

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:** THAT the Board;

1. The draft Water for the Future - Volumes 1 and 2 are endorsed to the Board.
2. The identified actions detailed in ATTACHMENT B to:
  - To hone the pursuit of opportunities for regional growth;
  - Position Councils with the evidence to build investment in infrastructure including water utilities;
  - Identify and pursue endowments and drivers for growth in the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS);
  - Identify and facilitate key new market opportunities for regional producers; and
  - Build stronger and more resilient communities;
 are to be incorporated into the 2019-2020 Annual Business Plan.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

**PURPOSE:** To provide the members with the final report under Water for the Future and endorse future actions and structures for outcomes.

**BACKGROUND:** Water for the Future is a Strategic Regional Priority for Namoi Unlimited. An action in the 2018-2019 Business Plan under Planning and Prioritisation was to;

- 1.1 Audit, analyse, identify and prioritise the key constraints, opportunities and innovations to secure the supply of water for communities, businesses and Local Government.
- 1.2 Audit, analyse, identify and prioritise opportunities and partnerships for agriculture, agricultural products, commodities, supply and value chains, as well as services.
- 1.3 Identify the potential impacts of change on agriculture.
- 1.4 Identify and facilitate opportunities to address change, by diversifying,



opening and establishing and new markets for producers.

The 2018-2019 business plan provided funding for the development of Water for the Future Strategy to reference the Shaping the Future of the Namoi report and review and affirming the actions of that the member Councils can facilitate the economic, social and environmental issues and opportunities.

The Water for the Future Study will also audit to identify and provide the evidence to analyse the supply of water, considering the;

- a) water supply and infrastructure assets currently available to communities and business;
- b) future opportunities, demand, supply and markets for; agricultural products, services, commodities, supply chains and value propositions;
- c) future skills and other impacts, potential constraints and innovation;
- d) align desires for demand, growth and investment to opportunities, investment potential, community expectations and Government positions; and
- e) prioritise proposals for investment based on demand and regional growth.

**COMMENTARY:**

The draft reports for the Water for the Future Strategic Regional Priority are complete.

Feedback on the draft reports has been sought from the community, members, JOLT, the Namoi Water Alliance, the NSW Department of Industry Water and the NSW Safe and Secure Water program.

Community feedback was also sought; three submissions were received, Rhelm has been asked to assess if the submissions are relative to the scope of the Water for the Future Study, and if the comments are applicable Rhelm will provide advice on amending the draft reports.

Advice and future actions and activities aligned to these outcomes are provided in ATTACHMENT B. The actions and activities drafted provides advice that there are potentially a number of functions to pursue the recommendations in the Water for the Future Report assuming;

- The Namoi Water for the Future Steering Committee would be an intergovernmental committee of internal and external stakeholders focussed on the strategic and regional directions with Government around the region. This group will also receive advice from the Namoi Water Alliance as to the development of infrastructure in the region to support water security and prioritisation.
- JOLT will be responsible for driving the development of policy and policy change receiving advice from the Namoi Water Alliance as required.
- The Namoi Water Alliance will be focussed on the operation and future prioritisation of water utilities, water quality, and infrastructure management.

JOLT will conduct a workshop with the Namoi Water Alliance, Michael Blackmore, Glenn George once any feedback is provided and structures are endorsed.

| Strategic Regional Priorities and Business Plan Outcomes  | Water for the Future recommendations  | Recommendation Category <sup>1</sup> | Function of the Joint Organisation |                                 |                         | Responsibility  | Timeframe <sup>2</sup> | Budget   |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
|   |   |                                      | Strategic Priority and Plans       | Intergovernmental collaboration | Advocacy and Leadership |   |                        |  |
| To hone the pursuit of opportunities for regional growth;   | Council's with council operated water sources (e.g. Dungowan and Quipoly) to consider making water sources available to individual landowners under certain conditions. This may increase liquidity in water trading.   | Infrastructure and Actions           | N/A                                | N/A                             | N/A                     | Tamworth Regional Council<br>Liverpool Plains Shire Council | N/A                    | N/A  |
|   | Education programs to encourage water trading. There is a lack of liquidity within some of the water trading markets, contributing to higher prices and limited availability. Education of water licence holders as to methods and benefits of trading will facilitate market function (e.g. the waking up of sleeper licences)   | Education                            | *                                  | *                               | *                       | Industry Groups and special interest groups                 | N/A                    | N/A  |
|   | Redistribution of recycled waste water from local farm schemes to local commercial / industrial operations where possible. This may be a more efficient water use in some situations.   | Infrastructure and Actions           | N/A                                | N/A                             | N/A                     | JO Members  | N/A                    | N/A  |
| Position and prioritise Councils with the evidence to build investment in infrastructure including water utilities; | Development / update of the IWCM framework.<br>Besides aiding in establishing a good understanding of water usage and management, completion of IWCM documentation will facilitate applications for and release of funding from State agencies.<br>There may be synergies in procurement for a region wide IWCM update.   | Studies and Assessments              | *                                  | *                               | *                       | Namoi Water Alliance  | Short-term             | \$<br>Member Councils, coordination fee to the JO<br>Safe and Secure Funding |
|   | Conduct/ update secure yield studies. Secure yield studies will quantify whether town water sources and entitlements are sufficient to account for current and forecast growth volumes.<br>As a minimum this could be undertaken for major town centres within each LGA. Sensitivity testing on growth scenarios will be important to gain an understanding of the level of resilience. |                                      | *                                  | *                               | *                       |   |                        |  |
|   | Update of water demand and drought management studies. The status of these reports varies across the Namoi JO. Besides aiding in establishing a good understanding of water usage and management, completion of IWCM documentation will facilitate applications for and release of funding from State agencies.   |                                      | *                                  | *                               | *                       |   |                        |  |
|   | Walcha LGA to review the potential infrastructure requirements (both treatment and distribution) to utilise its waste water treatment storage. The volume of wastewater stored is considerable in comparison to town demand levels.   | Infrastructure and Actions           | N/A                                | N/A                             | N/A                     | Walcha Council  | N/A                    | N/A  |
|   | Walcha LGA requires additional off-stream storage facilities. The use of the Macdonald River may be easier option out of the two available catchments, although   | Infrastructure and                   | N/A                                | N/A                             | N/A                     | Walcha Council  | N/A                    | N/A  |

<sup>1</sup> Recommendations were separated into three areas, this is highlighted here in this table, the three categories were:

- Studies and Assessments – Focussed on addressing data gaps and fostering regional improvements in water management
- Planning and Policy – Changes to current practice to strengthen water security
- Infrastructure and Actions – Potential short-term and long-term infrastructure (hard and soft) to strengthen water security.

<sup>2</sup> Timeframe is determined by financial year

- Short-term means an immediate start and completion within 12 months
- Medium term means commencement in the following financial year
- Long term means post the following financial year up to 5 years

|   |  |                            |     |     |     |  |                         |  |
|---|--|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|-------------------------|--|
|   | <p>doing so has the potential to introduce further uncertainty in water supply downstream</p> <p>Utilisation of an Apsley River source is likely to minimise impacts on other downstream users within the Namoi JO and potentially facilitate future cross-catchment water provision opportunities. Revisiting of Apsley River studies and potential to link in with other infrastructure projects (e.g. hydro / solar power projects) could be considered.</p>  | Actions                    |     |     |     |  |                         |  |
|   | <p>Tamworth LGA does not have sufficient water security to meet medium term demand requirements, particularly under the current projected population. Planning for additional water supply in the short-term has commenced. Water constraints in the medium term will limit the number of water intensive industrial facilities able to be sustained.</p>  |                            | N/A | N/A | N/A | Tamworth Regional Council                      | N/A                     | N/A  |
|   | <p>A range of large-scale infrastructure options exist that should be considered further, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade of Dungowan Dam in associated with renewable energy / pumped hydropower</li> <li>• Cross-catchment transfer pipeline (Apsley / Manning to the Namoi) in association with other energy ventures.</li> </ul> <p>Many other long-term options exist which should be considered as part of long-term regional planning.</p> <p>In general, the majority of the geographic area of the Namoi JO is unlikely to significantly alter in land-use in the long term unless significant investment in water transfer/reticulation is undertaken.</p> | Studies and Assessments    | *   | *   | *   | Namoi Water Steering Committee                 | Short to Long term      | Study and Assessment funds via program applications                                      |
|   | <p>A number of towns are dependent upon a single water source, including: Walcha, Bingara, North Star, Caroon, Curlewis and Nundle. Review opportunities to improve emergency alternatives through additional infrastructure.</p>  | Infrastructure and Actions | *   | *   | *   | JOLT with advice from the Namoi Water Alliance | Short term              | Priorities to be considered as an extension to the yield study work needed               |
|   | <p>Sustainable water use education / campaigns in LGAs in which current water usage is likely to exceed state averages per householder (e.g. Gunnedah and Gwydir).</p>   | Planning and Policy        | *   | *   | *   | JOLT with advice from the Namoi Water Alliance | Short to long term      | Consider how this impacts on the attractiveness of a community to residents and business |
| Identify and pursue endowments and drivers for growth in the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS); | <p>Regional secure yield study include agricultural demand and in context with any potential regulatory changes.</p>   | Studies and Assessments    | *   | *   | *   | Namoi Water Steering Committee                 | Ongoing monitoring role | Committee expenses   |
|   | <p>Identify those areas of high Water Strength which are not currently associated with high productivity activities. Review other constraints (e.g. topography, road access, proximity, energy) that may limit development.</p>  |                            | *   | *   | *   |  | Short to Medium term    | \$\$   |
|   | <p>Review the current location of areas of water strength / weakness and identify whether current land zonings and permitted activities are consistent with the opportunities afforded by the available water strength. In particular, identify areas in which intensive agriculture may be facilitated by water strength and engage with DPC and DPE regarding opportunities to improve the approvals process (such as the current investigations into the SAP).</p> <p>Co-location of water intensive industries with supply/recycling locations will also lower costs of water distribution.</p> <p>Gunnedah, Tamworth and Gwydir have a comparative advantage in water security in</p>           | Planning and Policy        | *   | *   | *   | JOLT and the NSW Government                    | Short to Medium term    | Strategic and integrated planning??  |

|  |  |                            |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|--|----------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
|  | comparison to other member councils. Regional planning decision should consider location of water intensive industries that reflects comparative advantage.  |                            |   |   |   |  |  |
|  | Require new commercial/industrial development to include demonstrable water efficiencies measures (e.g. RO systems) to maximise re-use and minimise losses. Where commercial and industrial activities are part of a large new industrial area, such as Tamworth's Glen Artney area, there is potential to have a shared treatment system. In this approach, water rates or development contributions might provide suitable funding for this. | Planning and Policy        | * | * | * | JOLT   | Medium term<br>N/A   |
|  | Engage with State authorities regarding the potential for councils to more actively trade water allocation/activity, potentially acting as a broker/bank in some scenarios. Councils to review the potential to utilise temporary trading as a way to generate income / regulate supply.   | Infrastructure and Actions | * | * | * | JOLT and the NSW Government                              | Long term<br>\$\$\$  |
| Identify and facilitate key new market opportunities for regional producers; | Undertake a case study cost-benefit analysis of land development trade-offs in regard to agricultural productions options and urban development options. This will inform decisions regarding expansion of urban water demand use during periods of constrained availability.  | Studies and Assessments    | * | * | * | Future Considerations for Namoi Water Steering Committee | Short to Medium term<br>Funding program \$\$ or research partnership with \$\$ contributions |
|  | Water Harvesting Review and engage with State authorities regarding Council harvesting opportunities. There are restrictions on the ability for all councils to harvest supplementary flows. Easing of these conditions may also require infrastructure improvements to aid in storage of harvested waters. An alternative may be to coordinate with private landowners in suitable geographic locations as to storage/use/access.             | Infrastructure and Actions |   | * | * | JOLT with advice from the Namoi Water Alliance           | Immediate short term<br>Water Harvesting policy is currently on exhibition<br>??             |
| Build stronger and more resilient communities;                               | In collaboration with NSW DPI determine the status and operational conditions of bores across the LGAs and how available data may be better used to inform both councils and individual land-owner water use decisions (e.g. need for investment in deeper bores).   | Studies and Assessments    | * | * | * | Future Considerations for Namoi Water Steering Committee | Short to medium term<br>Function of the JO Research and Data Portal ?                        |
|  | Whole of life embedded water studies of the key industries within the region to demonstrate how water is captured/recycled within the region. The potential to expand upon previous studies undertaken (e.g. Deloitte, 2012) should be considered.   |                            | * | * | * |  | Medium to long term<br>\$\$  |
|  | Development and implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (SWUD) policy within urban areas as a way that minimises the negative impacts of urbanisation and maximises economic, social and environmental benefits.  | Planning and Policy        | * | * |   | JOLT   | Short term<br>N/A  |
|  | Review the potential for establishment / participation in local or state rebate schemes for householder water systems, e.g. Water efficient taps/shower heads, Water Tanks and Astro-turf.   | Planning and Policy        | * | * | * | JOLT   | Short to medium term<br>\$\$   |
|  | Review whether the permanent water conservation requirements may be tightened to reduced net water usage without materially affecting amenity  | Planning and Policy        | * | * | * | JOLT   | Short to medium term<br>\$\$ impact  |
|  | Engagement with NSW EPA regarding the potential re-use of wastewater restrictions/requirements applicable to Councils, with a focus on public recreation areas and roads/construction dust suppression.  | Planning and Policy        |   | * | * | JOLT   | Short term<br>N/A  |
|  | Review smaller town urban areas and water security (e.g. Nundle and Manilla) and see whether the adequacy of security is consistent with State standards. Preliminary assessment as a result of the Namoi for the Future Strategy indicates that there may be issues with some urban areas within the Namoi JO. It is understood that NSW DPI also maintains level of service requirements for town supply.                                    | Planning and Policy        |   | * | * | Namoi Water Alliance                                     | Short to medium term<br>N/A  |

|  |                            |   |   |   |                      |  |                                   |
|--|----------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Consideration of piping and underground storage rather than using surface water flows to minimise transmission losses. This could be linked to either town usage or major irrigation areas.                | Infrastructure and Actions | * | * | * | Namoi Water Alliance | Short to medium term   | \$\$ and program funding required |
| Establishment of additional bores / stand pipes in regional areas managed by councils but potential accessible to local landowners for domestic / stock watering to improve water reliability.             | Infrastructure and Actions | * | * | * | Namoi Water Alliance | Short to medium term   | \$\$ and program funding required |
| Implementation of Stormwater Harvesting initiatives. A number of towns, particularly small towns, are likely to have significant opportunities for implementation of stormwater harvesting infrastructure. | Infrastructure and Actions | * | * | * | Namoi Water Alliance | Immediate short term<br>Water Harvesting policy is currently on exhibition | ??                                |

## **10. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

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

## 11. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

### 11.1 Collaboration with the New England Joint Organisation – **ATTACHMENT C**

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|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Author         | Executive Officer       |
| Policy         | Advocacy and Leadership |
| Legal          | -                       |
| Financial      | -                       |
| Strategic Link | -                       |
| Attachments    | ATTACHMENT C            |

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: | THAT the Board;<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation seek to connect and open dialogue on challenges and opportunities for the 12 Councils in the New England North West region.</li><li>2. Member Councils of Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation conduct a meeting in a central location to all Councils, preferably in a smaller community who could benefit from this event economically.</li><li>3. The meeting is to be held before the end of 2019. The suggested areas of focus for the agenda are;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Alignment of Strategic Regional Priorities and plans for the future development of the road transport network.</li><li>▪ Alignment of positions of advocacy.</li><li>▪ Significant areas of collaboration such as future funding, alignment of priorities and actions.</li></ul></li><li>4. The Regional Director of NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Alison McGaffin has offered to facilitate and chair the discussions.</li></ol> |
| AMENDED/ENDORSED             |   |
| MOVED:                       |   |
| SECONDED:                    |   |
| REJECTED/CARRIED             |   |
| PURPOSE:                     | To provide the members with an update on discussions with the Chair and Executive Officer of the New England Joint Organisation of Councils regarding areas of collaboration.   |
| BACKGROUND:                  | The Chairs and Executive Officers of Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation of Councils   |
| COMMENTARY:                  | -   |

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## **ATTACHMENT C - Collaboration with the New England Joint Organisation**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation seek to connect and open dialogue on challenges and opportunities for the 12 Councils in the New England North West region.

Member Councils of Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation conduct a meeting in a central location to all Councils, preferably in a smaller community who could benefit from this event economically.

The meeting is to be held before the end of 2019. The suggested areas of focus for the agenda are;

- A. Alignment of Strategic Regional Priorities and plans for the future development of the road transport network.
- B. Alignment of positions of advocacy.
- C. Significant areas of collaboration such as future funding, alignment of priorities and actions.

The Regional Director of NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Alison McGaffin has offered to facilitate and chair the discussions.

### **KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

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Joint Organisations are intended to provide a more structured and permanent way for councils and NSW Government agencies to collaborate and interact.

In some regions such as the New England North West, two Joint Organisations have been created by Councils in a recognised planning region.

The members of each organisation determine their own priorities and projects. The priorities and projects of each Joint Organisation are described in the respective strategic regional plans of both organisations.

Geography and demography naturally connects the New England and the Namoi Joint Organisations of Councils.

Councils are connected by roads, transport links and commerce. History, regional development and commerce has sometimes divided Councils. Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation recognise that the intent of most Local Government Authorities is to attract commerce, industry, businesses and jobs, by providing services and infrastructure.

The Chairs of Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation believe there are opportunities to collaborate for the betterment of the New England North West region and regional NSW.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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A venue and location is determined on accessibility for all 12 Councils. Each organisation is responsible for their own expenses, expenses for catering should be shared reflecting the membership of each organisation.

### **BACKGROUND**

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The *Local Government Act 2017 Amendment (Joint Organisations)* commenced on 15 December 2017, enabling councils in regional NSW to voluntarily collaborate to create a Joint Organisation of Councils. The legislation and associated guidelines clarify the functions and operations of a Joint Organisation. The principal functions of a Joint Organisation are; strategic regional priorities and plans to achieve them, intergovernmental collaboration, regional leadership and advocacy.



## CONSULTATION

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The Chair's and Executive Officer's of the two Joint Organisations of Council met in July 2019. Both organisations recommended that a meeting of the New England and Namoi Unlimited Member Councils is held to discuss possible alignment of the published Strategic Regional Priorities and plans, key functions, and advocacy and leadership.

Each Joint Organisation has three identified strategic regional priorities. The key themes across the two strategic plans from each organisation are;

| New England   | Namoi Unlimited  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Support the agricultural sector to improve productivity, build resilience and reduce risks.</li><li>▪ Plan key road corridors and networks to improve inter and intra region transport, and rail and air intermodal connectivity, specifically to drive efficiency in moving regional freight to ports.</li><li>▪ Plan to overcome gaps and pinch points for freight and road connectivity to the proposed Inland Rail.</li><li>▪ Advocate for improved telecommunications infrastructure and services to enhance connectivity.</li><li>▪ Leverage the capacity of individual airports to increase freight and tourism opportunities, and optimise access to professional specialists and services.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Audit, analyse, identify and prioritise opportunities and partnerships for agriculture, agricultural products, commodities, supply and value chains, as well as services.</li><li>▪ Identify the potential impacts of change on agriculture.</li><li>▪ Identify and facilitate opportunities to address change, by diversifying, opening and establishing and new markets for producers.</li><li>▪ Identify opportunities for infrastructure investment at points that enable access to new, emerging and significant markets.</li><li>▪ Support Councils to develop applications and proposals for infrastructure investment.</li><li>▪ Improved access for freight and commodities into markets via roads, connections to rail, Inland Rail and international air freight capability for producers. Investment in energy infrastructure and support for public transport services. Communities, people and skills can be advanced by strong, high speed and accessible telecommunications to support business and lifestyle.</li></ul> |

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**Councillor Michael Pearce**  
**(Mayor Uralla Shire Council)**  
**Chairperson, New England Joint Organisation**

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**Councillor Jamie Chaffey**  
**(Mayor Gunnedah Shire Council)**  
**Chairperson, Namoi Unlimited**

DATE:




## 12. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS







### 12.1 Action List – ATTACHMENT D

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|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Author                       | Executive Officer                                     |
| Policy                       | Administration and Governance                         |
| Legal                        | -   |
| Financial                    | -   |
| Strategic Link               | -   |
| Attachments                  | ATTACHMENT D  |
| RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: | THAT, the actions of the Executive Officer are noted. |
| AMENDED/ENDORSED             |   |
| MOVED:                       |   |
| SECONDED:                    |   |
| REJECTED/CARRIED             |   |
| PURPOSE:                     | -   |
| BACKGROUND:                  | -   |
| COMMENTARY:                  | -   |

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|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  Completed |  Underway |  Not yet commenced |
|---|--|---|

| Date                | Strategic Regional Priority     | Resolution  | Action  | Status  |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 29/04/2019<br>JOLT  | Administration and Governance   | Advice from OLG is sought on the Compliance and Reporting Requirements for 2018-2019.   | GST Certificate submitted 1 August 2019.  |    |
| 29/04/2019<br>JOLT  |                                 | Alison McGaffin to undertake to identify and bring to the region for a workshop with member Councils, expertise from within Government responsible for the application of BCR on funding applications.  | Dates to be provided by DPIE.   |    |
| 05/05/2019<br>BOARD | Intergovernmental Relationships | Proposed Mining, Resource and Energy Group submitted to the Regional Leadership Executive to be included in the Statement of Intent.  | In principle the proposed initiative was endorsed at the RLE meeting. NEJO was approached for support from their GMAC meeting in May. |    |
| 02/07/2019<br>BOARD |                                 | Solar and energy presentation to be provided to all Councils. David Kitto to be approached to make a presentation to a Board meeting.   | Invitation issued.  |   |
|                     |                                 | The Cross Border and Town Water Supplies Commissioner is to receive the Water for the Future reports and invited to make a presentation to the Board.   | Reports and invitation to James McTavish have been emailed.   |  |
| 07/05/2018<br>BOARD | Advocacy and Leadership         | Work to commence on the areas discussed for the register of advocacy positions in workshopping.<br>Additional areas of advocacy to be drafted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to Farm Legislation</li> <li>• Recognition of NSW Joint Organisations by the Australian Government</li> </ul> | No feedback has been received to date from member Councils.   |  |

|                     |   |  |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 02/04/2019<br>BOARD |   | The EO writes to the Deputy Secretary Regional NSW inviting DPC representatives to the May Board Meeting to (1) discuss potential pilot programs for the JO, (2) distribution of funding and divestment of funding programs to the JO and (3) provide a briefing on the use of funding from the sale of Snowy Hydro to the Commonwealth. | Invitation referred to the Office of the Acting Secretary Steve Orr.  |  |
|                     |   | Discussion regarding ways of collaboration and potential projects with the New England Joint Organisation.   | Refer Agenda Item 11.1  |  |
| 29/04/2019<br>JOLT  |   | Clarification for member Councils associated with the Vegetation SEPP and the SEPP, and the framework for the regulation of clearing native vegetation specifically the compliance authority is sought.  |   |  |
| 02/07/2019<br>BOARD |   | Sydney Advocacy dates proposed for August are to be deferred to September and a non-sitting week. Dates to be discussed with electorate offices and provided to Councils.  | Email sent to electorate offices to commence discussions.   |  |
| 05/03/2019<br>BOARD | Strategic Regional Priorities<br>Water for the Future –<br>Namoi Water Alliance | THAT, the proposal to advertise a tender seeking the services of a single consultant to provide consultancy services in the area of water and wastewater for a period of 3 years with the option of a further 2, to member Councils on a non exclusive basis be approved.  | Namoi Water Alliance considered the submissions on the 31 July 2019, and agreed to conduct further interviews with the preferred tenderers. |  |
| 02/07/2019<br>BOARD |   | The Water for the Future reports and recommendations are posted on the website and promoted as available to the community for comment for 28 days.   | Refer to Agenda Item 9.1  |  |

## 12.2 End of Year Account Gwydir Shire Council – ATTACHMENT E

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Author Executive Officer/JOLT

Policy

Legal

Financial 2018-2019 Financial Year

Strategic Link

Attachments Attachment E – Report from Gwydir Shire Council

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: THAT, Namoi Unlimited reimburses Gwydir Shire Council \$73,691.51 for expenses associated with the employment of the Executive Officer.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To provide a report to the Board to endorse a reimbursement payment to Gwydir Shire Council.

BACKGROUND: -

COMMENTARY: -

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**End of Year Account Gwydir Shire Council – ATTACHMENT E**

Gwydir Shire Council has finalised the 2018-2019 account for Namoi Unlimited.

| Description              | Amount Exc GST | Total GST | Total Owing        |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| <b>MARCH TO MAY 2019</b> |                |           |                    |
| Purchase Card            | 6,914.07       | 456.50    | 7,370.57           |
| Reimbursement of Expense | 0.00           | 0.00      | 0.00               |
| Payroll                  | 34,990.15      | 0.00      | 34,990.15          |
|                          | \$41,904.22    | 456.50    | \$42,360.72        |
| <b>JUNE 2019</b>         |                |           |                    |
| Purchase Card            | 437.92         | 43.79     | 481.71             |
| Reimbursement of Expense | 94.64          | 9.46      | 104.10             |
| Payroll (including END)  | 30,823.30      | 0.00      | 30,823.30          |
|                          | \$31,261.22    | 43.79     | \$31,409.11        |
| ADJUSTMENT               |                |           | (\$78.32)          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             |                |           | <b>\$73,691.51</b> |

### **12.3 Correspondence Received**

Nil correspondence for action was provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

## 12.4 Calendar of Planned Activities - ATTACHMENT E

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|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Author         | Executive Officer                             |
| Policy         | -   |
| Legal          | -   |
| Financial      | -   |
| Strategic Link | -   |
| Attachments    | ATTACHMENT E – Calendar of Planned Activities |

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: THAT, activity is NOTED.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To provide members with an outline of upcoming activities for the Executive Officer and the Joint Organisation.

BACKGROUND: -

COMMENTARY: -

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**ATTACHMENT E – Joint Organisation Planned Activity**

|        |     |  |                  |
|--------|-----|--|------------------|
| Thu 1  | Aug | NSW Joint Organisation Chair’s Meeting   | Sydney           |
| Fri 2  |     | NSW Joint Organisation Executive Officers Meeting  | Sydney           |
| Tue 6  |     | Board Meeting  | Bingara          |
| Wed 7  |     | Namoi Roads and Transport Meeting  | Tamworth         |
|        |     | New England North West Economic Development Sub-Committee                                  | Tamworth         |
| Thu 8  |     | Meeting with The Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing            | Sydney           |
|        |     | Meeting with The Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Regional Roads                            | Sydney           |
|        |     | Meeting with The Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education            | Sydney           |
| Fri 9  |     | Meeting with The Hon Shelley Hancock MP Minister for Local Government                      | Sydney           |
| Wed 14 |     | Capacity and Capability Training – Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Funding Program | Tamworth         |
| Fri 16 |     | New England North West Regional Leadership Executive Meeting                               | Tamworth         |
| Mon 19 |     | JOLT Meeting   | Tamworth         |
|        |     | Namoi Water Alliance Meeting   | Tamworth         |
| Thu 22 |     | Namoi Contaminated Lands Working Group Meeting   | Video Conference |
| Tue 3  | Sep | Board Meeting  | Tamworth         |

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

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

## 14. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

### 14.1 Briefings from the Board – ATTACHMENT F

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|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Author         | The Chairperson   |
| Policy         | -   |
| Legal          | -   |
| Financial      | -   |
| Strategic Link | -   |
| Attachments    | ATTACHMENT F – Template for a Briefing Paper and Headings |

RECOMMENDATION  
TO THE BOARD:

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Members and the Project Sponsors with the opportunity to table briefing documents for Ministers or Departments in relation to activity toward the Strategic Regional Priorities.

**BACKGROUND:** As part of the Communications and Engagement Plan of activity and projects conducted by Namoi Unlimited, Members and Sponsors can propose briefing papers are developed and distributed from the Chair.

The intent of this action is to continue to provide project updates to the community and stakeholders.

**COMMENTARY:** -

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**SUBJECT: Contentious Issues Brief from Namoi Unlimited**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Deputy Premier

- Proposed actions

**KEY ISSUES**

- Urgency
- 

**CONSULTATION**

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**BACKGROUND**

## **15. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

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

## **16. CLOSED REPORTS**

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

## **17. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**