

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 3 DECEMBER 2019** commencing at 4.30pm in the Living Classroom, Bingara NSW 2404.

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER	4
2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	5
3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS	6
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	7
4.1 Minutes of the Board Meeting - ATTACHMENT A	7
5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS.....	14
6. CHAIRPERSON MINUTES.....	15
7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS.....	15
8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION	15
9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES	16
9.1 Engaged People and Skills – Finding your Feet event series – ATTACHMENT B.....	16
10. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP	22
10.1 Roles and Responsibilities – ATTACHMENT C.....	22
10.2 Section 60 Local Government Act – ATTACHMENT D.....	25
10.3 Positions of Advocacy - ATTACHMENT E	31
10.4 LGNSW and Joint Organisations Working Group.....	41
11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS	43
11.1 Annual Performance Statement – ATTACHMENT F.....	43
11.2 Grants and Incentives Manager.....	59
11.3 Action List – ATTACHMENT G	61
11.4 Calendar of Planned Activities – ATTACHMENT H.....	64
12. ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS.....	66
13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES	67
13.1 NSW Joint Organisations Network – ATTACHMENT I	67

13.2	Ministers Advisory Group for Joint Organisations – ATTACHMENT J	75
13.2	Additional Briefings from the Board – ATTACHMENT K	78
14.	QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE	80
15.	CLOSED REPORTS	80
16.	CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING.....	80

Rebel Thomson
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
27 November 2019

BUSINESS PAPER

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER

Councillor Jamie Chaffey the Chairperson and Mayor of Gunnedah Shire Council will welcome Members to the meeting.

MEMBERS		PRESENT	APOLOGY
Cr Jamie Chaffey	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	✓	
Craig Jenkins	NSW Government 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	✓	
Anne Modderno	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

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 3 December 2019 meeting are accepted.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	-
BACKGROUND:	-
COMMENTARY:	<p>Applications for a leave of absence for the 3 December 2019 meeting, have been received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Col Murray <p>Apologies have been received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elle Rixon• Jodie Healy

3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

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

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Board Meeting - ATTACHMENT A

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	Namoi Unlimited Code of Meeting Practice
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	-
Attachments	ATTACHMENT A – Minutes of the Board Meeting
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the minutes of the Board meetings held 7 November 2019 are endorsed.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	-
BACKGROUND:	-
COMMENTARY:	-

MINUTES

MINUTES of a meeting of the **BOARD OF NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS TRADING AS NAMOI UNLIMITED** held on **THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2019** in the Training Room, Gunnedah Shire Council 61 Elgin Street Gunnedah NSW 2380.

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER

Councillor Jamie Chaffey the Chairperson and Mayor of Gunnedah Shire Council acknowledged the meeting is being held on the lands of the Kamilaroi people and acknowledged Elders, young people and the leaders of tomorrow.

MEMBERS		PRESENT	APOLOGY
Cr Jamie Chaffey	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	✓	
Craig Jenkins	NSW Government 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		✓
Anne Modderno	Walcha Council	✓	
Rebel Thomson	Namoi Unlimited	✓	
BY INVITATION			
Jodie Healy	NSW Office of Local Government		✓
Elle Rixon	Media Contractor		✓
Annabel Guest	Murray Darling Basin Association	✓	

2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION: THAT, applications for a leave of absence and apologies for the 7 November 2019 meeting are accepted.

AMENDED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Tamworth Regional Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL No applications for Leave of Absence from members was table.

COMMENTARY: Apologies were tabled from;

- Max Eastcott, Gwydir Shire Council
 - Paul Bennett, Gunnedah Shire Council
-

3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Board Meeting

MOTION: THAT, the minutes of the Board meetings held 17 October 2019 are endorsed.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Gwydir Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil.

6. CHAIRPERSON MINUTES

MOTION: THAT,

- I. The Chair write to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister thanking them for the recent announcements to address drought.
- II. A copy of the correspondence is provided to local Members of Parliament.
- III. The Joint Organisation issue a media release with the same sentiments.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Gunnedah Shire Council

SECONDED: Gwydir Shire Council

CARRIED

7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION

Nil.

9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES REPORTS

9.1 Grants and Incentives Manager

MOTION: THAT the recommendation around item 9.1 is deferred to the December Board Meeting to discuss with Member Councils of Namoi Unlimited.

AMENDED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Gwydir Shire Council

CARRIED

11. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

11.1 Canberra Advocacy Trip

MOTION: THAT, the briefing provided to representatives of the Australian Government is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Gwydir Shire Council

CARRIED

11.2 Canberra Advocacy Emergency Water Fund Briefing

MOTION: THAT, the briefing paper on amendments to the emergency water fund, jointly funded by the Australian Government and the NSW Government is provided to the Treasurer and the NSW Minister for Water.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

11.3 Canberra Advocacy Water Innovation Fund

MOTION: THAT the motion is deferred and to be reviewed against the latest program of drought relief announced by the Australian Government.

AMENDED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

11.4 NSW Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development

MOTION: THAT, the report is NOTED.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Tamworth Regional Council

CARRIED

12. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

12.1 2019-2020 Budget

MOTION: THAT, the Board endorses the 2019-2020 financial year budget.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: Members acknowledged the work being undertaken by the Ministerial Advisory Group and JOLT on the development of a future business model. Papers on any future business model are to be workshopped with the Board.

12.2 Bank Account Authorisations and Signatories

MOTION: THAT, the signatories for the bank account for Namoi Unlimited are the Executive Officer, a representative from Tamworth Regional Council, the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson of the Board and JOLT.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

12.3 Australian Taxation Account Access

MOTION: THAT, Senior Accountant with Tamworth Regional Council, Ms Lauren McPherson is authorised access to the Namoi Unlimited Australian Taxation Office

ENDORSED

MOVED: Gwydir Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

12.4 Action List

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

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

12.5 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

MOTION: THAT in relation to the report “Namoi Joint Organisation Financial Reports for Period Ended 30 June 2019”, members receive and note the reports as presented.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

12.6 Calendar of Planned Activities

MOTION: THAT, activity is NOTED.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Gwydir Shire Council

13. ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

Nil.

14. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

14.1 Ministers Advisory Group for Joint Organisations

MOTION: THAT, the Board notes the report and progress of the Advisory Committee.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Gunnedah Shire Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

14.2 Additional Briefings from the Board

MOTION: THAT, Namoi Unlimited seeks funds to deliver a project pilot with the Murray Darling Basin Association for Councils to collaborate and investigate water

efficiencies in agriculture.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

15. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

16. CLOSED REPORTS

Nil.

17. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

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

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

9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

9.1 Engaged People and Skills – Finding your Feet event series – ATTACHMENT B

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	\$10,000
Strategic Link	Engaged People and Skills, Advocacy and Leadership
Attachments	ATTACHMENT B
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the report and recommendations are NOTED.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide a report to the Members about the 'Finding your Feet' event series.
BACKGROUND:	Namoi Unlimited supported and coordinated a series events across the five member Councils to conduct training for locals, provide opportunities for people to talk about casual work, and disseminate information about programs of support in this drought.
COMMENTARY:	The report is provided in ATTACHMENT B.

REPORT: Finding Your Feet Event Series

BACKGROUND

Member Councils of Namoi Unlimited are concerned that the ongoing drought is impacting populations in local communities.

Workers usually employed in the small business, agricultural and agricultural services sector are experiencing decline and therefore jobs are being lost.

These workers anecdotally are; (1) working long distances away from home or (2) looking for alternative employment or for training or (3) leaving the region.

Information about the various types of assistance available to drought affected communities continues to be disseminated by service providers.

OBJECTIVES

1. To coordinate five events across the Local Government Areas of Walcha Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Gunnedah Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council that adds to existing program and support delivery by agencies.
2. To provide access to opportunities for locals to discuss drought support and local casual employment opportunities and understand the training requirements to support obtaining casual work.
3. To provide an opportunity for one-day training to be conducted in the five Local Government Areas to encourage people to undertake training locally.

OUTCOMES

As a pilot program organisations supported the pilot program and have suggested the Councils may consider conducting an additional program in 2020.

1. Five events coordinated across each of the Local Government Areas in Nundle, Walcha, Gunnedah, Bingara and Quirindi.
2. Provided Councils with additional links into existing program support and agencies providing the support.
3. Although the threat of bushfires across the region impacted attendance, over 100 people attended these events to obtain support, access training in their own communities and talk to people about job opportunities.
4. 56 people undertook training over the five days, this is significant. There was a genuine link made between compliance training and work opportunities.
5. 32 people enquired or have enquired about employment across the region.
6. 19 course enquiries have been made to the training providers post the event, this is additional potential people for training.

PROJECT ACTIVITY

Between the 11-15 November 2019 a series of events were planned across each of the Local Government Areas. Events were held at:

- 11 November – Nundle Bowling Club
- 12 November – Walcha Ex-Services Club
- 13 November – Smithurst Theatre Gunnedah
- 14 November – Bingara Roxy Theatre
- 15 November – Quirindi RSL Club

There were three components to the day that the events were held:

1. To conduct training to assist visitors in associating training with casual employment requirements. Training providers took registrations prior to events but also allowed people to attend if they turned up on the day. Training commenced at 9am.

Training activity was provided by three registered training providers:

- a) Joblink Plus conducted First Aid and White Card
- b) Tamworth Community College generation of off farm income and career planning
- c) TAFE NSW conducted First Aid

Place	Visitors	#WTF – What's the Future	Provider	First Aid	Provider	White Card	Provider
Nundle Bowling Club	10	0	Tamworth Community College	0	TAFE NSW	1	JOBLINK PLUS
Walcha Memorial Club	8	0		4		1	
Gunnedah Services Club	9	4		5		11	
Roxy Theatre Bingara	10	1		7	JOBLINK PLUS	8	
Quirindi RSL Club	15	1		6		7	
TOTAL	52	6		22		28	

Critical to the coordination of training was the support from the local Training Services NSW branch particularly Bronnie Cocking and Bede Maher. As part of making this event work, there were some areas of contractual arrangements that Training Services have with Registered Training Providers negotiated to provide flexibility needed. These were:

- The ability to be able to register people for training each day.

Place	Additional Training Enquiries
TAFE Digital – finance, accounting systems training	3
Joblink Plus	0
Tamworth Community College	14
Northern Inland Community College	2
TOTAL	19

2. Conduct a jobs market from 10am to 2pm which included the Council representatives from that location, Labour Co, Jobs Australia and Transport for NSW. Certainly the White Card attracted people who were suitable for jobs with LabourCo and Transport for NSW.

Organisations promoting work, provided the following enquiries for work:

Place	Possible Job Enquiry
Transport for NSW Quirindi was an interesting one, majority of the enquiries there were in relation to getting on the RMS hired plant system for items such as low loaders and trucks for material cartage. More information is needed from Transport for NSW.	17
Labour Co	TBC
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	6
Gunnedah Shire Council	TBC
Gwydir Shire Council Six enquiries and two applications collected at the event.	8
Tamworth Regional Council	1
Walcha Council	TBC
TOTAL	32

3. Provide an opportunity for NSW Government service providers for drought to disseminate information.

Representation from the following organisations was provided (with the exception of Walcha where some agencies deemed the fire situation to risky to send staff to attend, or staff were not permitted to travel.)

- Community College Northern Inland Inc.
- Cost of Living - Services NSW
- Drought Support Program (DSP)
- Gunnedah Shire Council - HR
- Gwydir Shire Council - HR
- Joblink Plus

- LabourCo
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council - HR
- NSW Farmers
- RAMHP
- Transport for NSW
- Rural Financial Counsellor
- Rural Resilience Program
- TAFE NSW
- Tamworth Community College
- Tamworth Regional Council - HR
- Walcha Council - HR

MARKETING

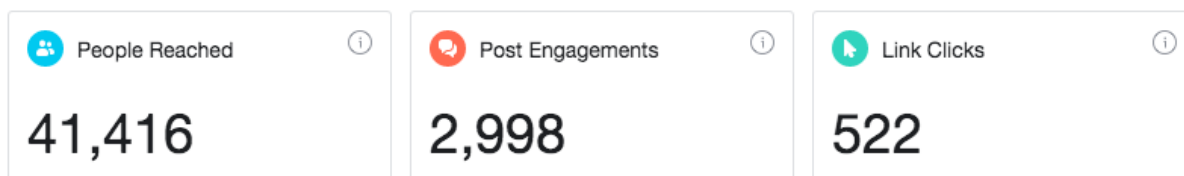
The campaign cost to promote the “Find Your Feet expo” across five locations equaled \$5,579.

Key costs included; website design and copy, social media marketing, creation of promotional flyers, advertising and public relation activity.

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

- Radio, print and newspaper exposure in 9 different media outlets
- A boost to Namoi Unlimited’s brand awareness and recognition of its advocacy for regional communities with a 237 % increase in Namoi Unlimited’s facebook reach.
 - 51,965 people saw our facebook posts during the campaign period.
 - \$1,110 was spent on targeted social media advertising using local geotags.
 - This campaign achieved an engagement rate of 8.5% which is well above an industry average of 3-4%
 - Posts promoting jobs, “free training”, first aid and white card had the best engagement.

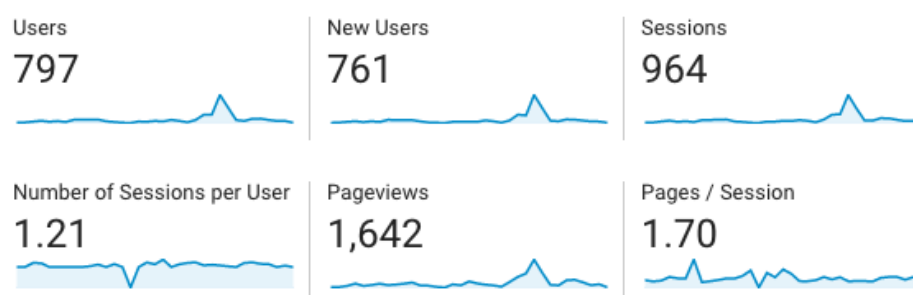
SOCIAL MEDIA AD SPEND



CAMPAIGN HURDLES

- The campaign would have benefited from a longer lead time.
- Campaign complexities in delivering a three-part expo with training, jobs and drought support all requiring promotion.
- As the bulk of our messaging focused on the training, it’s unfortunate we couldn’t promote “free training”.
- Last minute uncertainty as to who would provide some courses.
- While Namoi Unlimited had responsibility for training promotion, people had to register through providers and it was difficult to monitor and track enquiries.
- The response from Councils to promoting the events in their area varied, in those areas where Councils actively promoted the activities as it could commenced received a greater response.

Website analytics for www.namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au show 964 website hits during the campaign. 86% of those visiting were new users.



CAMPAIGN OPPORTUNITIES & CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider working with community groups and councils moving forward to identify courses of interest and secure numbers.
- Isolate training and job events away from drought support services.
- Feedback from media is that drought events are happening everywhere, all the time. To generate media interest and coverage it's essential to have a unique selling point moving forward. The Finding your Feet events were based on finding employment, this is the unique selling point but potentially was clouded by the other offers. A Narrabri event is giving away cattle feed to lure in farmers to the event.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board allocated a budget of \$10,000 for this event with two types of expenditure identified:

	Nundle	Walcha	Gunnedah	Bingara	Quirindi	
Venue Hire	100.00	75.00	50.00	-	60.00	
Catering	240.00	150.00	241.50	180.00	140.00	
SUB-TOTAL	340.00	225.00	291.50	180.00	200.00	1,236.50
Marketing and Media						5,579.00
TOTAL						6,815.50

Special thanks to Councils who were able to provide their own venues, especially Gunnedah Shire Council making the Town Hall and Smithurst Theatre, and Gwydir Shire Council providing access to the Roxy Theatre.

10. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

10.1 Roles and Responsibilities – ATTACHMENT C

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	2019-2020 Annual Business Plan
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Water for the Future, Enabled and Connected Infrastructure, Engaged People and Skills
Attachments	ATTACHMENT C
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT the members; I. Note the report provided. II. Conduct a workshop of all members in February 2020.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide the Board with the opportunity to review the agreed roles and responsibilities as described in the Annual Business Plan.
BACKGROUND:	The Annual Business Plan includes the detail described in ATTACHMENT A. JOLT reviewed the document at their meeting in November 2019.
COMMENTARY:	<p>The documentation of roles and responsibilities are important to obtaining agreement of members about the roles and responsibilities. Agreement on roles and responsibilities enable the Board to agree to decision making processes.</p> <p>Agreement on decision making processes ensures administration and management is effective and efficient. Roles and time of members and staff is optimised.</p> <p>The table provides the opportunity to actively use and refer to this page of the business plan when making decisions.</p> <p>The attached describes the roles and responsibilities within the organisational structure and decision making process.</p> <p>JOLT is recommending that the document is workshopped with members at the first opportunity in 2020.</p>

ATTACHMENT C – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DEFINING ROLE	(Committees of specialists and generalists working to enhance the Board's understanding or consideration of a topic.				
	BOARD	EXECUTIVE OFFICER	JOLT	STEERING COMMITTEES	WORKING GROUPS
	<i>Mayors representing the Members</i>	<i>Employee</i>	<i>Senior representatives of the Board</i>	<i>Local Government and external specialists</i>	<i>Local Government specific task and or group</i>
Governance	<p>Framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes within and by which, authority is exercised and controlled.</p> <p>Assessing internal controls, compliance and code of conduct.</p> <p>Accountable for transparency and corporate performance.</p> <p>Approvals and decision making on behalf of the organisation.</p>	<p>Facilitate and foster cooperation for the Joint Organisation.</p> <p>Research and analysis for recommendations for decisions to the Board.</p>	<p>Ensure members are informed of and engaged with projects, and key decisions.</p> <p>Reviewing internal controls, compliance and code of conduct.</p> <p>Recommendations for decisions to the Board.</p>	<p>Research and analysis for recommendations for decisions to the Executive Officer, JOLT and the Board.</p>	<p>Research and analysis for recommendations for decisions to the Executive Officer and JOLT.</p>
Delegations	<p>Determines and execute decisions and delegations.</p> <p>Determine and delegate specialist or complex issues to committees.</p>	<p>Research and analysis for recommendations for deliberations to JOLT, working groups and Steering Committees.</p>	<p>Determine and delegate specialist or complex issues on operational opportunities and issues</p> <p>Provides advice to the Board to assist with decision making.</p> <p>Deliberations on specialist or complex issues to the Board.</p>	<p>Deliberations on specialist or complex issues to the Executive Officer, JOLT and the Board.</p>	<p>Deliberations on specialist or complex issues to the Executive Officer and JOLT.</p>
Control	<p>Accept the fiduciary duty of a Board to protect the assets and investment of members.</p> <p>Risk appetite and risk management.</p>	<p>Coordinate and guide delivery of the functions, budget and priorities.</p> <p>Risk management plan.</p>	<p>Provide advice to the Executive Officer in implementation of the risk management plan.</p> <p>Identification of risks to</p>	<p>Identification of risks to project activities and the organisation.</p>	<p>Identification of risks to project activities and the organisation.</p>

			project activities and the organisation.		
Direction	<p>Set and deliver the strategy including the vision, mission and the goals.</p> <p>Driving organisational performance to deliver value for members.</p>	<p>Deliver projects and activities aligned to the strategy, mission and goals.</p> <p>Preparation of reports and advice on the strategy and goals.</p> <p>Implement the Communication Strategy to keep members informed.</p>	<p>Consider reports from the EO and external experts and providing feedback as appropriate to the Board.</p>	<p>Deliberations on specialist or complex issues to the Executive Officer, JOLT and the Board.</p>	<p>Deliberations on specialist or complex issues to the Executive Officer and JOLT.</p>
Management	<p>Recruit, supervise, retain, evaluate and compensate the EO.</p> <p>Endorse position descriptions for the EO and office bearers.</p>	<p>Implement the Communication Strategy to keep members informed.</p> <p>Provide support, monitor, undertake analysis and research to draw accurate conclusions that inform delivery of operational activities, actions and shared service functions.</p>	<p>JOLT and EO will implement the strategic plan, budget and Annual Business Plan.</p> <p>Delegation from the Board to make determinations on operational matters, normally delegated to the General Manager of a Council.</p>	<p>As determined by the Executive Officer, JOLT or the Board.</p>	<p>As determined by the Executive Officer or JOLT.</p>

10.2 Section 60 Local Government Act – ATTACHMENT D

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	Namoi Water Alliance Local Water Utilities members
Legal	Under Section 60 of the Local Government Act 1993
Financial	Investment by member Councils and the NSW Government
Strategic Link	Water for the Future Advocacy and Leadership
Attachments	ATTACHMENT D
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, <ol style="list-style-type: none">I. The advocacy position to Section 60 in the Local Government Act is endorsed.II. The Board write to the Minister for Local Government and seek the Ministers review into Section 60 and its issues.III. A copy of the correspondence and the advocacy paper is provided to the Minister for Water, and to the Town Water Commissioner.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To outline a position of advocacy on Section 60 in the Local Government Act.
BACKGROUND:	<p>Under Section 60 of the Local Government Act 1993, local water utilities are required to obtain ministerial approval for the construction or modification of water or sewage treatment works.</p> <p>Namoi Water Alliance has articulated issues with the current Section 60 processes and approvals. Tamworth Regional Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council have outstanding Section 60 applications. Walcha Council would like to seek a Section 60 to use treated water on gravel road maintenance.</p>
COMMENTARY:	<p>Members of the Namoi Water Alliance have been discussing issues with Section 60 approvals, the process, the resources, the costs and the outcomes.</p> <p>ATTACHMENT D – is provided to outline the issues for Local Water Utilities and member Councils.</p>

ATTACHMENT D – BRIEFING NOTE, SECTION 60 (Local Government Act 1993)

SUBJECT: Issues Brief from Namoi Unlimited – Section 60 development and construction of local water utility water or sewage treatment works under Section 60 of the *Local Government Act 1993*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- I. Namoi Unlimited and its member Councils seek an urgent review into Section 60 approvals to identify the benefits, risks and opportunities to Councils and the NSW Government of the Section 60 approval process.
- II. Namoi Unlimited seeks urgent consideration and advice about two outstanding Section 60 approvals for Liverpool Plains Shire Council and Tamworth Regional Council.
- III. The NSW Government – Water (Section 60) appoint an officer to review the Section 60 requirements for the use of treated water for Walcha Council, to progress and application and approval for the use of waste water on local roads.

KEY ISSUES

Namoi Unlimited has concern about the process, application and approvals for Section 60 in NSW.

Process

The Section 60 approval provides an independent assessment of the proposed works to ensure they are fit for purpose and provide robust, safe, cost-effective and soundly based solutions that meet public health and environmental requirements.

Tamworth Regional Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council have longstanding modification and development applications (respectively). Walcha Council is seeking to commence a process to utilise treated water on local roads.

The application process in both modification and construction is:

- Step 1 – Initial consultation
- Step 2 – Options study
- Step 3 – Concept design
- Step 4 – Specification
- Step 5 – Tender
- Step 6 – Detailed design
- Step 7 – Approval

Applications and timely processes would enable Local Government to prepare and respond in periods of drought. A specific process and resources to support Councils through this process (in periods of drought) should be able to expedite the application, process and approval process for community need.

Namoi Unlimited members believe the current process is costly requiring both Council and the NSW Government to undertake independent assessment. This is a repetitive and costly process for both parties, there are compliance overlaps, and the process does not practice the described partnership and intent.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council engaged an experienced consultant to manage the Council through the Section 60 process which included engaging with the Department on a regular basis, this was agreed and then communications protocol was amended mid way through the process to the Council. Such is evidence of changed arrangements through a process which has impacted a small regional Council with limited resources.

Resources

The intent is to deliver a partnership and safe solution. In practice the current resources in the area are inadequate to develop solutions to the current extreme drought conditions. Applications from Tamworth Regional Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council have been in the system for a long period of time. In periods of low water and critical shortages, resources need to be increased and responsive to assist communities to develop a safe, effective and timely solution.

Benefits

Under Section 60 of the Local Government Act 1993, local water utilities are required to obtain ministerial approval for the construction or modification of water or sewage treatment works.

If a water treatment process, does not work as intended, after advice is provided by both the NSW Government and the Local Water Utility there is no assistance, either financial or other offered to remedy the situation.

Council and the Local Water Utility are left to identify and implement a solution and then possibly seek Section 60 approval for the modified process.

The outcomes of a Section 60 approval are not guaranteed, if such a partnership can deliver agreed outcomes at the commencement of the process, the investment can be substantiated.

Costs

It should be recognised that both the Council and the department seek to provide qualified and independent advice on the options. Both entities are seeking better and more cost-effective outcomes for the community.

It should be optional for the Department and only be required where a Council has not consulted early and regularly with the department to discuss comments and engage a consultant to propose amendments.

The engagement of qualified resources by both Water NSW and Councils is not adding value to this process. Namoi Unlimited utilities believe that if the options report is commissioned with an experienced consultant, that the department has been engaged in the early stages of the study, there should be no need for the department to engage a separate consultant to the Government to assess the options, this is a costly addition to the process for the community of NSW.

The assessment undertaken by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment includes cost effectiveness, however no indication of what constitutes this parameter is defined.

The varying performance requirements that a local treatment process needs to address to meet its robust, safe and public health solutions is influenced by its water source quality. For example Quipolly Dam in the Liverpool Plains Shire Council is a very challenging water source and commands extensive treatment to perform to the communities expectations. The assessment of cost effectiveness has to be tailored to the situation, and a community's willingness to pay.

At no time throughout the process does NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment engage with these communities as part of their assessment to gauge cost effectiveness, instead applying their own values. The NSW Government needs to accept the community perception identified by the Local Water Utility.

Walcha Council would like to use treated water for gravel and construction of sealed roads, the treatment expectations by NSW Health are unviable for the community. A process to determine acceptable, safe and timely use in extreme drought needs to be identified.

Tamworth Regional Council receives a maximum of 25% of the estimated cost of construction of a water and wastewater treatment project. Despite a Local Water Utility and community having 75% of the cost, the Government has 100% veto over the project through its Section 60 process.

A Local Water Utility appoints a suitably qualified consultant to design a treatment process that will treat water to a certain standard in accordance with a design scope. This consultant has some liability in the event if the process does not see water treated to the specified levels.

However, if the Government through the section 60 process insists on changes to the design, which are not supported by the design consultant, the consultant can effectively remove their liability, thus increasing the risk for the Local Water Utility.

The Government does not offer any assistance nor accept any risk for their designed amendments to the plant or the process.

This is not equitable, particularly when the Council and the community has invested in an experienced and suitably qualified consultant throughout the process.

Resources in times of increased demand

Utilities are advised to consult with NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in the problem identification phase of the project. It is recognised that the department can provide independent advice to help direct projects towards better and more cost-effective outcomes. Again, this process needs to be resourced to ensure applications and solutions are developed in a timely fashion.

Timely Processes

With the ongoing drought conditions in NSW, and recognising that the New England North West of NSW is the worst impacted region of NSW, some prioritisation and dedicated resourcing to finalise projects is required, it is recommended that a timeframe around the “steps” articulated in the process is developed for applicants.

As a utility is responsible for the operations and risk associated with any entity, the member Councils of Namoi Unlimited believe amendments proposed by the Government as part of the Options study could weaken the solution and add risk and liability to options initially proposed by the utility.

In Stage 3 the process notes that *“the concept design should be carried to such a stage where detailed design can be confidently based on the concept and where only minimal further investigation is required”*. This should generate confidence of both parties to move forward.

A local utility would not propose a design that did not consider any environmental and all relevant regulatory requirements.

In times where approvals are being sought to prepare communities in extreme and ongoing drought, timeliness is imperative.

CONSULTATION

Member Councils of Namoi Unlimited including; Walcha Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Gunnedah Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council.

The department provides an independent and objective review of the proposed works to identify whether they are fit for purpose and meet the above requirements. Through this process, the Department provides value to applicants by sharing the insights and expertise it has developed by overseeing the 535 local water utility water and sewage treatment works in regional NSW. The department has not been consulted in the preparation of this paper.

Whilst Councils agree that the department experienced with its oversight of the over 580 local water utility water and sewage treatment works in non-metropolitan NSW, so too are member Councils of Namoi Unlimited and that the two operatives should be able to determine an appropriate and timely outcome when the partners have worked closely together in this process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Under the guidelines, each proposed water or sewage treatment works project requires an options study, concept design report and detailed design prepared by suitably qualified and experienced

practitioners and submitted to the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment for review.

The Section 60 approval provides an independent assessment of the proposed works to ensure they are fit for purpose and provide robust, safe, cost-effective and soundly based solutions that meet public health and environmental requirements.

Potentially two suitably qualified and experienced practitioners are able to provide conflicting advice at a cost to the community, and further delaying service delivery.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1993 No 30 Chapter 6 Part 3 Division 2 Section 60 - Ministerial approval required for certain council works

A council must not, except in accordance with the approval of the Minister for Primary Industries, do any of the following—

- (a) (Repealed)**
- (b)** *as to water treatment works—construct or extend any such works,*
- (c)** *as to sewage—provide for sewage from its area to be discharged, treated or supplied to any person,*
- (d) (Repealed)**

Note. Approval is required under Part 3 of Chapter 3 of the Water Management Act 2000 for the construction or use by a council of water supply works or flood works within the meaning of that Act.

Water Management Act 2000 No 92 Chapter 3 Part 3 Division 2

92 Applications for approvals

- (1)** *Subject to any embargo, any person may apply for an approval.*
- (2)** *An application for an approval must be made to the Minister in accordance with the regulations.*
- (3)** *The regulations may require the application to be accompanied by a management program for the land to which the application relates.*
- (4)** *An application may relate to more than one approval, whether of the same or of a different kind, unless the Minister requires a separate application to be made in relation to one or more of them.*
- (5)** *The Minister—*
 - (a)** *may require an applicant for an approval to provide additional information within a specified time if of the opinion that additional information would be relevant to consideration of the application, and*
 - (b)** *may delay consideration of the application until the information is provided or, if the information is not provided within the time specified, may refuse to consider the application.*
- (6)** *The Minister may refuse to accept an application for an approval if it appears to the Minister that the application is incomplete.*
- (7)** *The regulations may require any application, or any specified class of applications, to be advertised.*
- (8)** *An applicant for an approval may, by notice in writing to the Minister, amend or withdraw the application for the approval at any time before the application is determined.*

BACKGROUND

Any significant modification to, or development and construction of local water utility water or sewage treatment works requires approval under Section 60 of the Local Government Act 1993.

There are two processes described in the 'construction of a detailed design' and the 'design and construct' application processes.

'Construction of a detailed design' projects are those which the construction is based on a detailed design which has been prepared for the utility by a suitable practitioner.

'Design and construct' projects are those which the successful contractor will undertake both the design and construction work.

10.3 Positions of Advocacy - ATTACHMENT E

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

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, members; I. Endorse the positions of advocacy. II. Refer these positions of advocacy to Member Councils for review and feedback. III. Any feedback is tabled to the March JOLT meeting.
------------------------------	--

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE:	To finalise the Joint Organisations positions of Advocacy.
BACKGROUND:	<p>A report is prepared and reviewed as required on official positions of advocacy.</p> <p>Two additional positions of advocacy have been outstanding on the Actions List, these are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Seeking recognition of the NSW Joint Organisation of Councils network by the Commonwealth Government▪ renewable energy projects including amenity, reliable energy sources for economic development; a consistent approach on development contributions or expectations on roads and maintenance; and support for early and ongoing community consultations.
COMMENTARY:	ATTACHMENT E provides the document that incorporates these two positions in items; A8 and A9.

2018/10 – 001/5 Version 2.2 (December 2019)

ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP REGISTER

NAME AND DESCRIPTION	NAMOI UNLIMITED AND ITS MEMBERS SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:	POLICY REFERENCES
<p>1. Water for the Future</p> <p>Water is the critical enabler for industry, business, communities, lifestyle, tourism and the environment.</p> <p>Communities across the Namoi Joint Organisation of Councils deserve secure access to quality water resources.</p> <p>The availability and security of water enables Local Government and communities to plan for future social, environmental and economic growth with confidence.</p> <p>The climate of NSW is variable and drought is an inevitable feature in our landscape, therefore it should be considered in the same light as other business risks.</p> <p>Planning for the long-term is the most effective way that community and farmers can prepare for drought and other downturns.</p>	<p>A1.1 Government funding for Council owned water and sewer operations and projects that can demonstrate investment will provide improvements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ public health ▪ water security ▪ economic, environmental outcomes and or social benefits. <p>A1.2 Governments will provide funding, programs and financial assistance to Councils to provide access to water that will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ undertake regional strategic planning for the provision of water; ▪ provide entitlement to meet the current and future demands of growth from development; and ▪ maintain access to substantial storage capacity for emergency situations including drought. <p>A1.3 Governments support and implement policy, processes and systems that provide an equitable sharing of surface and groundwater resources and that water entitlements and allocations are secure and tradeable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surface and groundwater policy and management for NSW. ▪ NSW water resources planning, policy and regulation including negotiations with the Commonwealth. ▪ Basin specific planning, policy and management for the Great Artesian Basin and the Murray Darling Basin. ▪ Catchment planning, policy and management for the Macleay, Gwydir, Border Rivers, Namoi and Peel catchments.

<p>2. Agriculture, Agribusiness and Innovation</p> <p>Agriculture, agricultural products, commodities and services underpin the economies of the Namoi region.</p>	<p>A2.1 Governments provide programs and funding for Local Government that can stimulate the economy for business and support businesses to maintain employment and where prolonged impact of drought on regional and local employment and the economy can be demonstrated, small business can access similar assistance to that offered to primary producers.</p>	<p>COAG Agreement and Natural Disasters policy and application</p> <p>Drought policy and incentives</p> <p>Employment and incentives policy, jobs and action plans for employment in regional Australia</p>																		
<p>3. <u>Intensive Agriculture Strategy</u></p> <p>In the New England North West of NSW agricultural production accounts for 17.5 per cent of the State's gross agricultural value, the second highest regional contribution in NSW. The strength of the sector will rely on favourable climate and soils, access to national and international markets, strong broadacre cropping and grazing sectors and emerging intensive agriculture and food processing sectors.</p> <div data-bbox="367 762 663 1053"> <p>Livestock Meat Industry Production 2014-2015</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Value (\$m)</th> <th>Percentage (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cattle and Calves</td> <td>\$679m</td> <td>76%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pigs</td> <td>\$3.5m</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sheep and Lambs</td> <td>\$80m</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poultry</td> <td>\$126m</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total GVACP</td> <td>\$890m</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>NSW's highest value producer region for livestock meat</p> </div> <p>Intensive agricultural enterprises create jobs in the agricultural supply chain and open opportunities for agribusiness and innovation, service, research and education.</p>	Category	Value (\$m)	Percentage (%)	Cattle and Calves	\$679m	76%	Pigs	\$3.5m	1%	Sheep and Lambs	\$80m	9%	Poultry	\$126m	14%	Total GVACP	\$890m		<p>A3.1 Government funding and resourcing to develop the Namoi region as a regional meat production area and food processing precinct.</p> <p>A3.2 Government support for an environment that provides consistency across the region for planning for and operations of, meat and livestock enterprises.</p> <p>A3.3 Government support for an environment that markets the Namoi region as a food and fibre hub for NSW and the world.</p> <p>A3.4 Government funding and resourcing to assist producers to accelerate production of food and fibre into world markets.</p> <p>A3.5 Government legislation and policy for the “Right to Farm” in NSW.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NSW Right to Farm Policy that reinforces rights and responsibilities establishes baseline and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of land use conflicts, land use planning, reviews of relevant environmental planning instruments to minimise conflicts, additional Government intervention be required. ▪ Transport and logistics planning, prioritisation and funding. ▪ Ownership and operations of abattoirs and saleyards. ▪ Investment including domestic and foreign investment. ▪ Export marketing, markets, support and resourcing. ▪ Government environmental policy relative to farming, agriculture and intensive agriculture planning and practice. ▪ Potentially reshape and consistency from a planning approach and perspective ▪ Food production, security and the protection of natural resources which sustain food production. ▪ Planning and approvals for mixed purpose operations, increasing renewables and use and
Category	Value (\$m)	Percentage (%)																		
Cattle and Calves	\$679m	76%																		
Pigs	\$3.5m	1%																		
Sheep and Lambs	\$80m	9%																		
Poultry	\$126m	14%																		
Total GVACP	\$890m																			

		operations on prime agricultural land
<p>4. Foreign Ownership of Prime Agricultural Land</p> <p>Council members of Namoi Unlimited represent some of Australia's premier agricultural enterprises and lands.</p> <p>Foreign economies had a total of \$3.3 trillion invested in Australia at the end of 2017. The United States and United Kingdom are the biggest investors in Australia, followed by Belgium, Japan and Hong Kong (SAR of China). China is our ninth largest foreign investor, with 2.0 per cent of the total.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited acknowledges community concern in relation to acquisition of prime agricultural land by foreign owned entities. Namoi Unlimited will monitor media and examine decisions of the foreign Investment Review Board in relation to the purchase of prime agricultural land.</p>	<p>A4.1 Governments supports business and industry to grow and prosper in the Namoi region, creating employment and opportunities for the Local Government Areas it represents.</p> <p>A4.2 Governments supports the role of the Foreign Investment Review Board as a non statutory body established to advise the Treasurer and the Government on Australia's Foreign Investment Policy. Specifically that, proposed direct interests in an agribusiness generally require approval where the value of the investment is more than \$58 million, with an exemption applying to investors from Australia's trade agreement partners and a \$0 threshold applying to Foreign Government investors.</p> <p>A4.3 Government funds the continued publication of reports on Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land by the Australian Taxation Office.</p>	<p>Australian Government policies on foreign investment, bilateral international treaties and free trade agreements.</p>
<p>5. Trade and Investment</p> <p>The <i>Regional Australia Institute</i> told Namoi Unlimited in 2015, that if it wanted to grow the economy it needed to support; agriculture, agricultural innovation, provide opportunity for investment on the right terms and accelerate exports.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited will engage and develop relationships in overseas markets in pursuit of new trade and investment opportunities to grow the region.</p> <p>Regions like the Namoi need specific and expert assistance to monitor dynamics of global markets, climate change and changing consumer demand, to assist industry to evolve and adapt.</p>	<p>A5.1 Governments increase the capacity and capability of, and funding for, Councils to grow the economy and create jobs across regional NSW by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resourcing Councils to providing place based response and dedicated support to businesses to export their products and services. ▪ Resourcing Councils to work with the NSW Government to attracting international investment. ▪ Increased resources for international offices, engagement, communications and marketing of regional NSW. 	<p>Australian Government policy, investment and programs for AusTrade.</p> <p>NSW Government policy, investment and programs for the Department of Industry and Trade and the Department of Primary Industries.</p>
<p>6. Mining and Resource Development and Extractive Industries</p>	<p>A6.1 Governments recognises the importance of protecting important farmlands such as the Liverpool Plains.</p>	<p>NSW Government planning and land use legislation and policy, including the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Standing</p>

<p>The New England North West geology is diverse and there is the potential for mineral and energy exploration and production.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited believes communities need to be advised and informed of the potential risks to water, land and community resources as a result of mining and resource development in the Namoi region.</p> <p>The Gunnedah coal basin contains the State's third largest coal reserves and coal seam gas potential. Coal deposits also surround the Local Government Areas of Liverpool Plains Shire, Gunnedah Shire and have the potential to impact the economy of Tamworth Regional Council and to a lesser extent the rest of the Namoi region.</p> <p>The New England North West also contains deposits of gemstones, industrial minerals and extractive materials, with many small-scale mines in operation.</p>	<p>A6.2 Governments continue to reduce exploration licenses in areas where development of mining or resource development encroaches on agricultural enterprises.</p> <p>A6.3 Governments approach mining development sensitively to minimise negative impacts on the environment, agricultural land, neighbouring businesses and the community.</p> <p>A6.4 Governments will work with Local Government to respond to the lifecycle of mining with the intent of providing public resources and services and infrastructure that reflects growth.</p> <p>A6.5 Government deliver greater protection to agricultural land from the impacts of mining and coal seam gas (CSG) activity, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ coal seam gas exclusion zones; ▪ safeguarding biophysical strategic agricultural land ; ▪ application and scrutiny of the Gateway process for State significant mining and coal seam gas proposals; ▪ acknowledging Critical Industry Clusters including the equine industry in the Namoi region; ▪ implement a Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel to scientifically assess mining and coal seam gas impacts on strategic agricultural land and its associated water resources; ▪ introduce regulations governing exploration activity, overseen by a Land and Water Commissioner; ▪ introduce an Aquifer Interference Policy; and ▪ introduce independent, robust and transparent Agricultural Impact Statement for all mining and resource development projects in the Namoi 	<p>Council on Energy and Resources Multiple Land Use Framework.</p> <p>NSW Government mining and extraction legislation and policy including; NSW Mineral Exploration and Development Assessment and Approvals Process for Major Mining and Petroleum (including coal seam gas) Projects.</p>
--	--	---

	<p>region.</p> <p>A6.6 Governments extend, support and fund bioregional assessments to provide transparent and scientific information on potential impacts of gas and coal mining developments on water and the environment.</p>	
<p>7. Connected and Enabled Freight and Transport Infrastructure</p> <p>The network of roads plays an important role in the freight challenge for NSW. The movement of freight across accessible and efficient road networks is critical for business and communities.</p> <p>increasing rail freight movements due to mining and resource development, rail level crossings are frequently closed.</p> <p>Investment and upgrading of rail infrastructure for passengers and freight capacity to enhance road capacity and reduce haulage costs.</p>	<p>A7.1 Government recognise and fund strategic network approaches to identifying and addressing transport and freight impediments.</p> <p>A7.2 Governments negotiate and fund the Namoi Roads Network Strategy staging an investment of \$300 million in roads to unlock the regions road transport network.</p> <p>A7.3 The Government requires ARTC to action and address;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the number of closed periods for crossings and the length of time crossings are closed; ▪ advise Councils of proposed closures of crossings; ▪ take any action to mitigate the cumulative impacts of increased rail transport on communities; ▪ collaborate with Governments to plan solutions for infrastructure upgrades; ▪ Upgrading of rail haulage network through Liverpool Plains Shire Council and the Gunnedah Shire Council. <p>A7.4 Governments plan and invest in increased capability and capacity for passenger and freight on rail on the North West Rail Line Network including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Newcastle to Narrabri, ○ Werris Creek to Tamworth ○ Newcastle to Armidale ○ Barraba Spur Line ○ Inland Rail ○ Tamworth Intermodal 	<p>Strategic rail infrastructure policy, programs and investments, the Investment Infrastructure Program, the Black Spot Program, Bridges Renewal Program, Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program, Roads to Recovery</p> <p>Roads and Maritime NSW programs for funding</p> <p>Transport for NSW Freight and Ports Strategy</p> <p>Heavy Vehicles and freight policy, frameworks and logistics</p> <p>Roads to Recovery Statement of Expectations</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Werris Creek Over rail bridge ○ Quirindi Over rail bridge <p>A7.5 Governments further subsidise passenger rail travel pricing.</p> <p>A7.6 Commonwealth Government funding for Roads to Recovery increase in real terms road funding direct financial assistance to Local Government.</p> <p>A7.7 Governments commit to working with Local Government and to provide funding for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commercial air services into Gunnedah; ▪ Development of the Tamworth International Air freight capability and capacity; ▪ Slots for regional services into Sydney Airport; ▪ Providing ongoing information to Local Government about the introduction of a second airport at Badgery's Creek and the future of Kingsford Smith Airport. 	
<p>8. Energy Infrastructure</p> <p>Namoi Councils support the view that renewable energy is essential to Australia's future economic growth and prosperity and a strategic driver in providing for future jobs and assisting with the lowering of greenhouse gas emissions posed by climate change.</p> <p>The development of renewable energy sources and enterprises in the region should not be to the detriment of base load security or the introduction of new technologies.</p> <p>Organisations like Namoi Unlimited can work with all levels of government to plan and prepare for infrastructure and energy needed into the future.</p>	<p>A8.1 Governments provide financial assistance by way of subsidies and incentives to industry to develop and harness the energy technologies such as Bio Energy, Geothermal Energy, Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Pumped Hydro and HELE to support economic development and reduce energy prices.</p> <p>A8.2 Governments support and incentivise the development of the New England North West region as a Hub for Renewable energy in NSW.</p> <p>A8.3 Governments support the investigation of energy projects to support innovation between the agricultural and energy sectors.</p> <p>A8.4 Governments engage early and consistently to inform the community of potential and approved developments.</p>	<p>NSW Electricity Supply Act 1995</p> <p>Australian Energy Market Commission</p>

<p>9. Federal Government Local Government Assistance Grants (FAGs)</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited supports the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) position on grants.</p> <p>Local government (councils) is the third tier of government in the Australian system of government. Councils are primarily responsible for providing a wide range of critical local area services including planning, libraries and waste management and for infrastructure provision (e.g. roads and footpaths, parks, sporting grounds and swimming pools) required by the local community.</p> <p>Local government nationally employs about 187,000 Australians (around 10 per cent of the total public sector). It also owns and manages non-financial assets with an estimated written down value of \$408 billion (2015-16), raises around 3.6 per cent of Australia's total taxation revenue per annum and has an annual operational expenditure of around \$35 billion (2015-16), just under 6 per cent of total public sector spending.</p> <p>Nationally, local government derives nearly 90 per cent of its revenue from its own sources (including rates and services charges), compared to around 50 per cent for state governments. Grants from other levels of government make up only 10 per cent of local government's total revenue, however these grants are particularly important in areas with a low rate base, and/or high growth rate, and rapidly expanding service and infrastructure needs.</p> <p>Local government's expenditure is directed towards the provision of local services across the nation. These services include: housing and community amenities, transport and communications, recreation and culture and general public services. These services are critical to the productivity, wellbeing and liveability of local communities and cumulatively of the nation.</p>	<p>A9.1 Secure annual Commonwealth funding for local government equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue.</p> <p>A9.2 Oppose revenue constraints such as rate capping and cost shifting.</p> <p>A9.3 Encourage councils to acknowledge Financial Assistance Grants as a Commonwealth untied grant to local government.</p> <p>A9.4 Strengthen local government's credentials as a trusted partner for tied Commonwealth grants.</p> <p>A9.5 Secure annual Commonwealth funding for joint organisations of Councils.</p>	<p>ALGA Federal Budget 2019-20 Submission</p>
--	---	---

<p>10. Engaged People Seeking Skills for the Future</p> <p>People and their skills are fundamental to the growth of our economies, our communities and lifestyle.</p> <p>Local Government is one of the largest employers in the Namoi region and has an important role to play in the attraction of people to the region, and the development of skills.</p> <p>Competition for skills across the region occurs across a number of sectors, for example mining and resource development offers above market rewards and conditions which inhibits the ability of Local Government to compete for skills.</p> <p>There is a perception that there are ‘no jobs or limited jobs’ in regional areas.</p> <p>As a group of Councils, members can collaborate to increase capacity and capability in skills areas that maybe difficult to full as individual Councils.</p>	<p>A10.1 Regional Trade Training Centre located in Gunnedah Shire Council including funding to establish and operate a trades training Centre in the heart of the Gunnedah Basin which is estimated to contain recoverable coal reserves of 1.48 billion tonnes - about 13% of NSW total coal reserves.</p> <p>A10.2 TAFE NSW is funded and strategically positioned to meet the workforce needs of Local Government, industry and the regional community.</p> <p>A10.3 Establishment of a University in the Tamworth Region including funding for the establishment of a university in Tamworth Regional Council that services the Namoi region and beyond. Commonwealth placements to fund the ongoing operations of a university in the region.</p>	
<p>11. Emergency Assistance</p> <p>Across Australia local government plays an important role building resilient and sustainable communities, particularly when it comes to dealing with natural hazards and other threats.</p> <p>Local governments are increasingly playing crucial roles in preparing communities through various mitigation interventions, assisting in response and playing a key leadership role in rebuilding and recovery efforts.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited supports the ALGA policy work focuses on ensuring local government is recognised and supported in helping to build greater levels of resilience in Australia’s diverse communities and geographic regions.</p> <p>The size, severity, timing, location and impacts of disasters are difficult to predict and our changing climate increases</p>	<p>A11.1 To do this ALGA is actively engaging with other levels of government on the continuation of appropriate Commonwealth funding to support councils and communities to mitigate and recover from natural disasters.</p> <p>Emergency Management</p> <p>Investment in the mitigation of risk, the promotion of community safety and warning systems, engaging partners and communities, protecting built and natural environments and community resilience.</p> <p>Support and funding for a whole-of-government, multi-agency and all hazards approach.</p> <p>Natural Disaster Resilience</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government invests a total of \$26.1 million each year in the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience to fund priority disaster</p>	<p>Emergency Management Australia</p> <p>National Strategy for Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub</p> <p>Productivity Commission – Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements (2014)</p> <p>Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</p>

<p>the uncertainty about future risks. Scientific modelling suggests that climate change will likely result in an increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Rising sea levels are increasing the likelihood of coastal erosion and severe inundation.</p> <p>Disaster resilience is a shared responsibility for individuals, households, businesses and communities, as well as for governments.</p> <p>In 2018, following floods, cyclones and fires which greatly impacted communities across Australia, the Commonwealth Government established a National Resilience Taskforce within the Home Affairs Department to lead nation-wide reforms to reduce the impact and financial burden of disasters on our communities and economy. The Taskforce's first priority is to develop a five-year national disaster mitigation framework to reduce the impact of disasters.</p> <p>Local governments contribute to Australia's biosecurity in both metropolitan and rural/regional areas. The movement of animals and other livestock through our cities and towns via ports, roads and rail, as well as by foot across diverse rural landscapes, can expose our domestic agricultural and grazing industries and natural environment to risk from invasive pests, disease and noxious weeds.</p>	<p>resilience initiatives. These funds are matched by state and territory governments.</p> <p>Changes to the Natural Disaster Recovery (NDR) Program to allow councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ greater flexibility and the self-determination of how NDR funding is spent; ○ funding to be spent on the replacement of infrastructure to the same standard of that damaged or destroyed; ○ a disaster management program and pool of funds to fund renewal or replacement of vital public. <p>Biosecurity</p> <p>ALGA provides support to state and territory local government associations on national-scale biosecurity issues through representation on peak working groups including the National Biosecurity Committee and on Federal Government initiatives that work across the tiers of government to help maintain and protect Australia's biosecurity.</p> <p>The role and investment in this function at a Local Government level is increased.</p>	
---	--	--

10.4 LGNSW and Joint Organisations Working Group

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	Advocacy and Leadership
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	-
Attachments	ATTACHMENT F
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the report is noted.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide members with an update on potential collaborations between LGNSW and Joint Organisations.
BACKGROUND:	The Executive Officer and the Deputy Chair attending a two day forum in Sydney held by LGNSW to discuss how Joint Organisations and LGNSW can work together.
COMMENTARY:	<p>A follow up meeting between people who self-nominated for the Working Group was held 20 November 2019.</p> <p>The areas of focus and the priority projects identified from the first meeting and this subsequent meeting was as follows:</p> <p>Roads and Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advocacy to the Minister to meet with the group and discuss road and transport funding programs and priorities.2. Review of the Transport 2056 and Freight and Ports Plan to consider; the connectivity to regional centres, regional road freight routes, east west connectivity, intermodals for ports, rail, road freight, CSIRO transport data, costs of freight congestion.3. Sharing of policy and submissions on roads and transport. <p>Water management and Utilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Communications strategy about the value of Local Government Utility ownership and planning, agreed water restrictions applications.5. Advocacy to the Minister's for Local Government and Water on Section 60.6. IWCM program and processes.

Waste and Recycling

7. 20 year strategy for waste and recycling
8. Advocacy to return the waste levy to Councils.

Workforce and Skills

9. Support for the implementation and roll out for the Local Government careers and job site.
10. LGNSW obtain RTO status to deliver training under Smart and Skilled.

Two areas identified Environment and Renewables, Digital Connectivity were deferred to the next meeting due to time restraints.

11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 Annual Performance Statement – ATTACHMENT F

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	-
Legal	Local Government Act 1993
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Annual reporting of performance against the strategic regional priorities
Attachments	ATTACHMENT F
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the report is endorsed and presented to the Minister, the NSW Office of Local Government and tabled at meetings of member Councils.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide members with a copy of the completed Annual Performance Statement.
BACKGROUND:	Content has been collated from a number of endorsed document to prepare the Annual Performance Statement.
COMMENTARY:	-

ATTACHMENT F – DRAFT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Welcome and Introduction

The Annual Performance Report provides an account of our performance for our Member Councils and our community.

It details our achievements against commitments and our performance against our Annual Business Plan and our financial management over the past year.

The Annual Performance Report is an opportunity to acknowledge the great things that have been happening across Walcha Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Gunnedah Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council.

This report also meets requirements under the *NSW Local Government Act (1993)* and will also be presented to the Minister of Local Government, The Hon Shelley Hancock MP.

Namoi Unlimited acknowledges the commitment and collaboration of Mayors, General Managers and staff from the Member Councils.

Namoi Unlimited acknowledges the Kamilaroi People, the traditional owners and custodians of the lands in our Region, and pay respect to the Elders both past and present.

Hard copies of this document are available at any of our five Member Councils via the General Manager, and electronic copies are available at www.namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au.

It is acknowledged that the investment by Members in the activity of the Joint Organisation is significant not only financially but also operationally. There is a strong commitment from members who pursue strategic priorities through the stewardship of these priorities and the work that steering committees and working groups undertake to achieve them.

Specifically acknowledged are:

- Tamworth Regional Council and Gunnedah Shire Council in the Water for the Future work and the Trade and Investment Strategy;
- Walcha Council and Gwydir Shire Council in the Enabled and Connected Infrastructure priority specifically in their guidance to the Roads and Transport Working Group; and
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council in the pursuit of engaging with people and skills, building scale, capacity and capability of the region and its human resources.

Performance and Value

A key responsibility of a Joint Organisation is to identify its Strategic Regional Priorities and make plans to achieve the identified priorities for the benefit of the community. Namoi Unlimited has three identified Strategic Regional Priorities;

1. Water for the Future

Agriculture, agricultural products, commodities and services underpin the economies of the Namoi region. The dynamics of global markets, climate change and changing consumer demand, mean our core industry must evolve and adapt. The availability, security and access to water underpin every facet of agriculture.

Water is also critical to the other two priorities identified.

Our action will be targeted towards growth and development and water is the critical enabler for industry, business, communities, lifestyle, tourism and the environment.

2. Enabled and Connected Infrastructure

The provision of goods and services, connecting people and business, and addressing the perception of remoteness and isolation in regional areas are all dependent on having fully functional and connected infrastructure.

Roads, rail, air infrastructure, energy and telecommunications infrastructure are critical for the future growth and the development of the region.

The role of Namoi Unlimited is to understand the capacity and capability of existing infrastructure and networks, and then take a future focussed approach to prioritising, investing and advocating for critical and necessary infrastructure, necessary to enabling and supporting growth.

3. Engaged People seeking Skills for the Future

People and their skills are fundamental to the growth of our economies, our communities and lifestyle. Local Government is one of the largest employers in the Namoi region and has an important role to play in the attraction of people to the region, and the development of skills to meet future workforce demands.

The members of Namoi Unlimited will identify, promote and engage in opportunities to address skill shortages within both Councils and across communities.

2018-2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The highlights are focused on the functions described for Joint Organisations of Councils across NSW, recognising that Joint Organisations were given a mechanism by which Councils could work together in areas identified in strategic regional priorities and plans to achieve them.

KEY FUNCTION 1: PLANNING AND PRIORITISATION

STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY: Water for the Future Strategy

Investment up to \$119,000

Project Commenced: December 2018

Project Concludes:

June 2019

The Water for the Future project is identified as a critical piece of analysis for its member Councils and Namoi Unlimited. Consultants Rhelm were appointed in December 2018 and over a period of six months completed an audit of the current sources and availability of water, in our communities to identify the supply, security and access issues.

The Outputs (what we did during the 2018-2019 financial year)

Funding and development of the *Water for the Future Strategy* for the Namoi region, providing;

- Detail of the water supply and infrastructure assets currently available to communities and business across the Namoi region;

- Over 30 recommendations were identified as future opportunities around demand and supply.
- A detailed understanding of the demand and supply of water for agricultural products, services, commodities, supply chains and value propositions creating the opportunity for the development of a proposal for a Special Activation Precinct across the Namoi region.
- An understanding of the constraints and some of the innovation opportunities for Local Government in water.
- And aligning water and desires for demand, growth and investment to opportunities, investment potential, community expectations and Government positions.

The Outcomes (what we will achieve by doing this in the 2018-2019 financial year)

The reports were presented in two volumes; Volume 1 is a comprehensive report on the resource and the region, Volume 2 the analysis and strategy provides the members with targeted and strategic advice that will enable the group to hone its pursuit of opportunities for regional growth further.

There are three recommended structures identified to position Councils into the future;

- Strategic which will provide advice and seek the evidence to support the building and investment into infrastructure including water utilities.
- Policy and performance considerations that will align where possible policy that is intended to support regional growth, investment and the pursuit of these drivers.
- Operational to collaborate on water utility planning, capacity and capability.

A proposal has been developed that identifies how by supporting the supply chains for intensive agriculture, value add opportunities may be created, generating jobs for the Namoi region. This is seen to be critical to identifying and facilitating new market opportunities for regional producers, and to building stronger and more resilient communities in this current drought.

Trade and Investment Strategy

Strategic investment up to \$69,334 with funding of \$20,000 from the Australia-China Council and \$7,842 from the NSW Government

Project Commenced: July 2018

Project Concludes:

June 2019

The Outputs (what we did during the 2018-2019 financial year)

The outputs described in the Trade and Investment Strategy were to; establish and support a working group to drive the strategy under the stewardship of Tamworth Regional Council and Gunnedah Shire Council as the most experienced and resourced Councils involved in economic development, to support Councils to pursue investment opportunities for infrastructure, growth and jobs.

- Namoi Unlimited provided support and advocacy to individual Councils funding applications for community and roads and transport infrastructure, for example through the Namoi Roads Network Strategy Councils have attracted over \$100million in funding this financial year.
- Namoi Unlimited partnered with businesses and the NSW Government to pursue trade and export relationships for agriculture into China, specifically NingBo, and conducted activities like the Cynthia Dearin Export Workshop providing businesses with access to training rarely seen in regions of NSW.
- Namoi Unlimited engaged and has developed a network of exporters, who potentially will be the businesses primed for growth.

- Namoi Unlimited's investment in further branding and marketing of the region through case studies was hindered by drought conditions and uncertainty.

There were a number of specific activities undertaken in the pursuit of the Trade and Investment Strategy, including;

- A reciprocal visit from the Ningbo Government and business delegates to the Namoi region and AgQuip in August 2018.
- The China Study Tour to China, visiting Guangzhou, Shanghai and Ningbo in May 2019.
- The Cynthia Dearin Export Masterclass held in July 2019.

The Outcomes (what we will achieve by doing this in the 2018-2019 financial year)

Namoi Unlimited despite the current drought conditions is committed to a targeted and regional approach to grow trade and investment in the region. Support for this approach is evidenced in the Shaping the Future of the Namoi Study (2015) that identified six levers that the joint Organisation could work on together.

Namoi Unlimited continues to be respected as an organisation that is contributing to developing better ways for Government to engage and invest in regional Australia. This is evidenced by the organisations successes in attracting funding for capacity and capability programs from the NSW Government, and more recently access to an additional \$150,000 from the NSW Government for pursuit of strategic regional priorities.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY: ENABLED AND CONNECTED INFRASTRUCTURE

Strategic investment up to \$25,000

Project Commenced: July 2018

Project Concludes:

June 2019

Namoi Unlimited continued to support Councils to analyse and prioritise the inhibitors to industry and growth, and or safety, to identify and address the network of roads and the network and connectivity of road to rail, air infrastructure, energy and telecommunications.

The Outputs (what we did during the 2018-2019 financial year)

Councils through the support of Namoi Unlimited identified over \$300million in road infrastructure investment to enable and connect the region to markets and ports. During the financial year, Councils were able to attract funding for almost \$100million of this three year target, a testament to regional planning, collaboration and inter-governmental relations facilitated by the Joint Organisation.

The Outcomes (what we will achieve by doing this in the 2018-2019 financial year)

The outcomes are that the region has an established function and an identified process to highlight, substantiate and promote enabling roads infrastructure for the region.

The relationships, efficiencies and opportunities to work together remain the opportunity for Councils working as a collaboration of Councils. Improved information and service delivery has been delivered by engaging with the NSW Government and the National Heavy Vehicle Regular as a group.

Future opportunities are for the Joint Organisation to focus on other inhibitors to industry and growth, and or safety, specifically around rail, air, energy and telecommunications. Namoi Unlimited believes further strategies to be released by the NSW Government around regional rail and regional airports, as

well as clarification around energy and telecommunications required for future jobs and work will be necessary for the region to grow.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY: ENGAGED PEOPLE SEEKING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

The Outputs (what we did during the 2018-2019 financial year)

In the previous financial year, Member Councils audited workforce development plans to identify collective operational opportunities to build scale and capacity of member Councils and the Joint Organisation.

A number of projects to build scale and capacity of Councils and businesses with support from the NSW Government and the Australian Government commenced or were completed, including;

- Bio-diversity Project Officer (\$140,000 Gwydir Shire Council)
- Contaminated Lands Project Officer (\$420,000)
- Increasing resilience to climate change on gravel roads (\$285,000)
- Export Ready Workshop (\$7,800)

The Outcomes (what we will achieve by doing this in the 2018-2019 financial year)

Further work needs to be done to capitalise on strategic and operational opportunities to increase services within Councils, nurture skills and talent in Local Government sharing experience and expertise and promote employment opportunities within Local Government.

KEY FUNCTION 2: INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

One of the key functions of a Joint Organisation is inter-governmental relations and the Joint Organisation has participated in a number of key Government stakeholder groups for Councils:

- Engagement with water agencies occurred through the Water for the Future project, and engagement with the Office of Water regularly as a member of the Namoi Water Alliance.
- Engagement with officers in NSW Trade and Investment both in Australian and overseas occurred, as well as engagement with Austrade offices.
- Engagement from Transport for NSW across roads, freight and road maintenance branches for collaboration around the Namoi Roads Network Strategy. Engagement with the Heavy Vehicle Regulator and National codes.
- New relationships are potentially developing with the NSW Public Advisory and the Public Service Commission around graduate opportunities in the region for Local Government and Namoi Unlimited as a collaboration of Councils.
- New England North West Regional Leadership Executive and sub groups;
 - New England North West Drought Taskgroup
 - Northern NSW Renewables Working Group
 - New England North West Regional Economic Development Sub-Committee
- New England North West Regional Plan 2036

KEY FUNCTION 3: ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

Members established the framework, policy and procedures for advocacy and leadership from the Joint Organisation. As a group of Councils the opportunity of collaborating as a group that represents

a larger population and geography is not lost on the members. Also establish was a base line position of advocacy on issues relative to the Strategic Regional Plan, including;

- Water for the Future
- Agriculture, Agribusiness and Innovation
- Intensive Agriculture Strategy
- Foreign Ownership of Prime Agricultural Land
- Trade and Investment
- Mining and Resource Development and Extractive Industries
- Connected and Enabled Freight and Transport Infrastructure
- Energy Infrastructure
- Federal Government Local Government Assistance Grants (FAGs)
- Engaged People Seeking Skills for the Future
- Emergency Assistance

Representations on behalf of members on positions of advocacy and leadership to the NSW Government and Australian Government representatives were made on the following topics;

- Water and the impacts of drought
- Namoi Roads Network Strategy and its priorities
- Education both at vocational and tertiary level for skills for business and the development of a university for Tamworth
- Support for Local Government and the Joint Organisation Model and future funding
- Acceleration of Trade and Investment opportunities for the region
- Energy
- National Telecommunications Review

Namoi Unlimited is an active participant in the Executive Officer and Chairpersons Networks for Joint Organisations of Councils in NSW.

ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES	ALIGNMENT TO KEY FUNCTIONS	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION	MEMBER BENEFIT	CASH VALUE TO COUNCILS (includes annual budget expenditure and grant funding)	IN-KIND VALUE TO COUNCILS (includes annual budget expenditure and grant funding)	STAFF INVESTMENT (Based on \$200 per hour x five for the Executive Officer.)		STATUS	
						Executive Officer	Member Councils Contribution		Completed or Ongoing
									Pending
									Not proceeding
Water for the Future Enabled and Connected Infrastructure Engaged People seeking Skills for the Future	Strategic Regional Plan and priorities	2018-2021 year strategic regional plan and priorities. 2018-2019 Annual Business Plan.	ALL	\$12,000	-	\$32,000	\$16,000		
	Inter-governmental Collaboration	Establishment grant for the Joint Organisation of Councils from the NSW Government through the Office of Local Government.	ALL	\$300,000	-	-	-		
		New England North West Regional Leadership Executive	ALL	-	-	\$12,000	-		
		New England North West Regional Economic Development Sub-Committee	ALL	-	-	\$6,000	-		
		New England North West Regional Plan 2036 – monitoring committee and project liaison for the Joint Organisation, completed projects include:	ALL	-	-	\$8,000	-		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a Regional Intensive Agribusiness Strategy to foster ongoing investment, specify guidelines for intensive agriculture and food processing and map suitable future precincts for these uses. Map important agricultural land and develop guidelines to support the implementation of the important agricultural land mapping through local plans. Deliver an annual New England North West Housing and Land Monitor Prepare guidelines for local housing strategies that will provide guidance on planning for local affordable housing needs. 							
		Increasing resilience to Climate Change to manage the impact of reduced water availability on gravel roads and the potential use of waste water.	ALL	\$285,000	-	\$5,000	-		
	Advocacy and Leadership	Support for the Thriving Small Towns initiative under the Regional Leadership Executive	LPSC	-	-	-	-		
		NSW Joint Organisation Executive Officer and Chairs Network	ALL	-	-	\$28,000	-		
		Canberra Advocacy event – representation to Ministers and advisors for education, Local Government and regional development, energy, trade and investment, drought and Local Members of Parliament and discussions with the Regional Australia Institute.	ALL	\$10,000	-	\$10,000	-		
		Community consultations representations Farm Household Assistance Review	ALL	-	-	\$1,500	-		
Water for the Future	Planning and Prioritisation Inter-governmental Collaboration Advocacy and Leadership	Water for the Future Strategic Regional Project planning and documents, selection of consultants and contract ting of consultants.	ALL	\$6,000	-	\$20,000	\$4,000		
		Certification and training opportunities for collaboration and best practice across water operations.	ALL	\$14,010	-	\$25,750	-		
		Trade and Investment Strategy	ALL	-	-	\$20,000	\$8,000		
		Trade and Investment Strategy Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 1 – Ningbo Government Mission Project 2 – Sinda Foods Visit Project 3 – China Study Tour for Exporters Project 4 – Cynthia Dearin Export Ready Workshop 	ALL	\$69,334	\$22,500	\$40,000	\$5,000		
		Small and Medium Enterprises Export Hub application to develop and support the network of exporters in the Namoi region.	ALL	-	-	\$8,000	-		
		NSW Regional Economic Development (DPC) Investment Attraction Training	ALL	-	-	\$12,800	\$3,200		
		MOU with a potential investor around a bio-energy opportunity for cotton	ALL (except WC)	-	-	\$1,200	-		
		Potential dairy investor	WC	-	-	-	-		
		Poultry enquiry for chicken feet and chicken middle joint wings starting at 10 containers of each product category.	TRC	-	-	-	-		
		Lamb supply enquiry from Hezhong	ALL	-	-	-	-		

		Education and training with a private college in Ningbo	ALL	-	-	-	-	
		Food processing and value add opportunities for beef, lamb and grain	ALL	-	-	-	-	
	Planning and Prioritisation	Representation of Member Councils with Safe and Secure Water to facilitate opportunities with government and partners for investment into the provision of water, infrastructure and skills.	ALL	-	-	\$4,000	-	
	Inter-governmental Collaboration	New England North West Drought Task group – distribution of factsheets, program information and contacts.	ALL	-	-	\$15,000	-	
		Namoi environmental water and floodplain harvesting working group with NSW Office of Environment.	ALL	-	-	\$2,000		
	Advocacy and Leadership	Annual membership of the Water Industry Association	ALL	-	-	-	\$11,000	
	Planning and Prioritisation Inter-governmental Collaboration Advocacy and Leadership	Representation at the Regional Telecommunications Review, assessment of the review findings and the Government response. Preparation of priorities aligned to the 20 year Vision for Regional NSW and the REDs	ALL	-	-	\$2,000	\$800	
	Enabled and Connected Infrastructure	Namoi Roads Network Strategy Roads and Transport Working Group	ALL	-	-	\$40,000	\$15,000	
		Network Business Case – Stage 2	ALL	\$100,000	-	\$83,200	\$12,000	
		▪ Fossickers Way Corridor	GWSC, TRC	-	-	-	\$9,360,000	Business Case to be reviewed
		▪ Tamworth Corridor	TRC	-	-	-	\$16,074,000	
		▪ Thunderbolts Way Corridor	WC, TRC	-	-	-	\$11,342,400	
		▪ Werris Creek Road Corridor	TRC, LPSC	-	-	-	\$25,000,000	
		▪ Heavy Vehicle Safety Productivity Program (HVSPP) for Grain Valley Road	GSC	\$3,850,000	-	-	\$10,000	
		▪ Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah Shire Corridor	LPSC, GSC	-	-	-	\$30,990,000	
		Regional approach to the NRMA electric vehicle charging stations roll-out.	ALL	-	-	-	-	
		Renewables investor HITE targeting projects for solar or wind farms, no less than 50MW, financing or acquiring.	ALL	-	-	-	EXPORT LEAD	
Engaged People seeking Skills for the Future	Intergovernmental Collaboration	Northern NSW Renewables Project and Forum to produce a resource took for Councils	ALL	-	\$8,000	\$800	INFORMATION	
	Planning and Prioritisation	Contracts and revenue sharing agreement between a Material Recovery Facility and councils from the NSW Container Deposit Scheme.	ALL	-	\$10,000	-	-	
	Inter-governmental Collaboration	Facilitation and coordination of discussions about NSW Population Futures with NSW Population and Land Use Analytics.	ALL	-	-	\$3,200	\$1,500	
		New England North West Bio-diversity project officer is managed by Gwydir Shire Council	ALL	\$70,000	-	\$2,000	\$10,000	
		NSW Information Commission CEO presentation to the region and the Board about public confidence and good governance.	ALL	-	-	\$3,200	\$1,500	
		Gunnedah Shire Council will represent the region on the Department of Planning Council Stakeholders Panel.	ALL	-	-	-	\$6,400	
		Application for funding for a regional Contaminated Lands Officer for 3 years.	ALL	\$420,000	\$12,000	\$3,200	\$1,500	
		Heritage Near Me program and the Energy Management Services program training and grants program.	ALL	-	-	-	INFORMATION	
		Local Government Skills Strategy	ALL			\$5,000		
	Advocacy and Leadership	▪ Gunnedah Shire Council	-	-	\$7,461	-	-	
		▪ Gwydir Shire Council	-	-	\$7,920	-	-	
		▪ Liverpool Plains Shire Council	-	-	\$18,602	-	-	
		▪ Tamworth Regional Council	-	-	\$82,893	-	-	

	▪ Walcha Council	-	-	\$32,334	-	-	
--	------------------	---	---	----------	---	---	--

FINANCIAL REPORT

A full copy of the Audited Financial Statements for the 2018/2019 year is provided on the website at www.namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au/content/uploads/2019/10/191017-AGA-Board-Meeting-Walcha.pdf

Income

Note 2 Income from continuing operations

	Period 11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019
	\$
(a) Member Council contributions	
Gunnedah Shire Council	30,000
Gwydir Shire Council	30,000
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	30,000
Tamworth Regional Council	30,000
Walcha Shire Council	30,000
Total member council contributions	<u>150,000</u>
(b) User charges and fees	
China Study Tour Fees	<u>22,788</u>
Total user charges and fees	<u>22,788</u>
(c) Interest and investment revenue	
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>733</u>
Total interest and investment revenue (losses)	<u>733</u>
(d) Grants	
	<u>Operating</u>
	Period 11 May 2018 to 30 June 2019
Joint Organisation Establishment	300,000
China - Namoi Engagement Project	20,000
Contaminated Lands Program	140,000
New England North West Export Workshop	7,890
	<u>467,890</u>
Comprising	
- Commonwealth funding	20,000
- State funding	<u>447,890</u>
	<u>467,890</u>

Expenses

Note 3 Expenses from continuing operations

Period 11 May
2018 to 30 June
2019

(a) Employee benefits and on-costs	\$
Salaries and wages	156,788
Travel expenses	15,653
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	26,203
Superannuation	18,267
Workers compensation insurance	12,114
Total employee benefits and on-costs	<u>229,025</u>
(b) Administrative expenses	\$
Contractor and consultancy costs	
- Media and Communications	24,946
- Namoi Water Alliance	28,470
- Namoi Water Strategy	105,350
Remuneration of auditors	6,000
Training	10,934
Travel	
- Chair	2,044
- Ningbo delegation	3,166
- Trade & Investment – China Study Tour	56,200
- Advocacy	9,841
Meetings	2,621
Subscriptions	20,000
Other	18,069
Total administrative expenses	<u>287,641</u>
Auditors' remuneration	
Auditors of the Namoi Joint Organisation - NSW Auditor General:	
- Audit of financial statements	6,000
Total fees paid or payable to the Auditor-General	<u>6,000</u>

Accounting policy for expenses

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

Borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate the cost of the asset, net of residual

NAMOI UNLIMITED'S PROFILE

Namoi Unlimited consists of a range of Councils including Gunnedah Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council. Through member council cooperation, Namoi Unlimited is able to build on the unique and diverse economic, cultural and natural qualities of each region. JOs will not impose significant red tape or cost to their communities.



Namoi Unlimited is a Joint Organisation of Councils in New South Wales. Joint Organisation's of Councils is a voluntary function of Councils that enables them to collaborate, plan, set priorities and deliver important projects in regional NSW.

Councils in the Namoi region are; Gunnedah Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council.

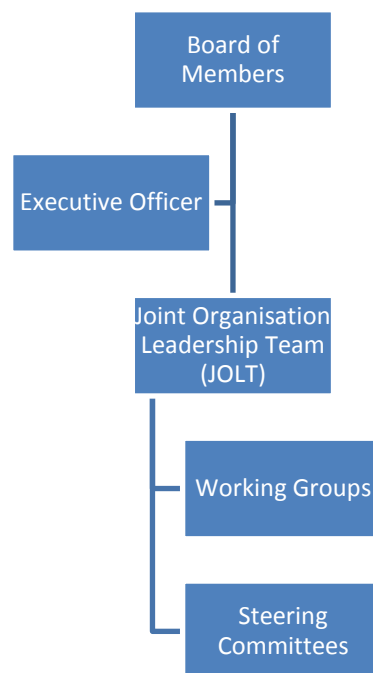
YOUR MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

The Board of Namoi Unlimited includes the Mayors of member Councils.

- Councillor Jamie Chaffey, Chairperson and Mayor Gunnedah Shire Council
- Councillor Colin Murray, Deputy Chairperson and Mayor Tamworth Regional Council
- Councillor Andrew Hope, Mayor Liverpool Plains Shire Council
- Councillor John Coulton, Mayor Gwydir Shire Council
- Councillor Eric Noakes, Mayor Walcha Council

The NSW Government is a non-voting Member and is represented by the Director – Regional NSW for the New England North West region.

The organisational structure is as follows:



The Mayors receive advice and information about strategic and operational opportunities from the General Managers of member Councils. Working Groups are established with key experienced personnel from within each member Council. The Board, the General Managers Group and various working groups meet regularly throughout the Namoi region. The administration of the organisation is reliant on the support of member Councils and their staff. The organisation employs an Executive Officer to guide the organisations activities.

Steering Committees

A Steering Committee is a partnership between representatives of Namoi Unlimited, Member Councils, external parties or identified stakeholders to provide advice and undertake specific and collaborative project activities for Namoi Unlimited.

Active 2018/2019 Steering Committees are:

- Namoi Water Alliance (Established November 2012)
Established to collaborate on the supply, access, security, service functions, management and operation of water and sewer facilities.
- Roads And Transport (March 2016)
Established to collaborate and develop a road network that prioritises and focusses on freight, safety and regional development.

Working Groups

A Working Group is a partnership between Namoi Unlimited employees and representatives of Member Councils to provide advice and undertake specific and collaborative project activities for Namoi Unlimited.

Active 2018/2019 Working Groups are:

- Joint Organisation Leadership Team (JOLT)
- Contaminated Lands Project
- Trade and Investment Strategy

Member Conduct

Members are Councillors and are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community.

To guide the conduct of elected members, Council Code of Conduct and standards of conduct, behaviour, accountability and responsibilities apply to ensure public confidence is maintained.

The community expects the business of Local Government is to be conducted with efficiency, transparency and impartiality.

To mitigate any personal or private interests that may compromise the conduct and decisions of a Member, declaration of conflicts of interest is a standing agenda item for all Board meetings.

Member Allowances

The Chair and Members are not paid an annual fee. Members expenses incurred by representing their Council discharging their functions and responsibilities may be paid.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Contracts Awarded

Government Information Public Access (GIPA)

Namoi Unlimited received zero formal access and zero informal applications for the reporting year under *Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009 (GIPA)*.

Public Interest Disclosures

Namoi Unlimited is required to have a Public Interest Disclosures Policy under section 6D of the Public Interest Disclosures Act, 1994 (the PID Act).

Tamworth Regional Council is the delegated Council policy e procedures for receiving, assessing and dealing with public interest disclosures, having regard for the Ombudsman's guidelines in formulation of the policy for the purposes of the Act.

Namoi Unlimited has no knowledge of any Public Interest Disclosures on its activities.

Overseas Travel


Namoi Unlimited representatives made one overseas trip during the 2018/2019 financial year.

WHO	DATE FROM DATE TO	OVERSEAS DESTINATION	PURPOSE
Cr Jamie Chaffey Cr Colin Murray Rebel Thomson	19 – 25 May	Reaffirm establishing a Government to Government relationship in China by	

Alex Wang

formalising directions for a future relationship and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Foreign Affairs Office, Ningbo Zhejiang Province, China.

Conduct activities in Shanghai, Ningbo and Guangzhou to:

- Understand opportunities for marketing and promotion of regional products and brands on e-commerce. Develop contacts for agents and import networks for beef, lamb and poultry products.
 - Build confidence and awareness of the Namoi region and the five member Councils.
 - Provide the opportunity for exchange of economic and community development Officers.
 - Showcase regional produce and opportunities from the Namoi.
- 

Remuneration Executive Officer

The total remuneration package of the Executive Officer for the 2018/2019 financial year was \$187,169.

11.2 Grants and Incentives Manager

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Future funding of Joint Organisations of Councils
Attachments	-
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT the report is NOTED.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide advice to the Board on the directions and opportunities for the Joint Organisation to establish a Grants and Incentives Manager.
BACKGROUND:	<p>The directions to improve financial sustainability of the organisation and reliance on Membership from Councils are a priority of the Board.</p> <p>JOLT is tasked with developing the business sustainability and funding model.</p>
COMMENTARY:	<p>One of the opportunities identified by member is to establish a Grants and Incentives function for members, tasked with improving the capacity and capability of Councils to attract grant funding.</p> <p>Members have identified that program design and application processes require Councils to provide the same information across a number of applications consequently duplicating content around;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How a project will deliver on the program objectives and outcomes? ▪ How the project will align to local, state and national plans? ▪ How the project will demonstrate sustainability? <p>JOLT conducted a review of applications submitted by members to the NSW Government Growing Local Economies funds and in general members agreed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Councils needed capacity building and training in responding to grants and funding opportunities. ▪ Data and evidence to support applications was inconsistent. ▪ Data and evidence sources being referenced by Councils was inconsistent. ▪ There were a number of grammatical, spelling and calculation errors.

- Training was needed to build capacity to address the requirement for economic analysis versus building a business case.

The Business Concept for a Grants and Incentives Manager has been developed by the Executive Officer and JOLT and is an attachment to this item.

At the November meeting of JOLT the proposal was discussed and alternative position put forward by Tamworth Regional Council to provide a resource to member Councils and the Joint Organisation.

11.3 Action List – ATTACHMENT G

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	Administration and Governance
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	-
Attachments	ATTACHMENT G

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the actions of the Executive Officer are noted.
------------------------------	---

AMENDED/ENDORSED	
------------------	--

MOVED:	
--------	--

SECONDED:	
-----------	--

REJECTED/CARRIED	
------------------	--

PURPOSE:	-
----------	---

BACKGROUND:	-
-------------	---

COMMENTARY:	-
-------------	---

Completed
 Underway
 Not yet commenced

Date	Strategic Regional Priority	Resolution	Action	Status
29/04/2019 JOLT	Intergovernmental Relationships	Darren Keegan 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.	New dates will be provided by Regional NSW.	
02/10/2018 BOARD		Work to commence on the areas discussed for the register of advocacy positions in workshopping.	Members will submit to Councillors for endorsement early 2020.	
05/05/2019 BOARD		An additional position of advocacy seeking recognition of the NSW Joint Organisation of Councils network by the Commonwealth Government is developed by the Executive Officer.		
	Advocacy and Leadership	THAT, the JO develop an advocacy/leadership position with regard to renewable energy projects that cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amenity, reliable energy sources for economic development; ▪ Support the opportunity in the NENW; ▪ A consistent approach on development contributions or expectations on roads and maintenance; and ▪ Support community consultations. 	Papers around advocacy to be prepared for the December JOLT and then workshop for the December Board meeting.	
15/07/2019 JOLT				
	Strategic Regional Priorities – Enabled and Connected Infrastructure	JOLT recommended a workshop is held with the Roads and Transport Working Group to discuss the proposed additions to the Namoi Roads Network Strategy, the potential impact on the corridor approach and the economic analysis.	A joint meeting between the members of JOLT and the Roads and Transport Working Group has been rescheduled to the 3 December 2019.	
19/08/2019 JOLT	Engaged People and Skills	THAT, JOLT revisits the initiative to develop a Regional Workforce Strategy following the next local government elections.		
		Contaminated Lands Policy is presented to member Councils for adoption.		
	Administration and Governance	THAT, the Executive Officer seeks input from individual council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to provide a response on the new risk management and internal audit framework discussion		

14/11/2019 JOLT		paper.		
		THAT, members of Namoi Unlimited conduct a workshop of the roles, responsibilities as described in the Annual Business Plan when all members are available (February meeting).		
07/11/2019 BOARD	Financial Sustainability	THAT the recommendation around item 9.1 Grants and Incentives Manager is deferred to discuss with Member Councils of Namoi Unlimited.	Item is included in this business paper	
		THAT, I. The Chair write to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister thanking them for the recent announcements to address drought. II. A copy of the correspondence is provided to local Members of Parliament. III. The Joint Organisation issue a media release with the same sentiments.	Correspondence has been completed, media release has not been completed.	
	Advocacy and Leadership	Canberra Advocacy Emergency Water Fund Briefing THAT, the briefing paper on amendments to the emergency water fund, jointly funded by the Australian Government and the NSW Government is provided to the Treasurer and the NSW Minister for Water.	Provided to the Treasurer and the State and Commonwealth Ministers for Agriculture and Drought.	
		Canberra Advocacy Water Innovation Fund THAT the motion is deferred and to be reviewed against the latest program of drought relief announced by the Australian Government.		
	Water for the Future	New Initiative THAT, Namoi Unlimited seeks funds to deliver a project pilot with the Murray Darling Basin Association for Councils to collaborate and investigate water efficiencies in agriculture.		

11.4 Calendar of Planned Activities – ATTACHMENT H

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Strategic Regional Priorities and the Business Plan
Attachments	ATTACHMENT H – 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:	-

ATTACHMENT H – Joint Organisation Planned Activity

Tue 3	Dec	Board Meeting	Bingara
Thu 5		New England North West Drought Taskforce	Tamworth
Thu 12		Regional Leadership Network – Drought Rapid Response Workshop	Tamworth
Mon 16		JOLT Meeting	Tamworth
Tue 17		NSW Joint Organisation Ministerial Advisory Committee Meeting	Sydney
Wed 18		Namoi Water Alliance Meeting	Tamworth
Thu 19		Executive Officer Annual Leave	
Mon 6	Jan	Executive Officer returns from Annual Leave	

12. ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

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

13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

13.1 NSW Joint Organisations Network – ATTACHMENT I

Author	The Chairperson
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Leadership and Advocacy
Attachments	ATTACHMENT I – Minutes of the meeting held 31 October 2019
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	<p>THAT, members endorse;</p> <p>I. Election of a Chair and Deputy Chair of the NSW Joint Organisations Chair's Forum is endorsed.</p> <p>II. The definition of Financial Sustainability, for the purpose of the taskforce, be determined as "A Joint Organisation will be financially sustainable over the long term when it is able to generate sufficient funds and deliver on the Strategic Regional Priorities agreed with its members and stakeholders "</p>
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide the Members with an update from the meeting of the NSW Joint Organisations Network Meeting on the 31 October 2019.
BACKGROUND:	The network of Joint Organisations is a meeting of all Chair and Executive Officer's representatives from regional NSW. Meetings are held alongside NSW Country Mayors Meeting.
COMMENTARY:	<p>The minutes of the meeting held 31 October 2019. Actions requiring attending from this meeting are outlined below:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the draft Terms of Reference for the NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs' Forum, with the inclusion of a Chair and Deputy Chair being appointed for a 12-month period, be considered and endorsed by each individual JO and reported back next forum.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED TO BE ENDORSED.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited recommends the Temporary Chair (Cr Rowena Abbey) and Deputy Chair (Cr Rick Foreman) of the NSW Joint Organisations Chair's Forum is endorsed. Progress will be greatly advanced by a consistent Chair for each meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The definition of Financial Sustainability, for the purpose of the taskforce, be determined as "A Joint Organisation will be financially sustainable over the long term when it is able to generate sufficient funds and deliver on the Strategic Regional Priorities agreed with its members and stakeholders "</p>

RECOMMENDED TO BE ENDORSED

Understanding financial sustainability among Joint Organisations is agreed as it generates an understanding about what it means. Namoi Unlimited should adopt the same definition.

ATTACHMENT I – Minutes of the meeting held 31 October 2019

1 Opening and Welcome

Clr Liz Campbell in her capacity as appointed Chair, opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed Clr Craig Davis who was recently appointed as Chair of Orana JO, replacing Clr Doug Batten and Cr Chris Bilkey from Riverina and Murray was also welcomed by the Chair.

Attendees and Apologies were noted, and Resolutions from the previous forum (1 August 2019) were reviewed. As Budget estimates were underway it was noted that speakers would be delayed. It was agreed the sequence of agenda items would proceed as Ministers or their delegates joined the meeting.

2 Local Government and Regional Planning (previously known as Office of Local Government) Portfolio Update – Ms Melissa Gibbs

Director Policy and Sector Development, Ms Mellissa Gibb provided an overview of items of interest related to the Local Government and Regional Planning portfolio:

- 2.1 The “*Your Council*” website has been launched which provides a portal for the general community or Council staff to access the available statistics and data on each Council’s profile, range of expenditure and performance. It is hoped this will provide a tool for business case development and advocacy. It will be updated annually. Currently JOs are not included. Feedback from JOs and Councils on the website is invited.
- 2.2 An Intergovernmental Agreement between NSW Government and Local Government was signed at the LGNSW conference. This reaffirms the NSW Government’s commitment and support of Councils to deliver infrastructure and Governmental priorities
- 2.3 The Minister has re-established the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG). It will be chaired by Peter Duncan AM who brings a wealth of expertise to the role. Membership comprises: LGNSW, Local Government Professionals NSW and Unions .
- 2.4 Social Media and Councillor/Staff Interaction Policy review continuing, to enable development of a state-wide policy, the use of which will be voluntary.
- 2.5 Webcasting Guidelines review continuing, to enable a best practice webcasting approach to encourage community participation and transparency in Council decision making. If member Councils already have effective guidelines, they are invited to send them to OLG to help inform the new guidance material.
- 2.6 Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework – new guidance materials are currently being developed, which will include a requirement for the JO Statement of Priorities to be considered in development of the Community Strategic Plan
- 2.7 Enforcement activities currently include: Code of conduct complaints, Balranald Public Inquiry- Financial Management, Warrumbungle Shire Council - s430 Report, Blue Mountains Council Public Inquiry – Asbestos Management and Central Darling Administration has been extended.
- 2.8 Agencies who have expressed a wish to work more closely with JOs/Councils include: Toward Zero Road Safety Initiative, Office of Children’s Guardian –Councils obligations from the new Child Safe Standards, Multiculturalism NSW – Refugees in Regions, RMS and Transport – Freight and Transport and Office Emergency Management –Disaster Readiness .

RESOLVED:

A copy of Melissa Gibb's presentation to be circulated with the Minutes from this Forum.

An item be included on the Agenda of the next forum to enable Chairs to discuss the implications of JO data being included on the 'Your Council' Website

Moved: Clr J Chaffey

Seconded: Clr J Medcalf OAM

Carried unanimously

3 NSW JO Chairs' Forum Terms of Reference

The JO Chairs recognised the advantage in having a consistent forum Chair and Secretariat to carry forward the Chairs' decisions, intent and advocacy.

RESOLVED: That the draft Terms of Reference for the NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs' Forum, with the inclusion of a Chair and Deputy Chair being appointed for a 12- month period, be considered and endorsed by each individual JO and reported back next forum

Moved: Clr R Abbey

Seconded: Clr D Mulholland

Carried Unanimously

4. Ballot - Interim Forum Chair

Clr R Abbey, Canberra Region JO, nominated by Clr D Mulholland NRJO, was unopposed for the Interim Chair of the NSWJO Forum.

Nominations received for Deputy Chair were

- Clr R Firman Riverina - nominated by Clr J Medcalf Central,
- Clr D Mulholland NRJO - nominated by J Chaffey Namoi Unlimited

CARRRIED : 6/4 in favour of Clr R Firman ,Riverina

RESOLVED: The appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair be endorsed at the next forum meeting

Moved: Clr D Mulholland

Seconded: Clr M Pearce

Carried Unanimously

5. Update – NSW JO Advisory Committee

Minister Hancock was unable to provide the update due to Budget Estimates commitment, but she did drop in during afternoon tea to show support and commitment. Troy Wilkie delegated for the Minister and shared that the taskforce has been productive, with recognition of the valuable work and commitment

demonstrated by the EOs. One more taskforce meeting is scheduled for December, following this a Model of Options should be available for JO review.

He then handed over to Cllr Rowena Abbey who advised:

- The purpose of the taskforce is to look at options available for JOs to gain both State and Federal funding and to look at ways JOs can achieve sustainability without being a burden on their communities/members
- The taskforce is also reviewing the implications around JOs offered grants separately from Councils. Taskforce believes there should be grants made available exclusively to JOs to deliver regional priorities which enable JOs to take a management fee as revenue.
- 4 focus areas for funding have been identified as common to all or most of the JOs:
 - Water
 - Waste and Recycling
 - Jobs & Skilling
 - Transport
- The Taskforce tabled a document outlining opportunities and considerations around funding the 4 focus areas and asks JOs to review and provide feedback to Gabrielle Cusack, Canberra Region JO, no later than 10 December.
- The next taskforce meeting will be held on December 17th after which a JO Sustainability discussion paper, which will be suggestive rather than prescriptive, will be circulated

RESOLVED: The definition of Financial Sustainability, for the purpose of the taskforce, be determined as *“A Joint Organisation will be financially sustainable over the long term when it is able to generate sufficient funds and deliver on the Strategic Regional Priorities agreed with its members and stakeholders”*

Moved: Cllr R Abbey

Seconded: Cllr B Pynsent

Carried Unanimously

6 LG NSW Update

Cllr Linda Scott was congratulated by the Chairs on her reappointment as Head of LGNSW.

Cllr Scott thanked the Chairs for their good wishes and confirmed the Association would continue to press for parity of Mayors remuneration and to progress the superannuation issue, as well as any other issues the Chairs wished to put forward as a priority.

The LGNSW annual conference was held last week so a brief summary of the advocacy work LG NSW is currently undertaking was provided, as most items were discussed at the conference, including the signing of the Local Government and State inter- government agreement.

LGNSW advocacy continues in the following areas: Redress Scheme – Meeting with Attorney General to explore implications for Local Government, IPART election costs, Councils affected by drought receive relief, Waste and Recycling – regional waste programs – Meeting with Commonwealth in Adelaide Friday 8 November. More regional JO Summits be convened, Implementation of the resolutions from the annual conference

Action: Outputs from the recent LGNSW JO Summit, including who is involved in the subsequent working group, be provided by LGNSW and distributed for Chair review

7. NSW JO Strategic Communication Plan

The Executive Officers have been working collectively on a JO Strategic Communication and Advocacy Plan as a resource for JO future use. A copy to be circulated for Chair review and discussion next meeting

Action: NSW JO Strategic Communication Plan to be included as an Agenda item next meeting

8. Regional Water Program and NSW Government Drought Response

Minister Pavey or delegate were unable to attend

Action: This agenda Item to be carried forward for next meeting

9. Joint Organisation Updates

New England JO- Current priorities include a Regional Roads Network strategy; Proposed 12 member MOU Waste collaboration; Regional Tourism strategy and a Water alliance /shared service initiative.

Riverina JO – Advocacy on Audit fees; Investigation of development fees on solar farms; Exploration of Webcasting; Board meeting was conducted at Parliament House Canberra achieving positive feedback and exposure; Formation of a JO Governance and Operational committee which meets by teleconference and reports to the JO Board.

RAMJO – 3 focus areas have been identified enabling the JO to make rapid strides, being Energy, Telecommunication and Water. We are now working on strategies to deliver value in these areas

Central NSW JO – Water is the highest priority for the JO. Continuing advocating and meeting with various Ministers, as well as collaborating with our members. Southern Lights project is continuing to progress.

MNCJO – Biodiversity, being a priority issue for our region, is a key focus for our JO. The Koala Recovery Partnership project continues to work to improve koala conservation; OEM will place a Disaster Preparedness Officer with the MNCJO for 2 years, to lead development of one of the regional pilot Disaster Readiness programs. A regional response to climate change vulnerability is being considered. The MNCJO Timber Bridges Renewal project continues to be a top priority.

Namoi Unlimited - Drought has been the most consuming issue for Namoi. Each Board member accompanied an invited member of their community to Canberra to share with various Commonwealth Ministers how the drought is personally affecting them. It was very impactful and moving. “Finding our Feet” forum shortly to be conducted to enable community access to assistance, resources and jobs during this drought emergency. Rolling out a Social Media campaign “Our Drought Stories” to try to put out some positive stories and messages into our communities. Work is also continuing on Roads and Water strategies;

Orana JO - Focused strongly on a Freight and Transport Strategy. The region has been positively impacted by the Inland Rail and we are exploring opportunities, implications, as well as how heavy transport moves round the state

Canberra JO - Advocating with Ministers for a review of Freight transport and how this could be managed through the JO; A Water and Waste Water Round Table was recently convened. An output being exploration of the establishment in Sydney of a PMO with project governance oversight of waste water and water projects provided by Wagga Council. PMO will be sited in Sydney as attracting the required expertise is less difficult than in the regions. The JO is moving forward with a Joint Procurement initiative that includes a requirement for each Council to take on board an apprentice thus delivering a job skills opportunity in local communities.

Far South West JO - Water and Drought is engulfing the focus of the JO members; The JO continues to build its relationship with its members, including the formation of 3 subcommittees looking at Tourism, Transport and Freight, Engineering. These report through the JO to the Board; Shortly to go to tender on a Freight & Transport linkage consultancy; exploring collaboration with Far North West JO on a mutually beneficial initiative which is likely to be a tourism project in partnership with Destination NSW; Currently scoping a Climate Change response project; Examining ways to get more investments from Mines and working on the Crown Lands Reforms across the region.

Far North West JO - Statement of Key Priorities moving forward, including a focus on Air Transport to better service the region; Continuing to shape the JO Capacity Building Project submission; Assisting with establishment of a Mining Museum at Cobar; the Australian Opal Centre at Walgett, Upgrading tourism facilities for Bourke and the PWD are working on a business case for each of the 3 Councils which consists of projects like water, sewer, infrastructure.

10. General Business

- Clr Campbell forwarded appreciation to Minister Hancock (via her Policy Advisor) for writing to the MNCJO advising that no future JO will be formed.
- It was noted that correspondence on behalf of the Chairs Forum, has been sent out on individual member Councils' letterhead as no Forum Logo or letterhead exists.
- Members were reminded that in the Terms of Reference our official title is the “***NSW Joint Organization Chairs Forum***” (not *Network*) and we should ensure correct title is utilized in all future documentation.

Action: Canberra Region JO to draft a template for future Chairs Forum correspondence, for review and endorsement at the next Forum.

11. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm.

12. Next Meeting – 5th March 2020 - to commence at 1pm

Chair: Clr Rowena Abbey, Canberra

Next meeting Agenda to include:

- 12- month appointment of Chair and endorsement of Interim Chair & Deputy Chair
- Invitation to Auditor General to discuss JO fixed audit costs
- Implications of JO data being included on the ‘Your Council’ Website
- Review of Outputs from the recent LGNSW JO Summit
- NSW JO Strategic Communication Plan
- Hon Melina Pavey be invited to provide update on Regional Water Program and NSW Government Drought Response

- JO Sustainability Taskforce outcomes
- Review of letter template for future Chairs Forum correspondence
- Update from OLG on the JO Capability Building Projects (\$150,000)

13.2 Ministers Advisory Group for Joint Organisations – ATTACHMENT J

Author	The Chairperson
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Leadership and Advocacy
Attachments	ATTACHMENT J
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the Board notes the report and progress of the Advisory Committee.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide the Members with an update from the meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Committee.
BACKGROUND:	<p>Joint Organisations are responsible for their ongoing sustainability, and while some have been able to develop income streams to secure their future, others need more time to do so. With this in mind, the Minister for Local Government established a Joint Organisation Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Minister for Local Government on options and models to secure the ongoing sustainability of the JO network.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited as well as Illawarra Shoalhaven, Mid-North Coast and Canberra Region Joint Organisations have been asked to be part of this advisory group.</p> <p>The first meeting of the group was held on Monday 30 September 2019.</p>
COMMENTARY:	<p>The third meeting of the Ministers Advisory Group will be held on Tuesday 17 December 2019.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited was tasked to deliver a summary of water programs and opportunities for Councils and the financial sustainability of the Joint Organisation.</p>

JOINT ORGANISATIONS ADVISORY GROUP – POTENTIAL WATER PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

PROGRAM NAME	DEPARTMENT	LINK TO PROGRAM GUIDELINES	ELIGIBILITY	TIMELINESS	OPPORTUNITIES	INHIBITORS	FUNDING POTENTIAL FOR JOs	OTHER
Safe and Secure Water Program Funding Stream 1	Water NSW	https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/205860/sswp-program-guidelines-2019.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local councils, as identified under the Local Government Act 1993 (that provide water supply and/or sewerage services under Section 56) • water supply authorities (as identified in the Water Management Act 2000) • joint organisations <p>Funding will not be available for risks and issues (or parts thereof) that can be funded from other sources, such as developer contributions or operational budgets.</p>	Always open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water security—risks that affect current or future town water security, such as water availability and the pressures of climate variability, and continuity of town water supply • water quality—risks that affect the protection of public health in regional communities, such as the absence of filtration on surface water supplies or inadequately treated sewage • environment—risks to human health or the environment from sewage management that does not satisfy community expectations or regulatory requirements. <p>Funding will be available for capital expenditure (development and delivery lifecycle phases) for risks and issues that meet the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Operation, maintenance and administrative costs should be considered in selecting the preferred option to provide a more cost-effective resolution to an eligible risk or issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flood mitigation benefits • water recreation benefits • lead-in infrastructure for new developments, except where the NSW Government is the developer • commercial benefit to a private entity • commercial growth • building the capability of the proponent, such as changes to human resources, systems and/or processes. 	<p>SELECTION PROCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of risks and issues • Assessment of the eligibility of risks and issues <p>ASSESSMENT PROCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation of the eligible risks and issues using the program ‘Prioritisation Framework’ <p>ALLOCATION OF FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement between the department and proponent to resolve the risk • Risk solution proposal from proponent • Solution endorsement from Program Management Office • Funding agreement for risk solution(s) <p>The funding process for the program will no longer be applicant driven.</p>	<p>A program management office (PMO) has been set up within NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to manage the program and its funding process.</p> <p>A number of currently known risks and issues have already been identified through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • previous Safe and Secure Water Program applications • consultation with partnering stakeholders such as NSW Health and the NSW Environmental Protection Authority • available documentation such as existing IWCMs, water utility drinking water management systems and review/audit reports (required by Public Health Act 2010) • direct discussions between proponents and the department. <p>A link to these risk is not available.</p>
Safe and Secure Water Program Funding Stream 2	Water NSW	https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/205860/sswp-program-guidelines-2019.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local councils, as identified under the Local Government Act 1993 (that provide water supply and/or sewerage services under Section 56) • water supply authorities (as identified in the Water Management Act 2000) • joint organisations 	Always open	<p>Integrated water cycle management (IWCM) strategies</p> <p>A 30-year IWCM strategy addresses the complex linkages between elements of the urban water cycle (water supply, sewage and stormwater) and community expectations.</p> <p>This is done within the urban area and between its water-related physical and legislative operating environment. This multi-level approach enables cost-effective integration of these urban water</p>	Funding cannot be provided for an IWCM where a contract has already been awarded to a service provider.	<p>Proponents are required to seek departmental concurrence to the IWCM brief for the scope of works to ensure the IWCM guidelines will be satisfied.</p> <p>On completion of an IWCM strategy that has the department’s concurrence, risks and issues identified during the IWCM planning process (which have not been previously identified) may be eligible for funding consideration under Stream 1 of the Safe and Secure Water Program.</p>	

					systems in consultation with the local community. It identifies infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions as well as funding strategies, and helps develop a long-term stable price path for these services.			
Safe and Secure Water Program Funding Stream 3	Water NSW	https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/205860/sswp-program-guidelines-2019.pdf	Prescribed in the Dams Safety Act 2015	Always open	High-risk dams	Joint Organisations have no described role	Nil	
Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program	Joint initiative of the NSW Government and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC).	https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/water-utilities/infrastructure-programs/aboriginal-communities	NA Contact the LALC	NA	<p>The Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program (ACWSP) aims to improve water supply and sewerage services in eligible Aboriginal communities in New South Wales (NSW). The Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •water disinfection •improvements to water quality by replacing pipes and treatment plants •repairs to sewerage systems and sub-surface irrigation •regular inspections and maintenance of pump stations and water treatment plants •regular maintenance and cleaning of sewer pumps and sewer mains •regular collection and testing of water 	?		<p>The program focuses on consultation between the local community and stakeholders. The department facilitates regular meetings at each community to examine existing infrastructure and services, and discuss what actions need to be taken to improve service levels to the standard expected in the wider community. These meetings include participants from the following:</p> <p>local Aboriginal community local water utility NSWALC NSW Health</p>

13.2 Additional Briefings from the Board – ATTACHMENT K

Author	The Chairperson
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	-
Attachments	ATTACHMENT K – 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:	<p>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.</p> <p>The intent of this action is to continue to provide project updates to the community and stakeholders.</p>
COMMENTARY:	-

SUBJECT: Contentious Issues Brief from Namoi Unlimited

RECOMMENDATION

That the Deputy Premier

- Proposed actions

KEY ISSUES

- Urgency

CONSULTATION

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

BACKGROUND

14. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

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

15. CLOSED REPORTS

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

16. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING