

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 MARCH 2020 commencing at 1pm in the Council Chambers, Walcha Council.

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BUSINESS PAPER

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER

Councillor Eric Noakes, Mayor of Walcha Council will welcome Members and Councillors 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	✓	
NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES			
Eric Groth	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council	✓	
Joanne Sangster	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		

2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	Code of Meeting Practice
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	-
Attachments	-
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, applications for a leave of absence and apologies for the 3 March 2020 meeting are accepted.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	-
BACKGROUND:	-
COMMENTARY:	Applications for a leave of absence for this meeting, have been received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Andrew Hope Apologies for the March Board meeting have been received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joanne Sangster

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	Code of Meeting Practice
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	-
Attachments	ATTACHMENT A – Minutes of the previous Board Meeting
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the minutes of the Board meeting held Tuesday 4 February 2020 are endorsed.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	-
BACKGROUND:	-
COMMENTARY:	-

ATTACHMENT A – Minutes of the previous Board Meeting**MINUTES**

Minutes of the **BOARD OF NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS TRADING AS NAMOI UNLIMITED** held on **TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2020** from 1pm at the Gunnedah Shire Council, 63 Elgin Street Gunnedah.

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER

Councillor Jamie Chaffey the Chairperson and Mayor of Gunnedah Shire Council will welcome Members to the meeting and acknowledge the Elders and young people of the Kamilaroi nation. Cr Chaffey acknowledged the presence of Councillors Rob Hooke (Deputy Mayor), Colleen Fuller, Owen Hasler and John Campbell.

MEMBERS		PRESENT	APOLOGY
Cr Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Cr John Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council		✓
Cr Catherine Egan		✓	
Cr Andrew Hope	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	✓	
Cr Col Murray	Tamworth Regional Council		✓
Cr Eric Noakes	Walcha Council	✓	
Craig Jenkins	NSW Department of Planning, Investment and Environment		✓
NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES			
Eric Groth	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council	✓	
Joanne Sangster	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	✓	
Paul Bennett	Tamworth Regional Council		✓
Peter Resch			✓
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

MOTION THAT, applications for a leave of absence and apologies for the 4 February 2020 meeting are accepted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL
COMMENTARY:

Applications for a leave of absence for this meeting, have been received from:

- Councillor John Coulton
- Councillor Colin Murray

Apologies for the meeting have been received from:

- Paul Bennett
- Craig Jenkins
- Gunnedah Shire Council Councillors Murray O'Keefe, Gae Swain, Ann Luke and David Moses

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 3 December 2019 are endorsed.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil.

6. CHAIRPERSON MINUTES

Nil.

7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION

Nil.

9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

9.1 Six-monthly Report into Water for the Future

MOTION THAT, progress over the first six months of 2019-2020 is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Gwydir Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL
COMMENTARY:

DPIE has been requested to provide information about Stormwater Harvesting particularly about the policy and program developed and implemented by Orange City Council.

9.2 Six-monthly Report into Enabled and Connected Infrastructure

MOTION THAT, progress over the first six months of 2019-2020 is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Gwydir Shire Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: Positions of Advocacy developed by the Joint Organisation are currently with member Councils for review and feedback. Official positions of advocacy require the recorded support of all member Councils before an advocacy campaign is to be conducted.

Members are asked to have this completed by the end of February.

9.3 Six-monthly Report into Engaged People and Skills

MOTION THAT, progress over the first six months of 2019-2020 is noted.

AMENDED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: The work undertaken in the skills and retaining people as a response to the drought was an excellent program.

9.4 Engaged People and Skills – Finding your Feet Seminar Series and Community Engagement

MOTION THAT, the project plan and investment into a second series of events called 'Finding your Feet' is endorsed.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Gwydir Shire Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: The engagement with business at a local and regional level is unique and will contribute greatly to the community.

9.5 Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Project – Community Consultation

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: THAT, the community engagement plan is endorsed and supported by member Councils.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Gwydir Shire Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: There will be (depending on the cost provided by the consultants) three of the Namoi LGAs in the pilot program. The pilot areas will be Walcha Council, Tamworth Regional Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council.

Funding identified in this project is 100% from grant funds provided by the NSW through the Climate Adaptation Program.

10. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

10.1 Sydney Advocacy Proposal

MOTION THAT, the member Councils pay for the proposed activities, and that activity is aligned to an existing appointment/event in Sydney..

AMENDED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: The Executive Officer is to work with Gwydir Shire Council to develop advocacy positions around local and regional health resources and needs.

10.2 Correspondence – Response from the Hon Adam Marshall, Minister for Agriculture

MOTION THAT, correspondence from the Minister for Agriculture is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

10.3 Correspondence – Response from the Minister for Local Government

MOTION THAT, correspondence from the Minister for Local Government is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Gwydir Shire Council

CARRIED

11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 Action List

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

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Gwydir Shire Council

CARRIED

11.2 Finance Reports

MOTION THAT, the finance reports are endorsed.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: The workshop meeting included a lengthy discussion about future financial sustainability of the organisation.

11.3 Calendar of Planned Activities

MOTION That the calendar of activities is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Gwydir Shire Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

12. ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

Nil.

13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

13.1 Ministers Advisory Committee for Joint Organisations

MOTION THAT, the briefing is endorsed.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

13.2 Additional Briefings from the Board

Nil.

14. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

15. CLOSED REPORTS

15.1 Purchase of VendorPanel

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the Board <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. endorse expenditure of \$49,275 plus GST, andII. endorse the signing and execute the agreement with VendorPanel by the Executive Officer.
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ENDORSED

MOVED: Gwydir Shire Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: The funding for this initiative is part of an application for funding from the NSW Office of Local Government, through the capacity building program for Joint Organisations.

Jodie Healy from the Office of Local Government confirmed that the Joint Organisation could reimburse itself once the program funding is announced, and that there would be no penalty for commencing the project without confirmation or fund. Retrospectivity would not be an issue for the Joint Organisation.

All Councils strongly endorsed the progress acknowledging that this project provided; governance and decision making for Councils, reduces risk and that any delays would impede recovery of communities currently in drought and impacted by bush fires.

16. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Meeting concluded at 1.58pm, members were thanked for their attendance.

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 Roads of Strategic Importance – Toowoomba to Seymour Corridor

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Enabled and Connected Infrastructure
Attachments	-

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	<p>THAT,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. the priorities identified to enable and connect road infrastructure aligned to the New England Highway Road of Strategic Importance corridor are endorsed to the Commonwealth Government. II. the Namoi Roads Network Strategy provided to the Commonwealth Department is acknowledge and the additional corridors are considered for funding. III. Namoi Unlimited continue to advocate for funding of the Namoi Roads Network Strategy and the priorities in its entirety.
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AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To provide members with the opportunity to affirm roads of strategic importance to be nominated as priorities on the Toowoomba to Seymour corridor are endorsed.

BACKGROUND: The Australian Government has \$4.5 billion to invest in Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative. ROSI is seeking to help connect regional businesses to local and international markets, and better connect regional communities. ROSI is expected to support;

- key freight roads efficiently
- connect agricultural and mining regions to ports, airports and other transport hubs
- access will deliver substantial social and economic benefits, including opportunities for greater regional employment and business growth

Funds will be used to deliver works such as road sealing, flood immunity, strengthening and widening, pavement rehabilitation, bridge and culvert upgrades and road realignments.

The projects should align with the ROSI principles as follows:

- Delivers via a corridor approach;
- Deliver improvements to freight movements;
- Supports regional economic growth;

- Improve safety for all road users;
- Support partnerships between Commonwealth and state governments with local government and industry;
- Support targeted freight road reforms (where appropriate);
- Support wider national reforms.

Additionally, projects should address one or more of the following key themes:

- safety concerns;
- barriers to the wider adoption of heavy productivity vehicles;
- flood immunity; and/ or
- lack of timely information for road users (i.e. Electronic Variable Message Signs or other signalling).

COMMENTARY:

Namoi Unlimited and its member Councils endorse the County Boundary Road and the I.B Bore Road in Gwydir Shire Council for funding under the program.

Addressing the safety and productivity impediments on these two gravel roads will facilitate access to markets via the Newell Highway and facilitate access for quarry material to Inland Rail development.

9.2 Roads of Strategic Importance – New England Highway Corridor

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Enabled and Connected Infrastructure
Attachments	-

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	<p>That,</p> <p>IV. the priorities identified to enable and connect road infrastructure aligned to the New England Highway Road of Strategic Importance corridor are endorsed to the Commonwealth Government.</p> <p>V. the Namoi Roads Network Strategy provided to the Commonwealth Department is acknowledge and the additional corridors are considered for funding.</p> <p>VI. Namoi Unlimited continue to advocate for funding of the Namoi Roads Network Strategy and the priorities in its entirety.</p>
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AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To provide members with the opportunity to affirm roads of strategic importance to be nominated as priorities on the Toowoomba to Seymour corridor are endorsed.

BACKGROUND: The Australian Government has \$4.5 billion to invest in Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative. ROSI is seeking to help connect regional businesses to local and international markets, and better connect regional communities. ROSI is expected to support;

- key freight roads efficiently
- connect agricultural and mining regions to ports, airports and other transport hubs
- access will deliver substantial social and economic benefits, including opportunities for greater regional employment and business growth

Funds will be used to deliver works such as road sealing, flood immunity, strengthening and widening, pavement rehabilitation, bridge and culvert upgrades and road realignments.

The projects should align with the ROSI principles as follows:

- Delivers via a corridor approach;
- Deliver improvements to freight movements;
- Supports regional economic growth;
- Improve safety for all road users;
- Support partnerships between Commonwealth and state governments with

- local government and industry;
- Support targeted freight road reforms (where appropriate);
- Support wider national reforms.

Additionally, projects should address one or more of the following key themes:

- safety concerns;
- barriers to the wider adoption of heavy productivity vehicles;
- flood immunity; and/ or
- lack of timely information for road users (i.e. Electronic Variable Message Signs or other signalling).

COMMENTARY:

Namoi Unlimited and its member Councils endorse the works to A15 and identified works on the Oxley Highway onto the New England. These assets are NSW Government owned assets in Local Government areas of member Councils.

- A15 New England Highway Jack Smyth Drive to Calala Lane two lanes to four (Tamworth Regional Council)
- A15 Intersection at Willow Tree to Quirindi B15 (Liverpool Plains Shire Council)
- Chimney Swamp Bridge (Walcha Shire Council)
- Surveyors Creek Bridge (Walcha Shire Council)

Addressing the safety and productivity impediments on these roads will facilitate access to markets, improve productivity and safety..

10. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

10.1 Correspondence from the NSW Rural Fire Service – ATTACHMENT B

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	Policy and procedure in the application of Section 44 Rural Fire Service Act
Legal	Section 44 NSW Rural Fire Service Act
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Advocacy and Leadership
Attachments	ATTACHMENT B

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: THAT, the correspondence is noted.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To provide the Board with an update correspondence sent on behalf of member Councils.

BACKGROUND: Section 44 of the Rural Fires Act requires Councils to make claims for works and expenses incurred within three months of a disaster being declared. Namoi Unlimited wrote to the Commissioner seeking an extension to this time period acknowledging that:

- Whilst events and disruption associated with bushfires are ongoing since the date of declaration, Councils may be unable to identify or carry out works and make claims for expenses.
- The impact of drought on Councils ability to comply with Section 44.
- The availability of water.

COMMENTARY: A response from the Commissioners Officer has been received and is provided in ATTACHMENT B.



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Clr Jamie Chaffey
Chairperson of Namoi Unlimited
PO Box 555
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Your ref:
Our ref: DOC20/13572

3 February 2020

Dear Clr Chaffey

Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16 January 2020 on behalf of member Councils of Namoi Unlimited and to thank you for your kind words of support.

Your request concerning an extension to submit claims in relation to payments under the current application of Section 44 of the Rural Fire Service Act is receiving attention and a response will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo-Anne Robson".

Jo-Anne Robson
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner

Postal address
NSW Rural Fire Service
Locked Bag 17
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Street address
NSW Rural Fire Service
4 Murray Rose Avenue
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
T (02) 8741 5555
F (02) 8741 5550
E rfs@rfs.nsw.gov.au

10.2 Correspondence from the Minister for Agriculture – ATTACHMENT C

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

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: THAT, the response from the Minister is noted and directions endorsed.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To provide the opportunity for members to advocate to the Commonwealth for this and future drought response.

BACKGROUND: Members of Namoi Unlimited wrote to the Commonwealth Government in September 2019, providing the Commonwealth with opportunities to address the economic, social and cultural impact of drought on member Councils.

COMMENTARY: A response from the Minister has been received and a copy is provided in **ATTACHMENT C**.



The Hon. David Littleproud MP

Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance,
Natural Disaster and Emergency Management
Federal Member for Maranoa

Ref: MC19-010945

Ms Rebel Thomson
Namoi Unlimited
437 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

5 FEB 2020

Dear Ms Thomson

Thank you for your email of 18 September 2019 regarding Namoi Unlimited's suite of recommendations to address the impact of drought. I apologise for the delay in responding.

As the Member for Maranoa, I have seen first-hand the devastating and far-reaching impact drought is having on farmers, farm families and regional communities. I am aware the Namoi region is one of the most drought-affected areas in Australia, and I commend the role Namoi Unlimited plays in building strategic partnerships and providing a coordinated response to drought across its member councils.

Thank you for sharing Namoi Unlimited's short-term and medium-term recommendations to ease the impact of drought, build capacity to recover and foster resilience. I understand that representatives of Namoi Unlimited met with the Hon Mark Coulton MP, Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government to advocate for additional drought funding for the Namoi region on 24 October 2019. I also note that the Hon Ben Morton MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet, has already provided a comprehensive response to your correspondence. I will update and build on the information provided in that correspondence.

The Australian Government is taking action to meet the needs of drought-affected farmers, small businesses and regional communities. This action comprises a range of carefully considered short and long-term strategic assistance measures to help farmers doing it tough, and regional stimulus components to keep bush towns alive now and grow their financial viability and community vibrancy into the future.

All the Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the Namoi Unlimited Joint Organisation of Councils are eligible to apply for \$1 million under the expanded scope of the \$128 million Drought Communities Programme (DCP) Extension announced in November 2019. The new and additional DCP Extension funding will deliver community driven infrastructure projects that will create employment and keep money flowing through local shops and suppliers.

The Hon David Littleproud MP
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | 02 6277 7630 | minister.littleproud@infrastructure.gov.au

I would also like to assure you that eligible agriculture dependent households in the five LGA's represented by Namoi Unlimited can apply for the Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI). The DCSI provides \$3,000 cash payments to support farming families to cover urgent bills such as food, petrol and utilities. The DCSI is available now through The Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The Rural Financial Counsellor Service (RFCS) can help farmers in the Namoi region understand their financial position. The RFCS offers free, independent and confidential counselling tailored to individuals and farm-related businesses suffering financial hardship because of the drought. The RFCS can also refer eligible people to other professional services including accountants, agricultural advisors, education, or counselling. For more information please visit www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service.

I note your comments about extending the scope of the eligibility criteria for drought loans to include small business. In November 2019, as part of the Government's next step of drought assistance measures, we announced a new program for small businesses dependent on agriculture. Delivered by the Regional Investment Corporation, this initiative offers loans up to \$500,000 for businesses to pay staff, buy equipment and refinance.

The Government is investing an additional \$25 million to help our farmers combat pest and weeds in recognition that the risk of weed invasion, and their impacts on farms and the environment, increases significantly during drought. This funding will be complemented by the next phase of the National Landcare Program that provides a \$1 billion investment over a period of five years out to June 2023. This investment will protect and conserve Australia's ecosystems and support the productive and sustainable use of these valuable resources.

Finally, please be reassured that supporting farming families and rural communities hit hard by drought is a key priority for this Government. I am fully aware that drought places both economic and emotional stress on farm families, and the financial viability and social fabric of agricultural dependent regional communities. I am extremely proud of the resilience shown by Australian farmers and I am fully aware that farmers and rural and regional communities need support to face this challenge.

Thank you for taking the time to share your Namoi Unlimited's drought initiatives with me. I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP

11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 Action List – ATTACHMENT D

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

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

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: -

BACKGROUND: -

COMMENTARY: -

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.	April 2020 proposed, dates to avoid provided by Namoi Unlimited. Darren Keegan to provide dates for diaries.	
16/12/2019 JOLT	Engaged People and Skills	Contaminated Lands Policy is presented to member Councils for adoption.	Walcha has presented the policy to Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Gunnedah Shire, Gwydir Shire and Liverpool Plains to assess with receipt of procedure documents.	
		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.		
		Conduct a workshop of members to discuss the roles and responsibilities and the development of own source revenues and functions in March 2020.	February workshop agenda item 3.	
03/12/2019 BOARD	Advocacy and Leadership	Endorsed register of advocacy positions is distributed to member Councils, seeking their feedback on the positions in the document.	Members will submit to Council Meetings for endorsement February 2020. Gwydir Shire Council and Walcha Council completed and endorsed the positions.	
		Gwydir Shire Council sought a report from the Executive Officer to table a benchmark activity report of Namoi Unlimited activity and value to other Joint Organisations through the publishing of their Annual Performance Reports.	OLG asked to confirm if Annual Performance Reports are on websites to commence the assessment.	
		Positions of advocacy for (1) Section 44 of the Rural Fires Act.	Correspondence completed, response has been received that the request is under consideration. Members asked to provide the date for expiration of the cancellation of the Section 44 request.	

Items referred to the 2020-2021 financial year:

- 16/12/2019 JOLT Enabling and Connected Infrastructure - The development of an Infrastructure Strategy to prioritise projects for economic growth and development is proposed. Assessment is to commence with planning to be completed this financial year. Potential completion in the 2020-2021 financial year. The EO sought advice from Regional NSW as to the benefits to the Government by developing such a strategy and priorities on the 8 January 2020. Advice received as positive, JOLT to consider the scope and content ahead of the development of the 2020-2021 business plan.
 - THAT, JOLT revisits the initiative to develop a Regional Workforce Strategy following the next local government elections.
 - The EO followed up the Bio-diversity Project Officer business case with Gunnedah Shire Council. JOLT will be provided with advice at the February 2020 meeting.
-

11.2 Calendar of Planned Activities – ATTACHMENT E

Author Executive Officer/JOLT

Policy -

Legal -

Financial -

Strategic Link -

Attachments ATTACHMENT E

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: That the calendar of activities is noted.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To provide members with the opportunity to have visibility over the calendar of activities that the Executive Officer represents members.

BACKGROUND: Providing to members an outline of activities planned by the Joint Organisation.

COMMENTARY: -

ATTACHMENT E – Joint Organisation Planned Activity

Feb	25	Stakeholder Workshop to explore Strategic Directions in Water Industry Vocational Education and Training in NSW	Sydney
	27	New England North West Drought Task group meeting	Tamworth
		Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Project meeting	Tamworth
Mar	2	Drought Support Networking and Community Events	Quirindi
	3	Board Meeting	Walcha
	4	Namoi Water Alliance Meeting	Tamworth
	5	Meeting with Brendan Cook Director, Regional NSW Regions, Industry, Agriculture and Resources regarding the SAP project for the Namoi region	Sydney
		NSW Joint Organisations Executive Officers meeting	Sydney
		NSW Joint Organisations Chairs meeting	Sydney
	6	New England North West Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting (Regional NSW)	Tamworth
	11	New England ROSI Consultation	Tamworth
	13	Liverpool Plains Chamber of Commerce – International Women’s Event	Quirindi
	16	JOLT meeting	Tamworth
	26	New England North West Regional Leaders Network Event	Armidale
		New England North West Natural Resources workshop	Armidale
Apr	7	Board meeting	Bingara

11.3 Procurement Working Group

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	2019 004-1 Steering Committee & Working Groups
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Engaged People and Skills
Attachments	-
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the Board endorses the establishment of a Procurement Working Group for members.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To seek the approval of members to establish a Procurement Working Group.
BACKGROUND:	Policy document 2019 004-1 Steering Committee & Working Groups details that the Board must endorse the role, responsibilities and representation of a Joint Organisation Working Group or Steering Committee.
COMMENTARY:	The following details the proposal to establish a Procurement Working Group. PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP (Established March 2020)
	PURPOSE: A Working Group established to collaborate to identify opportunities around the supply, function, and operation of purchasing and procurement across Namoi Councils.
	OBJECTIVES: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify activities to collaborate and cooperate on procurement and purchasing. 2. To identify efficiencies through purchasing of consultancies, goods and services. 3. To support the introduction and adoption of purchasing and procurement systems, policies and procedures. 4. To identify opportunities for resource sharing, funding, best practice, management, audit, risk and compliance. 5. To coordinate and complete staff training, performance, mentoring and development.
	SPONSOR Gwydir Shire Council
	MEMBERS Walcha Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Gunnedah Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council

12. ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

12.1 Adoption of the New Code of Conduct

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	Introduction of a New Code of Conduct for Local Government in NSW
Legal	Section 440 Local Government Act 1993 (LGA) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
Financial	
Strategic Link	Advocacy and Leadership
Attachments	-
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the report and compliance with the Code of Conduct for Local Government in NSW and Namoi Unlimited as a Joint Organisation is NOTED.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide the Board with an update on the introduction of the new Model Code of Conduct for Councils in NSW.
BACKGROUND:	<p>The new 2018 Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (the Model Code of Conduct) and Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (Procedures) have now been prescribed under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.</p> <p>The new prescribed Model Code of Conduct and Procedures are available on OLG's website.</p> <p>Joint Organisations are required to comply.</p>
COMMENTARY:	<p>If a council fails to adopt a new code of conduct and procedures based on the new Model Code of Conduct and Procedures within six months of their prescription (June 2019), the provisions of the new Model Code of Conduct and Procedures will automatically override any provisions of a council's adopted code of conduct and procedures that are inconsistent with those contained in the Model Code of Conduct and Procedures through the operation of sections 440(4) and 440AA(4) of the Local Government Act 1993 (unless the inconsistent provisions of a council's adopted code of conduct are more onerous than those contained in the Model Code of Conduct).</p> <p>It should be recorded by Namoi Unlimited that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Member Councils are bound by the Code of Conduct and Procedures of their respective Councils. ▪ Staff are bound by the Code of Conduct and Procedures of their respective Councils. ▪ The Executive Officer is bound by the Code of Conduct and

Procedures of Tamworth Regional Council as the agency with delegated authority on the policy and procedure of the Executive Officer.

13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

13.1 Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) – Narrabri Consultation

Author	Executive Officer/Chairperson
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Leadership and Advocacy
Attachments	-
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT, the report is noted.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide a report to members.
BACKGROUND:	<p>The Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure with the local member, The Hon Mark Coulton held a community consultation session on the Toowoomba to Seymour corridor in Narrabri on Friday 21 February 2020.</p> <p>The meeting was attended by Council representatives from Moree Plains Shire Council, Narrabri Shire Council, Walgett Shire Council and Namoi Unlimited. The Executive Officer Gunnedah Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council represented the Councils of Namoi Unlimited.</p>
COMMENTARY:	<p>The Namoi Roads Network Strategy and the accompanying economic analysis were provided to the Department.</p> <p>Councillor John Coulton presented the two identified priorities for the region under the current ROSI framework.</p> <p>Councillor Chaffey and Councillor Coulton advocated fro the Commonwealth to consider funding the Namoi Roads Network Strategy in its entirety.</p> <p>The Namoi Roads Network Strategy was acknowledged and recognised as a successful and positive example of a region collaborating on road priorities.</p> <p>Councils have been asked to provide copies of Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Local Road applications currently under assessment.</p>

13.2 Additional Briefings from the Board – ATTACHMENT F

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

RECOMMENDATION TO
THE BOARD:

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To provide members with the opportunity to raise issues, concerns or opportunities for briefing notes to be prepared.

BACKGROUND: -

COMMENTARY: Commentary will be provided during the meeting. Any resolutions will be determined at the meeting.

SUBJECT: Contentious Issues Brief from Namoi Unlimited

RECOMMENDATION

That ...

- 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