

Hunter Councils Joint Organisation

**Minutes of the meeting held on
9 April 2015**

Hunter Councils, Thornton

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Board Members Present

Cr Bob Pynsent	Mayor, Cessnock City Council
Cr Jodie Harrison	Mayor, Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr Peter Blackmore	Mayor, Maitland City Council
Cr Michael Johnsen	Mayor, Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr John Martin	Mayor, Singleton Council

In attendance as observers

Stephen Glen	General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Craig Deasey	General Manager, Dungog Shire Council
Danny Green	General Manager, Gloucester Shire Council
Glenn Handford	General Manager, Great Lakes Council
Brian Bell	General Manager, Lake Macquarie City Council
David Evans	General Manager, Maitland City Council
Wayne Wallis	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
Lindy Hyam	General Manager, Singleton Council
Bill Tatnell	Senior Regional Coordinator, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

Apologies

Cr Harold Johnston	Mayor, Dungog Shire Council
Cr John Rosenbaum	Mayor, Gloucester Shire Council
Cr Jan McWilliams	Mayor, Great Lakes Council
Cr Martin Rush	Mayor, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Cr Nuatali Nelmes	Lord Mayor, Newcastle City Council
Cr Bruce MacKenzie	Mayor, Port Stephens Council
Steve McDonald	General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Ken Gouldthorp	General Manager, Newcastle City Council
Waid Crockett	General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council

Staff in attendance

Roger Stephan, CEO, Hunter Councils
Rowena Scanlan, Professional Assistant to the CEO, Hunter Councils

RECOMMENDATION:

That the apologies be accepted

Moved: Cr Bob Pynsent
Seconded: Cr John Martin

Carried.

2. The Charter of the Hunter Councils Joint Organisation

The Charter has been forwarded to and been endorsed by the Office of Local Government.

Discussion took place in regard to a commercial activity being conducted by LGNSW at which the Hunter has been asked to speak on the trial Joint Organisation process.

It was agreed that the Hunter not participate in the activity and that energy be directed to participation in review and awareness raising activities conducted by the Office of Local Government. .

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The report be received and noted
2. Hunter Councils not participate in the fee based activity being organised by LGNSW and to be held on 29 and 30 April 2015.

Moved: Cr Michael Johnsen
Seconded: Cr John Martin

Carried.

3. The Hunter Councils Joint Organisation Draft Statement of Regional Priorities

The Draft Statement of Regional Priorities was provided to the members for consideration. It was noted that the statement is a fleshing out rather than a change to the statement of priorities contained within Hunter Councils' expression of interest in becoming a trial Joint Organisation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Draft Statement of Regional Priorities be adopted.

Moved: Cr Michael Johnsen
Seconded: Cr Jodie Harrison

Carried.

4. Evaluation Framework prepared by the Office of Local Government in regard to the trial Joint Organisation process

Concern was expressed on a number of aspects of the draft evaluation framework including the lack of qualitative as opposed to quantitative data that would be generated. A degree of doubt was also expressed as to whether the framework will in fact resource a true understanding of the success of the trial and the various structures adopted by each trial entity.

The CEO was requested to provide feedback to the Office of Local Government on the matters raised.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Michael Johnsen
Seconded: Cr Jodie Harrison

Carried.

5. General Business

5.1 Update from Mr Bill Tatnell, Regional Coordinator, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Mr Tatnell congratulated Hunter Councils in reaching its milestone of 60 years.

In terms of the Statement of Regional Priorities, Mr Tatnell reported that he had received very positive feedback from the Regional Leadership Group (the peak coordinating body for State Government agencies operating in the Hunter Region).

Mr Tatnell also reported that a range of changes are taking place in regard to the structure of State Government Agencies and their groupings. Destination NSW will, for example, become a part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet

Discussion took place in relation to the Regional Growth Plan and the series of workshops that are planned for Local Government. The first is to take place on 24 April 2015.

5.3 Addresses by Cr Jodie Harrison and Cr Michael Johnsen

Councillors Harrison and Johnsen outlined their hopes and aspirations for the Hunter Region following their success in the NSW State election.

Meeting closed 11.30am.