

Minutes of the
Hunter Councils Incorporated Board Meeting
Incorporating Joint Organisation Briefing

9 February 2017

Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Directors Present

Cr Peter Blackmore, Maitland City Council
Cr Kay Fraser, Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr Wayne Bedggood, Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr Harold Johnston, Dungog Shire Council
Cr Sue Moore, Singleton Shire Council
Cr Nuatali Nelmes, City of Newcastle
Cr Bob Pynsent, Cessnock City Council
Cr Martin Rush, Upper Hunter Shire Council

General Managers Present

Stephen Glen General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Craig Deasey, General Manager, Dungog Shire Council
Brian Bell General Manager, Lake Macquarie City Council
David Evans, General Manager, Maitland City Council
Steve McDonald, General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Wayne Wallis, General Manager, Port Stephens Council
Jason Linnane, General Manager, Singleton Council
Waid Crockett, General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council

Apologies

John Turner, Administrator, Mid Coast Council
Cr Bruce MacKenzie Mayor, Port Stephens Council

Glenn Handford, Interim General Manager, Mid Coast Council
Peter Chrystal, Interim CEO, City of Newcastle

Wayne Wallils, Port Stephens Council
Waid Crockett, Upper Hunter Shire Council

Staff in attendance

Roger Stephan, CEO, Hunter Councils

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Cr Peter Blackmore
Seconded: Cr Kay Fraser

Carried.

2. MINUTES OF THE 8 DECEMBER 2016 MEETING

2.1 Adopting of the Minutes of the previous meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

Moved: Cr Katy Fraser
Seconded: Cr Nuatali Nelmes

Carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil advised

4. PRESENTATIONS

Catherine Cusack, Parliamentary Secretary for Education and the Hunter discussed a range of issues with the Board.

Chris Presland, Director Reform Implementation at the Office of Local Government provided an overview of progress to date in regard to legislation to imbed Joint Organisation structures within the Local Government Act.

Will Creedon, Chair of Tourism Hunter, provided an overview of recent development in regard to tourism structures in New South Wales.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PRESENTATIONS

Nil

6. REPORTS

6.1 Hunter Regional Investment Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT:

1. The Board endorse the development of a Hunter Regional Investment Plan of the type exemplified by the plan included as an attachment to this report
 2. An investment plan development program brief be prepared, councils awareness raising sessions held and project teams developed within each member council to identify potential inclusions in the plan
 3. The active participation of State Agencies be sought in relation to the plan
 4. A draft investment plan be presented to the Board prior to the close of the 2016/2017 financial year.
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Moved: Cr Martin Rush
Seconded: Cr Peter Blackmore

Carried.

6.2 Hunter City Deal

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT:

1. The Board develop a draft Hunter City Deal proposal revolving around the concept of the 30 minute region and focusing on catalytic transport infrastructure to connect the region internally, to Sydney and to international destinations
 2. The CEO coordinate the development of the draft City Deal in conjunction with nominated staff
 3. The draft City Deal document be presented to the next meeting of the Joint Organisation for consideration
 4. The proposed Hunter City Deal inform and be consistent with the broader Hunter Regional Investment Plan and the Hunter Regional Plan.
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Moved: Cr Nuatali Nelmes
Seconded: Cr Wayne Bedggood

Carried.

6.3 Hunter Tourism Advisory Council

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT:

1. The role statement and resourcing outline of the Tourism Advisory Council, as amended, be adopted
 2. Expressions of interest be sought from identified stakeholder groups in regard to membership of the Advisory Council
 3. A review of the treatment of Advisory Groups in the Hunter Councils constitution be provided to a future meeting of the Board.
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Moved: Cr Martin Rush
Seconded: Cr Peter Blackmore

Carried.

6.4 2016/2017 Budget Review

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the revised 2016/2017 Budget of Hunter Councils Inc be adopted.

Moved: Cr Martin Rush
Seconded: Cr Kay Fraser

Carried.

7. MEMBER COUNCIL / MAYORAL REPORTS

7.1 Hunter Innovation Bank

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the CEO investigate the feasibility of establishing a financial institution and report back to the April Meeting of the Board on the outcomes of the research.

Moved: Cr Martin Rush
Seconded: Cr Kay Fraser

Carried.

7.2 Hunter Region Local Road Funding Assessment

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT:

1. The CEO be delegated authority to engage a suitably qualified expert to conduct a review of the Local Roads Component of the Federal Assistance Grant as it applies to Councils in the Hunter
 2. For the purpose of such study, review be undertaken of the existing criteria for the application of the grant having regard, amongst other things, to economic development within the region, the funding of priority regional road infrastructure and equity considerations – particularly the share granted to small rural councils and such other matters as the CEO or GMAC thinks appropriate
 3. For the purpose of the above, \$40,000 be set aside in the draft 2016/2017 budget to carry out the work.
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Moved: Cr Martin Rush
Seconded: Cr Nuatali Nelmes

Carried.

Cr Peter Blackmore registered his dissent to the motion.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

The Board registered its support for Port Stephens Council's submission requesting a temporary extension to specific clauses under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

8.2 Upper Hunter Development Corporation

The Board registered its support for investigation by the CEO of the institution of arrangements to house a proposed Upper Hunter Development Corporation.

8.3 Westpac Rescue Helicopter Update

The Chair, Cr Pynsent, provided as Director on the Service's Board, an update on the emerging situation in regard to the Service and its governance.

Key items included:

1. The new contract with Ambulance NSW begins in May
2. A discussion paper has been released to reduce the number of Board Members but also to expand scope to reflect the Service's new geographical area. Local area advisory committees will also be set up. Under
3. the new structure no organisations will be formally on the Board. Board membership will now be skills based.

MEETING CLOSED

