



John Barilaro

Deputy Premier

Minister for Regional NSW, Skills and Small Business

Gabrielle Upton

Minister for Local Government, Environment and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 15 May 2018

NSW COUNCILS JOIN FORCES TO CREATE NETWORK OF JOINT ORGANISATIONS

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro and Local Government Minister Gabrielle Upton today announced more than 70 councils across regional NSW have voluntarily joined forces to establish a new network of 11 Joint Organisations.

Mr Barilaro and Ms Upton said the formal proclamation of the Joint Organisations would strengthen collaboration between local councils and the NSW Government on important regional projects.

Mr Barilaro said the NSW Government will give each new Joint Organisation \$300,000 in seed funding to help establish the new regional bodies, and in turn drive better planning, economic development and service delivery across regional and remote NSW.

“The formal proclamation of 11 Joint Organisations is a landmark day for regional NSW and will change the way local councils and the State Government work together to deliver important projects,” Mr Barilaro said.

“It’s extremely pleasing that more than 90 per cent of eligible councils in NSW have formally resolved to voluntarily form a Joint Organisation.

“The huge response shows councils can see the benefits that will stem from joining forces, namely putting themselves in a stronger position to deliver for people in their region,” he said.

The NSW Government introduced an Australian first for regional communities when Parliament passed legislation to establish a network of Joint Organisations late last year.

Councils across regional NSW were then invited to nominate to join a Joint Organisation. Since then the Office of Local Government has been working closely with councils to assist them to design a Joint Organisation that best suits the needs of their region.

The NSW Government will now work closely with member councils on the issues that matter most to regional communities such as building strong economies, creating jobs, and improving regional infrastructure, services and facilities.

Ms Upton said the Government had allocated a total of \$3.3 million in seed funding for the Joint Organisation network.

“These new organisations will deliver real benefits for local communities throughout regional NSW by working across traditional council boundaries to plan and prioritise important initiatives,” she said.

“A number of regions across NSW have a 100 per cent take up by councils with full Joint Organisation membership in the Illawarra, Hunter, and Canberra Region. These councils are showing strong civic leadership by sharing their intention to work together and with the NSW Government on regional initiatives.

“I commend councils for recognising the benefits to their region and local communities and voluntarily deciding to join a Joint Organisation.

“The small number of councils that have not yet decided to be a part of this initiative are encouraged to act quickly and secure a seat at the table when Joint Organisations start to make key decisions for their region,” she said.

The Office of Local Government is providing a comprehensive range of support and guidance materials to assist Joint Organisations become operational from July. It is also continuing to work with a small number of councils to finalise Joint Organisation membership.

Mr Barilaro has invited representatives from the eight Far West councils to meet at Parliament House on May 16 to continue to discuss ways to improve regional governance and service delivery in the region.

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Network of Joint Organisations in regional NSW

Joint Organisation	Member councils
Canberra Region Joint Organisation	Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Snowy Monaro, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee, Yass Valley
Central NSW Joint Organisation	Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Weddin
Hunter Joint Organisation	Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Mid-Coast, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter
Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation	Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wollongong
Mid North Coast Joint Organisation	Bellingen, Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings
Namoi Joint Organisation	Gunnedah, Gwydir, Liverpool Plains, Tamworth, Walcha
New England Joint Organisation	Armidale, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell, Moree Plains, Tenterfield, Uralla
Northern Rivers Joint Organisation	Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed
Orana Joint Organisation	Cobar, Gilgandra, Mid-Western, Narromine, Warrumbungle
Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation	Albury, Berrigan, Edward River, Federation, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Murray River, Murrumbidgee
Riverina Joint Organisation	Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora