

Hunter Councils Inc. meeting as the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils

Minutes of the 8 June 2017 Meeting

The Board Room, 4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Directors

Cr Bob Pynsent, Cessnock City Council
Cr Nancy Knudsen, Dungog Shire Council
Cr Kay Fraser, Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr Peter Blackmore, Maitland City Council
John Turner, Administrator, Mid Coast Council
Cr Martin Rush, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Cr Sue Moore, Singleton Shire Council
Cr Nuatali Nelmes, City of Newcastle
Cr Wayne Bedggood, Upper Hunter Shire Council

General Managers

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
Glenn Handford, Interim General Manager, Mid Coast Council
Steve McDonald, General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Jeremy Bath, iCEO, City of Newcastle
Jason Linnane, General Manager, Singleton Council
Waid Crockett, General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council

Apologies

Cr Bruce MacKenzie Mayor, Port Stephens Council
Wayne Wallis, General Manager, Port Stephens Council

Staff in attendance

Roger Stephan, CEO, Hunter Councils

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Cr Sue Moore
Seconded: Cr Kay Fraser

Carried.

2. MINUTES OF THE 27 APRIL 2017 MEETING

2.1 Adopting of the Minutes of the previous meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

Moved: Cr Kay Fraser
Seconded: Cr Sue Moore

Carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil advised

4. PRESENTATIONS

Scot MacDonald, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, the Central Coast and the Hunter

Monica Gibson standing in for Gary White, Chief Planner, Department of Planning and Environment: Collaboration and Governance for Metropolitan Planning

5.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PRESENTATIONS

It was moved that Report 5.3 “Outcomes of a briefing held on 22 May 2017 in regard to progress towards a Hunter City Deal” be moved forward in the Agenda.

Moved: Cr Kay Fraser
Seconded: Cr Nuatali Nelmes

Carried.

5.2 OUTCOMES OF A BRIEFING HELD ON 22 MAY 2017 IN REGARD TO PROGRESS TOWARDS A HUNTER CITY DEAL

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the information in the progress report be noted.

Moved: Cr Kay Fraser
Seconded: Cr Nuatali Nelmes

Carried.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Non-Commercial Units Business Reports

6.1.1. Environment Division

6.1.2 Screen Hunter

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT:

1. The update reports be received and noted
 2. The information in regard to Biodiversity Conservation Reforms including the pending secondment to the Environment Division of an employee of the Office of Local Government be noted and endorsed
 3. The prompt and expert assistance of Joint Organisation staff in assistance in response to the flying fox situation at Murrurundi be noted.
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Moved: Cr Martin Rush
Seconded: Cr Wayne Bedggood

Carried.

6.2 Project Progress Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT:

1. The project progress reports be received and noted
 2. Well-being functionality and risk management be considered as part of the development investigations of a Hunter Councils app.
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Moved: Cr Martin Rush
Seconded: Cr Nuatali Nelmes

Carried.

6.4 State Agencies Regional Leadership Executive Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the update report be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Kay Fraser
Seconded: Cr Nuatali Nelmes

Carried.

6.5 Draft Budget 2017/2018 of Hunter Councils Incorporated

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT consideration of the draft budget be referred to the General Managers Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cr Martin Rush
Seconded: Cr Wayne Bedggood

Carried.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Dungog Shire Council

Cr Nancy Knudsen, Acting Mayor of Dungog Shire, spoke to recent events at the council and legal advice received from LGNSW in regard to the status of the council following recent councillor resignations.

Cr Knudsen also provided an overview of the aspirations of the council in regard to its future progress and viability and of the types of support and research that might both facilitate Dungog's situation as well as more broadly small councils in New South Wales.

The meeting resolved to accept the letter tabled by Cr Knudsen.

THAT the legal advice letter in regard to the current status of elected body of Dungog Shire Council be accepted.

Moved: Cr Peter Blackmore
Seconded: Cr Sue Moore

Carried.

The meeting also determined that, if the State Government proposed to appoint an administrator to the council because of a perceived lack of ability to carry out its roles, that a delegation meet with the Minister for Local Government to assist in

advocating for the council's continued operation under the remaining elected councillors.

7.1 Letters of thanks

It was determined that letters of appreciation would be sent to the recently retired Mayor and General Manager of Dungog Shire Council to thank them for the long term contribution to our region.

Meeting closed.