

Mid North Coast  
Joint Organisation

**mncjo**



## Mid North Coast Joint Organisation

### Board Meeting

### Minutes

**Date:** 12 June 2019  
**Location:** Kempsey Macleay RSL Club - 1 York Lane Kempsey  
**Time:** 9.30am



**PRESENT**

***Voting Members:***

Mayor Liz Campbell, Kempsey Shire Council (Chair)  
Mayor Dominic King, Bellingen Shire Council (Deputy Chair)  
Mayor Peta Pinson, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

***Non-Voting Members:***

Louise McMeeking, Director North Coast, DPC Regional  
Liz Jeremy, General Manager, Bellingen Shire Council  
Craig Milburn, General Manager, Kempsey Shire Council  
Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council  
Fionnuala Dixon, Executive Officer, MNCJO  
Michael Thurston, General Manager, Destination North Coast

***Other Attendees:***

Anita Gambhir, Council Engagement Manager, North Coast and Eastern Sydney, OLG,  
Rebecca Montague-Drake, Koala Recovery Partnership Ecologist  
Jane Eales, Biodiversity Reforms Local Government Support Officer, North Coast  
Roberta Ryan, Professor, Institute for Public Policy & Governance, Centre for Local Government, University of Technology Sydney.  
Matt Fanning, Deputy General Manager, Bellingen Shire Council.

The meeting opened at 9.35am



## 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging that the meeting was being held on the traditional lands of the Dunghutti people.

## 2. APOLOGIES

NIL

## 3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL

## 4. SPEAKERS

*RESOLVED: Pinson / King*

**That the following requests to address the Board be acceded to:**

- Presentation on the MNCJO Koala Recovery Strategy by the MNCJO Ecologist, Rebecca Montague Drake.
- Presentation on progress on Biodiversity reforms from the Local Government Support Officer (Biodiversity Reforms) North Coast (Port Macquarie-Hastings to Tweed), Jane Eales.
- Presentation on the results of the Why Local Government Matters research undertaken by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) on behalf of the MNCJO, by Professor Roberta Ryan. (Please note that this presentation relates to Item 10 of this agenda).

*CARRIED: 3/0*

*FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell*

*AGAINST: Nil*

The above-mentioned speakers addressed the Board and answered questions from the Board. Copies of the relevant presentations will be made available with the minutes of the meeting.

**5. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the following items be dealt with by exception:**

**Items: 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 25, 31, 33.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**6. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Minutes of the MNCJO Board meeting of 10 April 2019 be confirmed.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**7. MODEL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE FOR THE MNCJO & MNCJO BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2019-2020**

*RESOLVED: Pinson / King*

**That the Board:**

- 1) **Adopt the Model Code of Meeting Practice to be effective from 14 June 2019.**
- 2) **Adopt the following meeting dates for MNCJO Board meetings during 2019-2020, noting that each MNCJO Board meeting shall commence at 9:30am unless otherwise resolved by the Board from time to time:**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>
9 August 2019	Ordinary Board Meeting	Bellingen Shire Council
11 October 2019	Ordinary Board Meeting	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
6 December 2019	Ordinary Board Meeting	Kempsey Shire Council
7 February 2020	Ordinary Board Meeting	Bellingen Shire Council
3 April 2020	Ordinary Board Meeting	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
12 June 2020	Ordinary Board Meeting	Kempsey Shire Council

- 3) **Request the Executive Officer make enquiries about the opportunity for the October 2019 MNCJO Board meeting being held in Parliament House for the purpose of the MNCJO meeting with a range of Ministers.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*



## 8. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board note the information provided in relation to the establishment of a panel of Conduct Reviewers for the MNCJO.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

## 9. PACIFIC HIGHWAY HANDOVER

*RESOLVED: Pinson / King*

**That the Board:**

- 1) Note the information provided in relation to the Pacific Highway Handover.**
- 2) Note the verbal update on a range of road related issues by the Deputy General Manager of Bellingen Shire Council, Matt Fanning.**
- 3) Refer this issue to the GMAC and request that the GMAC develop a discussion paper on the issue of the proposed handing back of regional roads by the NSW government.**
- 4) Request that the GMAC provide the above-mentioned discussion paper to the Board, with the Director North Coast Regional to forward the discussion paper to the Deputy Secretary of Regional Transport NSW.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*



## 10. WHY LOCAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS

*RESOLVED: King / Pinson*

**That the Board:**

- 1) **Note the Why Local Government Matters (WLGM) research findings and report.**
- 2) **Refer the WLGM research findings and report to member Councils for their information and use.**
- 3) **Request the General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) to give ongoing consideration as to how best to use the WLGM research in the development of future projects for the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.**
- 4) **Request the GMAC develop an appropriate media release for the MNCJO Chair with regard to the broad regional results of the WLGM research and the intent behind undertaking the research.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*

*FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell*

*AGAINST: Nil*

## 11. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINISTERS POSITION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW JOINT ORGANISATIONS

*RESOLVED: Pinson / King*

**That the Board request the Executive Officer write to the new NSW Minister for Local Government seeking confirmation of the Ministers position on the establishment of new Joint Organisations, particularly for the Mid North Coast.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*

*FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell*

*AGAINST: Nil*

## 12. MID NORTH COAST JOINT ORGANISATION WEB SITE

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board note that the MNCJO web site development is now complete.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*

*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*

*AGAINST: Nil*

**13. FINANCIAL REPORTING SOLUTION FOR THE MNCJO**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board note that the MNCJO has purchased the Xero software accounting package to manage all MNCJO accounting functions.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**14. AUDIT ARRANGEMENT FOR THE MNCJO**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board note:**

- 1) The information from the Audit Office of NSW that Thomas Noble Russell have been appointed to deliver the audit of the MNCJO for a period of up to four years from the 2018-2019 financial year audit.**
- 2) That the estimated cost of the 2018-2019 financial year audit is \$7,000 (excluding GST), noting that this fee may change if matters emerge during the audit that significantly change the estimated audit cost.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**15. MNCJO EXPENDITURE REPORT**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board note the MNCJO financial update for the period June 2018 to 31 May 2019.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**16. ADMINISTRATION COSTS FOR PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COUNCIL**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board approve payment of \$1,000 (excluding GST) per calendar month to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council to cover costs for the ongoing financial administration requirements of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**17. ONGOING FUNDING FOR JOINT ORGANISATIONS**

*RESOLVED: Pinson, King*

**That the Board note the information provided in relation to a recent workshop of all NSW Joint Organisations, hosted by the Office of Local Government and attended by the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Local Government.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**18. MID NORTH COAST JOINT ORGANISATION STATEMENT OF REVENUE POLICY & BUDGET, INCLUDING 2019-2020 BUDGET**

*RESOLVED: King, Pinson*

**That the Board:**

- 1) Adopt the revised MNCJO Statement of Revenue Policy, including the 2019-2020 Budget.**
- 2) Note that there are no borrowings proposed for the MNCJO for the 2019-2020 financial year.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

Mayor Dominic King Left the meeting at 12:15pm

**19. EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY**

*RESOLVED: Pinson, Campbell*

**That the Board:**

**1) Advocate to the NSW Government:**

- a) **A strong objection to any increase to the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) above rate peg, and note that no consultation was conducted with the Local Government sector in advance of the increase, noting that all Council budgets and integrated plans were either on exhibition or finalised.**
- b) **That the value of any increase of the ESL in future years be added to the rate peg, rather than as a separate one-off charge.**
- c) **That the ESL be considered as a separate rate collected by Local Government on behalf of the NSW Government.**
- d) **That the ESL increase for 2019-2020 be deferred to 2021.**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Pinson, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**20. SOUTHERN LIGHTS PROJECT**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board note the information provided in relation to the Southern Lights project.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**21. REGIONAL SALEYARDS**

*RESOLVED: Pinson, Campbell*

**That the Board note the information provided in relation to Regional Saleyards.**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Pinson, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**22. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES POLICY - PLACING ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION.**

*RESOLVED: Pinson, Campbell*

**That the Board:**

- 1) Note the inclusion in the draft Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Members of the Board policy of Sitting Fees for voting Board members.**
- 2) Place the revised draft Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Members of the Board policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from Monday 17 June 2019.**
- 3) Note that a further report will be tabled at a future MNCJO Board meeting detailing the submissions received from the public during the exhibition period.**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Pinson, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**23. APPOINTMENT OF A PERMANENT MNCJO EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND PRIORITY SETTING FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*RESOLVED: Pinson, Campbell*

**That the Board:**

- 1) Welcome Ms Fionnuala Dixon as Executive Officer of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.**
- 2) Give consideration to what actions and activities contained within the adopted Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities should be priority actions for the Executive Officer.**
- 3) Request the new Executive Officer write to the Interim Executive Officer, thanking him for his work whilst in the role of Interim Executive Officer,**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Pinson, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**24. DELEGATIONS FOR THE MNCJO EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*RESOLVED: Campbell, Pinson*

**That the Board adopt the delegations for the role of Executive Officer as outlined in this report.**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**25. JOINT ORGANISATION GIPA ACT COMPLIANCE OBLIGATIONS**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board note the information provided by the NSW Information & Privacy Commission regarding the obligations of the MNCJO under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW).**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**26. SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER FOR THE MNCJO**

*RESOLVED: Campbell, Pinson*

**That the Board:**

- 1) Request the Executive Officer undertake research into what State or Federal government funding sources might be available to fund an MNCJO Sustainability Officer.**
- 2) Request the Executive Officer table a report at a future MNCJO Board meeting detailing the results of investigations into what funding options might be available to the MNCJO for the appointment of an MNCJO Sustainability Officer.**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**27. KEY POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE NSW LIBERALS & NATIONALS GOVERNMENT**

*RESOLVED: Campbell, Pinson*

**That the Board note the key policy priorities for the recently re-elected NSW Liberals and Nationals government.**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**28. MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT CHANGES AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE UPDATE**

*RESOLVED: Pinson, Campbell*

**That the Board note the verbal update provided by the Director North Coast, Regional NSW on:**

- 1) The Machinery of Government changes taking place in NSW.**
- 2) The North Coast Regional Leadership Executive and Statement of Outcomes.**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Pinson, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**29. REQUEST FROM NORTH COAST LOCAL LAND SERVICES FOR REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE & PEST TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

*RESOLVED: Pinson, Campbell*

**That the Board refer to the GMAC the decision around nominating a representative for the North Coast Local Land Services Pests Advisory Committee and the North Coast Local Land Services Pest Technical Working Group**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Pinson, Campbell*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**30. DESTINATION NORTH COAST - VALUE OF THE VISITOR ECONOMY**

*RESOLVED: Campbell, Pinson*

**That the Board note the verbal update to be provided by the General Manager of Destination North Coast, an Affiliate member of the MNCJO.**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**31. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MANAGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GMAC) MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2019**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board note the minutes of the General Managers Advisory Committee meeting held on 16 April 2019.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**32. MINUTES OF NSW JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS MEETINGS.**

*RESOLVED: Campbell, Pinson*

**That the Board note the minutes from the NSW JO Executive Officers meeting held in Sydney on Thursday 7 March 2019.**

*CARRIED: 2/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**33. CORRESPONDENCE**

*RESOLVED: Campbell / Pinson*

**That the Board note the incoming and outgoing correspondence included on the correspondence register.**

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**34. GENERAL BUSINESS - MATTERS RAISED BY VOTING AND NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

Mayor Campbell raised the issue of ongoing advocacy from the MNCJO to the NSW government. It is felt that there is often little traction gained by the MNCJO at the Ministerial level on key issues, as opposed to some of the attention that other JO's seem to receive from a range of Ministers.

*RESOLVED: Pinson, Campbell*

**That the Board:**

- 1) Request the GMAC give consideration to developing a more formal advocacy approach to the NSW government by the MNCJO.
- 2) Request the Executive Officer seek an MNCJO meeting with the Minister for Regional Transport & Roads, Paul Toole MP immediately following the handing down of the State budget on 18 June 2019, to discuss progressing the MNCJO Timber Bridge Renewal Prospectus.

*CARRIED: 3/0*  
*FOR: Campbell, Pinson, King*  
*AGAINST: Nil*

**CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:**

NIL

**Meeting close:** 1.19pm