

**Commence 9.30am**

---

**Item: 1**  
**Subject: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

---

I would like to acknowledge the Birpai people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. I would also like to pay respect to the elders both past and present and extend that respect to any Aboriginal People present.

---

**Item: 2**  
**Subject: APOLOGIES**

---

NIL

---

**Item: 3**  
**Subject: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM BOARD MEETING 17 AUGUST 2018**

---

**Item: 3.1.**  
**Subject: CORRESPONDENCE**

---

**Board Items from 17 August 2018**

**Item: 6.3 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

**For discussion.**

*RESOLVED: King/Pinson*

That the Board request the Executive Officer write to all relevant State and Federal Ministers and their Opposition counterparts, as well as copying to all local State & Federal members of JO member Councils, requesting a review of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAG) to Local Government, with a view to including consideration of horizontal fiscal equalisation in the calculation of FAG funding as per the details proposed by the Productivity Commission in their 15 May 2018 report titled 'Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation' (HFE).

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



The Resolution is to be considered in conjunction with the Australian Local Government Association's advocacy to restore core local government funding of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and add funding for partnership programs.

#### **Extract - ALGA News 24 August 2018**

*Ahead of the next federal election, ALGA will be calling for the next federal government to restore Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue, levels that were last seen in 1996.*

*For our best chance to get this across the line, it is imperative to demonstrate the sector's support for our call to urgently repair this important funding assistance to local government.*

*Mayors and councillors have been asked to confirm their support by completing this form, which will take 5 minutes or less: <http://bit.ly/SupportALGAAdvocacy>.*

*For more information about why ALGA is seeking your council's support, please read [this letter](#) from ALGA President, Mayor David O'Loughlin, and see [this infographic](#).*

*<https://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters.NewPMRoadsCongressALGANewsAugust2018#Article16796>*

MNCJO Draft FAG letter and distribution list **Attachment # 1**.

#### **Item: 6.5 MID NORTH COAST JOINT ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP**

##### **For discussion**

*RESOLVED: Pinson/King*

That the Board;

1. Invite Coffs Harbour City Council, Clarence Valley Council and Nambucca Shire Council to join the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation of Councils.
2. Write to the Deputy Premier, The Hon. John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Local Government The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP informing the Ministers of the MNCJO Board's resolution to invite these councils to join the MNCJO.

*CARRIED: 3/0*

*FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell*

*AGAINST: Nil*

Letters of invitation have been issued to Coffs Harbour City Council, Clarence Valley Council and Nambucca Shire Council. Nambucca Shire Council have invited the Chair to attend a Council meeting to discuss the contents of the invitation.

MNCJO Draft letter to the Deputy Premier. **Attachment # 2**



**Item: 6.8 JOINT ORGANISATION FUNDING**

**For discussion**

*RESOLVED: King/Pinson*

That the Board;

1. Write to the Deputy Premier The Hon. John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Local Government The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP advocating for ongoing operational funding to be provided to Joint Organisations, to ensure their ongoing success.
2. Send a copy of the correspondence to all JOs.

*CARRIED: 3/0*

*FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell*

*AGAINST: Nil*

MNCJO Draft letter to the Deputy Premier. **Attachment # 3**

---

**Item: 4**  
**Subject: MEETING WITH NAMBUCCA SHIRE COUNCIL**

---

**For discussion.**

[As per email issued 6.46pm Tuesday 11 September 2018.](#)

Nambucca Shire Council, following correspondence inviting them to join the MNCJO, has extended an invitation to the Chair to attend a Nambucca Shire Council meeting to further discuss issues raised in the correspondence.

The Chair would like to extend an invitation to all MNCJO Board members to attend the Nambucca Shire Council with the Chair at the meeting scheduled for Thursday 11 October 2018 commencing at 5.30pm.



## WORKSHOP - 10am – 3pm

---

Item: 5  
Subject: WORKSHOP WITH PROFESSOR ROBERTA RYAN

---

[As per email issued 11.27am Monday 10 September 2018](#)

### BRIEFING NOTE

MNCJO WORKSHOP  
14/9/2018



#### Workshop Purpose

The MNCJO is required to prepare a Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities by 30 December 2018.

*At a minimum, each statement of regional priorities should include:*

- **a vision**—the joint organisation’s vision for the region
- **priorities**—approximately five strategic priorities the joint organisation plans to focus on
- **strategies**—a small number of strategies the joint organisation will undertake to deliver each priority
- **stakeholders**—agencies and organisations the joint organisation will work with to deliver actions and achieve priorities.

*In addition to the vision, priorities, strategies and stakeholders, the statement may also describe the knowledge or evidence base used to identify the priorities and a small number of measures which the joint organisation will use to demonstrate its success.*

*Source: OLG Stronger Councils Portal – Fact Sheet*

#### The MNCJO workshop also needs to consider:

- **Aligning priorities and projects to the 20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW;**
- **Identifying regional state wide priorities for discussion at LGNSW October conference;**
- **Identifying tangible projects;**
- **Clearly articulating the next steps for the MNCJO; and**
- **Identifying key stakeholders and an engagement plan.**

## Background Information

The following documents have been provided. [\(In the email issued 11.27am Monday 10 September 2018\)](#)

| <b>Document</b>  | <b>Preparation</b>   |
|--|--|
| A 20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW                       | Review and consider for JO priorities and project alignment          |
| North Coast Regional Plan 2036                                   | Review Planning NSW document for JO priorities and project alignment |
| MIDROC Strategic Plan (2017)                                     | Revisit and clarify vision, localise for the JO membership           |
| Coffs / Bellingen Regional Economic Development Strategy         | Review and consider for JO priorities                                |
| Hastings / Macleay Regional Economic Development Strategy        | Review and consider for JO priorities                                |
| MNCJO Project List   | Review projects and fit with regional priorities                     |
| Hunter Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2018-2021               | Provided as an example   |
| Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2017-2020 | Provided as an example   |

September 2018

Ref: FAG Review  
LC: keo

<Insert address line 1>  
<Insert address line 2>  
<Insert address line 3>  
<Insert address line 4>

Dear

### **Review of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs)**

At the 17 August 2018 Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) Board meeting, the Board resolved the following:

#### ***Item: 6.3 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS***

*RESOLVED: King/Pinson*

*That the Board request the Executive Officer write to all relevant State and Federal Ministers and their Opposition counterparts, as well as copying to all local State & Federal members of JO member Councils, requesting a review of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAG) to Local Government, with a view to including consideration of horizontal fiscal equalisation in the calculation of FAG funding as per the details proposed by the Productivity Commission in their 15 May 2018 report titled 'Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation' (HFE).*

*CARRIED: 3/0*

*FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell*

*AGAINST: Nil*

The purpose of this letter is to seek your support in advocating for a review of the principles for distribution of the FAGs funding provided by the Commonwealth Government for distribution by the State Government.

By way of background, the member Councils of the MNCJO have previously raised the issue of HFE with respect to the way the FAGs are allocated to local government areas. It is the view of the MNCJO that the FAGs apportioned to Councils should be based on need, capacity to generate own source revenue and income. This would lead to a redistribution of FAG funding on a more equitable basis across the state.

Specifically, the Board is seeking the application of HFE to the distribution of FAGS in the same way proposed by the Productivity Commission in their May 2018 report to the Australian government titled 'Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation'. It is noted that in their interim response to the above-mentioned Productivity Commission report, the Australian government has committed to transitioning to a new

HFE system over eight years from 2019-20 with regard to the GST, in a way that is fair, reasonable and sustainable and that would ensure all States are better off. This is exactly the result the MNCJO Board is seeking with a review of the FAGs i.e. to ensure that FAG funding is distributed in a fair, reasonable and equitable way across local government in NSW.

As noted above, the MNCJO Board is seeking your assistance in advocating for a review of the FAG funding system and seeks your formal response.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Liz Campbell

Chair

## Board Item

### 6.3 Financial Assistance Grants

Distribution

#### State Government

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Gabrielle Upton MP   | Minister for Local Government                                 |
| John Barilaro MP     | Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW                     |
| Dominic Perrottet MP | Treasurer   |
| Luke Foley MP        | Leader of the Opposition                                      |
| Peter Primrose MLC   | Shadow Minister for Local Government                          |
| Ryan Park MP         | Shadow Treasurer  |
| David Harris MP      | Shadow Minister for Regional Development                      |
| Ben Franklin MLC     | Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy and Northern NSW |

#### LGNSW

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Cr. Linda Scott, | President LGNSW |
|------------------|-----------------|

#### Federal Government

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Joshua Frydenberg MP     | Treasurer  |
| Senator Bridget McKenzie | Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation |
| Chris Bowen MP           | Shadow Treasurer   |
| Stephen Jones MP         | Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government   |

#### Courtesy copy – Local Members

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leslie Williams MP     | Member for Port Macquarie |
| Melinda Pavey MP       | Member for Oxley          |
| Luke Hartsuyker MP     | Member for Cowper         |
| Dr. David Gillespie MP | Member for Lyne           |



September 2018

Ref: DP: Membership  
LC: keo

The Hon. John Barilaro MP  
NSW Deputy Premier,  
Minister for Regional NSW

By email: [contact@deputypremier.nsw.gov.au](mailto:contact@deputypremier.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Deputy Premier,

### **Mid North Coast Joint Organisation Membership**

At the 17 August 2018 Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) Board meeting, the Board resolved the following:

#### **Item: 6.5 MID NORTH COAST JOINT ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP**

*RESOLVED: Pinson/King*

*That the Board;*

- 1. Invite Coffs Harbour City Council, Clarence Valley Council and Nambucca Shire Council to join the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation of Councils.*
- 2. Write to the Deputy Premier, The Hon. John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Local Government The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP informing the Ministers of the MNCJO Board's resolution to invite these Councils to join the MNCJO.*

*CARRIED: 3/0*

*FOR: Pinson, King, Campbell*

*AGAINST: Nil*

Invitations to these Councils have been issued and an offer to discuss this personally with the Councillors has been extended.

The invitations provided an overview of the work undertaken to date to establish the Joint Organisation (JO) and to put in place governance policies and procedures to guide the future operation of the JO.

Mention was also made of the inaugural JO networking meeting at Parliament House in August and the insight this provided into the NSW Government's commitment to the establishment of JOs and future directions for priorities and funding.

As you are aware the Councils of Coffs Harbour, Nambucca and Clarence Valley have not committed to joining the MNCJO and are seeking the establishment of an additional JO and have actively engaged with the NSW Government in this regard.

The Board of the MNCJO;

- Is respectful of the need for individual Councils to make decisions in the best interest of their communities, but in these times also with a view to regional priorities.
- Has reflected in detail on the strength of apolitical advocacy in a collegiate group of Mayors and sees this opportunity as important to actively support and pursue.
- Is cognisant of the financial sustainability of Councils on the Mid North Coast and the reality that the operation of a JO will need the support of at least five or six Councils to be financially sustainable.

The Board of the MNCJO is actively working to ensure all of the Councils within our region are advantaged by the opportunities provided by the establishment of a JO. To ensure the long term sustainability of the JO, the Mid North Coast region would be best served by a single JO comprising all Councils within the region.

We look forward to your continued commitment to one JO on the Mid North Coast.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Liz Campbell  
Chair

Ref: DP: JO Funding  
LC: keo

<Insert date>

<Insert address line 1>

<Insert address line 2>

<Insert address line 3>

<Insert address line 4>

Dear,

### **Joint Organisation Future Funding**

At the 17 August 2018 Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) Board meeting, the Board resolved the following:

#### **Item: 6.8 JOINT ORGANISATION FUNDING**

*RESOLVED: King/Pinson*

*That the Board;*

- 1. Write to the Deputy Premier The Hon. John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Local Government The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP advocating for ongoing operational funding to be provided to Joint Organisations, to ensure their ongoing success.*
- 2. Send a copy of the correspondence to all JOs.*

*CARRIED: 3/0*

*FOR: King, Pinson, Campbell*

*AGAINST: Nil*

The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) is appreciative of the \$300,000 funds allocated by the State Government to establish the entity.

To ensure the longevity of this positive collaborative model and to be an effective apparatus of government, ongoing financial security is necessary beyond 2019/2020.

The efforts in time and energy to establish the Joint Organisations would be misspent without longer term financial support and without this commitment could damage the current goodwill of Joint Organisation Member Councils until the benefits of this model are realised.

Regional and Rural Local Councils cannot be expected to contribute ongoing financial resources for the operations of Joint Organisations as budgets are already stretched. Combined with the continuous cost shifting from government, contribution for administrative functions of the Joint Organisation is unaffordable until the benefits of collaborative relationships materialise.

Your advocacy to secure ongoing funding for the Joint Organisations is essential to achieving sustained success. We look forward to the benefits that this intergovernmental collaboration will bring and remain committed to working with the NSW Government in achieving this end.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Liz Campbell

Chair