

Mid North Coast
Joint Organisation

mncjo



Mid North Coast Joint Organisation

Board Meeting

Minutes

Date: 1 May 2020
Location: Via Teleconference
Time: 9:30am



The meeting opened 9.32am

Please note that this meeting was held via videoconference.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair of the MNCJO acknowledged country and our respect for elders of the collective lands on which this meeting took place.

2. ATTENDEES

Voting Members:

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

Non-Voting Members:

Liz Jeremy, General Manager, Bellingen Shire Council
Craig Milburn, General Manager, Kempsey Shire Council
Craig Swift-McNair General Manager, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council / Executive Officer
Louise McMeeking, Director North Coast, Department of Regional NSW
Michael Thurston, General Manager, Destination North Coast

Other Attendees:

Darren Boulet - Office of Emergency Management
Dr Rebecca Montague Drake - Koala Recovery Partnership
Anita Ghambir - Office of Local Government

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL



5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolved: *King / Campbell*

That the Board confirm:

- 1) The minutes of the MNCJO Board meeting held on 21 February 2020.
- 2) The minutes of the extraordinary MNCJO Board meeting held on 15 April 2020.

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

6. BUSINESS ARISING

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board note that there is no Business Arising to be tabled at this MNCJO Board meeting, but there will be Business Arising items tabled at future MNCJO Board meetings.

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

7. SPEAKERS

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board accede to the following requests to address the Board:

- 1) Mr Darren Boulet, Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer, Mid North Coast
- 2) Dr Rebecca Montague-Drake, Koala Ecologist, Hastings-Macleay Koala Recovery Partnership
- 3) Mr Michael Thurston, General Manager, Destination North Coast
- 4) Ms Louise McMeeking, Director North Coast, Department of Regional NSW.

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

**8. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MANAGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING.**

Resolved: *King / Pinson*

That the Board note the minutes from the General Managers Advisory Committee meeting held on 2 April 2020 via teleconference.

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

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board note the incoming and outgoing correspondence for the period 15 February 2020 to 30 March 2020.

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

Please note that at this time, the MNCJO Board resolved to adjourn the meeting in order for the Board to attend a live online Q&A with the Minister of Local Government scheduled to take place from 10:00am - 11:00am.

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board:

- 1) Adjourn this 1 May 2020 Board meeting in order for the Board to attend a live online Q&A with the Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock MP, regarding the recently announced stimulus package for Local Government.**
- 2) Reconvene this 1 May 2020 Board meeting at the conclusion of the live online Q&A with the Minister for Local Government.**

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

Please note that the MNCJO Board meeting reconvened at 11:06am



10. KOALA RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UPDATE

Resolved: *King / Pinson*

That the Board:

- 1) **Note the status of the Koala Recovery Partnership project as provided in the verbal update by Dr Montague-Drake.**
- 2) **Approve the following project activities for the Koala Recovery Partnership project in light of the COVID 19 pandemic constraints:**
 - a) **The appointment of contractors to undertake work as planned for the long-term monitoring program, utilising job safety protocols as approved by GMAC.**
 - b) **The appointment of contractors to undertake field surveys to determine the habitat values of potential private properties for inclusion in the Conservation Partners Program, utilising job safety protocols as approved by GMAC.**
- 3) **Approve the release of Expressions of Interest targeting landholders with more than 5 ha of mapped koala habitat in the Belmore River area, with a view to gauge the extent of potential interest in future participation in the Conservation Partners Program**
- 4) **Note that the MNCJO will make a submission to the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice for Northern NSW review by the extended closing date of 19 May 2020.**

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

11. REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM UPDATE

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board note the status of then Regional Disaster Preparedness Program as provided in the verbal update from Mr Darren Boulet, the Regional Disaster Preparedness Office for the Mid North Coast.

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

**12. COVID -19 PANDEMIC UPDATE FROM MEMBER COUNCILS**

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board note the verbal updates provided by the General Managers of MNCJO member Councils on their Council responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

13. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE MID NORTH COAST JOINT ORGANISATION

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board:

- 1) **Note that the term of the current Chairperson of the MNCJO expires on 30 June 2020.**
- 2) **Note that a vacancy will exist for the office of Chairperson of the MNCJO subsequent to 30 June 2020.**
- 3) **Note that nominations for Chairperson of the MNCJO are now being called by the Executive Officer.**
- 4) **Note that the election for the Chairperson of the MNCJO will be conducted at the first meeting of the MNCJO Board following 30 June 2020, in accordance with Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Schedule 7A Election of Chairpersons of Joint Organisations.**
- 5) **Appoint the MNCJO Executive Officer as the Returning Officer for the purpose of the election of the Chairperson of the MNCJO.**
- 6) **Thank Mayor Liz Campbell for her tireless efforts and advocacy as the Chair of the MNCJO since its establishment.**

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



14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

Resolved: *King / Pinson*

That the Board note that:

- 1) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSW Government have postponed the 12 September 2020 Local Government Elections until September 2021.
- 2) The 'How to be a Councillor' information awareness sessions and the related media and community awareness campaign have been cancelled.

CARRIED: *3/0*

FOR: *King / Pinson / Campbell*

AGAINST: *Nil*

15. OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOINT ORGANISATION CAPACITY BUILDING FUND

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board:

- 1) Note that the MNCJO has now received \$150,000 from the Office of Local Government as funding for the Capacity Building fund.
- 2) Note that the MNCJO Capacity Building fund project as resolved previously by the MNCJO Board is a Biodiversity Stewardship Project.
- 3) Refer this project to the General Managers Advisory Committee for discussion around project management fees to be applied to this funding, for the management of the project by the MNCJO.

CARRIED: *3/0*

FOR: *Pinson / King / Campbell*

AGAINST: *Nil*

**16. MNCJO ANNUAL AUDIT ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board note the annual Audit Engagement plan for the 2020 audit of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.

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

17. OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCES - MNCJO ADOPTED PROJECT

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board approve the deferral of the 'Our Precious Resources' project until the current Covid-19 restrictions are removed and an MNCJO Project Officer has been engaged by the MNCJO.

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

18. UPDATE FROM THE NSW JOINT ORGANISATION CHAIRS FORUM

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board note the update from the NSW JO Chairs' Forum convened on 5 March 2020 at Parliament House, Sydney.

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

**19. UPDATE FROM THE NSW JOINT ORGANISATIONS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS NETWORK MEETING**

Resolved: *King / Pinson*

That the Board note the update from the NSW Joint Organisations Executive Officers Network meeting convened on 5 March 2020

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

20. UPDATE ON NORTH COAST SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Resolved: *King / Pinson*

That the Board note the information provided in the update from the delegates to the following subcommittees:

- **North Coast Local Land Services Pests Advisory and the North Coast Weeds Advisory Committees – Craig Swift McNair**
- **North Coast Drought Task Group – Craig Milburn**

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

21. MNCJO TIMBER BRIDGE PROSPECTUS

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board:

- 1) **Note that there has been no progress to date with regard to the MNCJO receiving funding support for the MNCJO Timber Bridge Prospectus.**
- 2) **Request the Chair write to the Minister for Regional Transport & Roads and the NSW Deputy Premier requesting urgent consideration of funding for implementation of the MNCJO Timber Bridge Prospectus, taking into account the economic stimulus this would provide to the region as we come out of the pandemic.**

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



22. MNCJO FINANCIAL REPORT

Resolved: *Pinson / King*

That the Board:

- 1) Note the information contained with this MNCJO Financial Report and related attachments.
- 2) Note that the Chair of the MNCJO wrote to the Minister for Local Government on 20 April 2020 seeking an urgent cash injection of \$150,000 for MNCJO operational purposes.
- 3) Request the Chair of the MNCJO write to the Minister for Local Government in follow up to the letter from 20 April 2020 and also seek examples from the Minister, of Joint Organisation success stories, for the information of the Board.

CARRIED: 3/0

FOR: *Pinson / King / Campbell*

AGAINST: *Nil*

23. MNCJO MEETING DATES FOR 2020-2021

Resolved: *King / Pinson*

That the Board:

- 1) Set the meeting dates for 2020-2021 MNCJO Board meetings as follows, with the meetings to commence at 9:30am:
- 2) Set the meeting dates for 2020-2021 MNCJO Board meetings as follows, with the meetings to commence at 9:30am:
 - 3 July 2020
 - 4 September 2020
 - 6 November 2020
 - 5 February 2021
 - 2 April 2021
 - 4 June 2021
- 3) Cancel the MNCJO Board meeting scheduled for 12 June 2020 in light of the above-mentioned Board meeting scheduled to take place on 3 July 2020.
- 4) Note that MNCJO Board meetings will take place via tele / video conference until such time as the current social distancing and travel restrictions are lifted.



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

24. DESTINATION NORTH COAST UPDATE

Resolved: Pinson / King

That the Board note the information provided in the verbal update from Mr Michael Thurston, General Manager, Destination North Coast.

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

25. LATE REPORTS

Nil

26. MATTERS RAISED BY VOTING AND NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES

- Louise McMeeking, Director North Coast, Department of Regional NSW provided an update on the following items:
 - o Thanks to member Councils for working with the Department and Boston Consulting recently to review the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS), with a bushfire overview.
 - o There are ongoing discussions around some project delays to Stronger Country Community Fund (SCCF) projects in light of natural disasters and the pandemic.
 - o The Regional Leadership Executive has now repurposed its sub-committees in light of the pandemic, with one being focussed on economic development and one on vulnerable communities.
 - o Joint meetings with the region's Economic Development Managers are continuing and are of great benefit.
 - o The Northern Waste Investment project is still moving forward with recent meetings being held with General Managers and waste staff.

- Anita Gambhir, Council Engagement Manager, Office of Local Government provided an update report which was distributed to the MNCJO Board prior to the Board meeting for review.

- The MNCJO Chair and the General Manager of Kempsey Shire Council raised a request from the Member for Oxley that the water & sewer Engineers from the



MNCJO member Councils meet with representatives from DPIE to discuss potential water & sewer projects etc. A meeting similar to this was held in Bellingham in 2019, so the purpose of this meeting is not yet known. This will be referred to GMAC for further discussion in the first instance.

27. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

MEETING CLOSE: 1.09pm