

Annual Performance Statement

June 2023









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PO Box 4, Port Macquarie NSW 2444



Introduction

It is with pleasure that I present the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's (MNCJO) Annual Performance Statement (APS) for 2022-2023 and provide some introductory remarks.

The MNCJO was established in 2018 and comprises three member Councils - Bellingen, Kempsey and Port Macquarie-Hastings and as such, is one of the smaller Joint Organisations in NSW.

This year has seen our relatively small Joint Organisation (JO) achieve outstanding results. We have successfully gained more grant funding than ever before.

In turn, the capacity and capability of the organisation has grown through the creation of new roles and the formation of a team of professional and skilled staff to deliver on newly funded projects.



Following our guiding principles, the MNCJO continues to focus on a whole-of-region approach to decision making and strategic planning. The projects, detailed within the Annual Performance Statement, all provide regional benefits for all of the Mid North Coast Councils, both members and non-members.

The collaboration for Joint Organisations across New South Wales has stepped up to a whole new level this year, with all Joint Organisations successfully applying for Disaster Risk Reduction Funding collectively, teaming up on state-wide projects and working closely with NSW Reconstruction Authority and other agencies to achieve the desired outcomes.

The continued collaboration of the Joint Organisations is key to innovation, creating efficiencies and finding solutions to the challenges faced by local councils. I believe this Performance Statement demonstrates that we are strongly focused on achieving this and ensuring the Mid North Coast region benefits.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the Mayors, General Managers/CEO and our Executive Officer of our Joint Organisation, as well as those in the community who are working with us to deliver the programs that we know will be of significant benefit and of lasting impact to all the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation communities.

Mayor Peta Pinson Chair Mid North Coast Joint Organisation



Vision

The vision of the MNCJO is to help create a vibrant, sustainable region underpinned by economic growth and a commitment to the social and environmental well-being of its communities.

Mission

The mission of the MNCJO is set priorities, lead and advocate for the Mid North Coast region and work collaboratively with the community, government agencies and non-government organisations and businesses to achieve them.

Core Functions

The core functions of the MNCJO are:

• Strategic Planning and Priority Setting

Based on robust processes for identifying regional goals, with the flexibility to respond to changing priorities and needs of Member Councils as required.

• Intergovernmental collaboration

Building effective working relationships with other JOs, councils and the NSW and Australian Governments.

• Regional Leadership and Advocacy

Creating a shared purpose and strategic direction for the region and commitment to constructive and co-operative implementation by all Member Councils.

• Building efficient and effective councils

By examining opportunities for shared services with capacity building across the region

Guiding Principles

- Decisions are made with a whole of region focus and flexibility to respond to changing priorities and community needs.
- There is accountability to members and their communities of interest.
- There is a commitment to collaboration and good working relationships.
- There is clear communication between members and other stakeholders.
- There is a commitment to make the MNCJO work effectively and efficiently.
- There is a commitment to evaluating and reporting to ensure targeted outputs and outcomes.

Principles of Sustainability

The sustainability of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) of Councils will be achieved when resources available to the organisation are sufficient to deliver identified regional priorities and where Member Councils are committed to the values, vision, and mission of the MNCJO.

The underlying principles driving the success of the MNCJO include:

- Recognition of, and a shared response to, what matters to the community, noting, issues that arose out of the 'Why Local Government Matters' research undertaken by the University of Technology, Sydney, in 2019.
- Recognition of the value of the MNCJO by Member Councils.



- Recognition of the value of the MNCJO to State Government Agencies including as a first point of contact and in relation to the allocation of funding.
- Collaboration between Member Councils: by making financial contributions; through joint planning; 'sharing the load' and a commitment to a regional response to issues affecting the community.
- A regional approach to engagement with the NSW Government and other agencies.

Strategic Regional Priorities 2021 - 2024

In June 2021, the MNCJO Board endorsed the revised Statement of Strategic Priorities 2021-2024 (Attachment 1). The 2021 Statement builds on the Strategic Plan (Plan) which was prepared in 2018. The 2021 Statement contains six strategic goals (which relate to the social, environmental, economic, infrastructure, governance, and advocacy goals for the region), linked to several high-level actions and more specific individual activities under each strategic goal.

Achievements

2023 saw the completion of some ground-breaking projects, such as the Community Land Trust, and the continuance of the community preparedness project, Simtable for Community Empowerment. The MNCJO successfully applied for an unprecedented \$1.15m in new grant funds in 2023 which saw the number of projects expand and engaging three (3) additional full time professional, skilled staff.

Community Land Trust

In response to a pressing need for an innovative solution to the mounting need for affordable housing, the MNCJO initiated this project to develop a Proof of Concept (PoC) for a Community Land Trust, or CLT, for the Mid-North Coast

A CLT is a not-for-profit entity that provides housing, typically through co-ownership or a 99-year lease model, delivering affordability to participating households by taking land out of the market and holding it in perpetuity through a non-profit entity, thereby removing speculative upward price pressures on the land component.

The focus of a CLT is delivering more affordable housing to local households unable to access home ownership or suitable rental accommodation because of limited availability of affordable housing.

The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's CLT Proof of Concept is a ground-breaking and innovative piece of work, that is a roadmap for establishing a CLT within an Australian context. The CLT Proof of Concept was produced by consultants Urbanista with the support of a dedicated project team, including the Housing Matters Action Group and subject experts from each member council.

The MNCJO is proud to have taken the first step to realising affordable housing options for the Mid North Coast, but even better is the fact it now has the opportunity for realisation. The Housing Matters Action Group, who advocated for this project, have announced they received funds from the Siddle Family Foundation to fund the Bellingen Shire Community Land Trust Establishment Project.

The MNCJO looks forward to following the Community Land Trust Establishment's progress.



Simtable for Community Empowerment

The Simtable for Community Empowerment project provides a state of art tool to engage local communities in localised disaster reduction workshops. The project aims to improve the capacity of communities to plan and respond to disasters, particularly vulnerable communities.

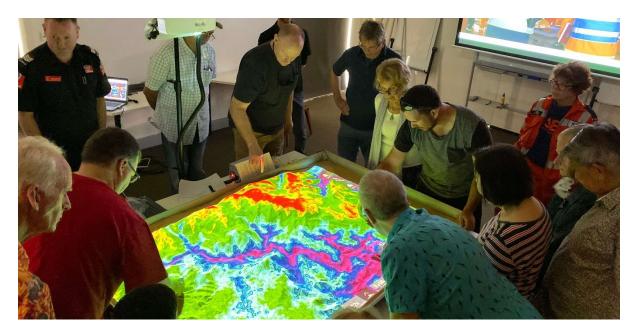
The Simtable is a sophisticated digital sand table that displays high quality models of natural hazards such as bushfires. The technology uses a projector to overlay hazard projections over local mapping and terrain in 3D. The system models fire behaviour based on geophysical and meteorological conditions to demonstrate how fire might move through the landscape, and what impact it may have on the built environment. It provides local communities with a highly realistic demonstration of how their properties and communities may be affected

It has used in 49 place-based community engagement sessions in the local government areas of Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey, Nambucca, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, and Clarence Valley to build resilience and preparedness for extreme weather events. Workshops have provided over 1,000 attendees with a deep understanding of their risks, strengthen community connections, and enable the development of tailored and detailed response plans.

In addition to enabling communities the Simtable has been a valuable resource for driving collaboration with key disaster stakeholders and agencies. Stakeholders who have been involved in the project and participated in workshops include:

Port Macquarie Hastings Shire Council Bellingen Shire Council Kempsey Shire Council Nambucca Shire Council Coffs Harbour City Council Clarence Valley Council NSW Reconstruction Authority NSW Rural Fire Service NSW Health

The Simtable for Community Empowerment project is funded through the NSW Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund - \$225,635. The project is scheduled for completion on 30 December 2023.





Circular Economy Centre of Excellence

The MNCJO was successful in receiving funding through the NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund to investigate the development of a "Circular Economy Centre of Excellence" (CECoE) for the Mid North Coast. Through a competitive RFQ process, Talis Consultants were engaged to develop a feasibility and business case.

An Activity Working Group (AWG) of representatives from each Mid North Coast Council (including non-member councils), Regional NSW, Mid North Coast Regional Development Australia and NSW EPA has oversight of the project, ensuring it remains within the scope of works and meets funding objectives.

A feasibility study and business case are currently under development. It is envisaged the CECoE will be an innovative solution to several problems whilst creating new innovative business opportunities and jobs across the Mid North Coast Region.

The Circular Economy Centre of Excellence project is funded by the NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund – \$240,000. The project is scheduled for completion on 31 March 2024.

Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration

Mid North Coast Joint Organisation was successful in its bid for capacity building funding through the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) program. The program has employed a staff member for one year who is dedicated to progressing the JO and member councils towards net zero. The JONZA program, delivered by the NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change, was established to help regional councils reduce their carbon emissions to achieve their part in the State's Net Zero target of 50 per cent reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2050. Nine (9) Joint Organisations received funding which means sixty-five (65) regional councils are participating in the program.

The JOs member councils are at different stages along the net zero path. This funding allows the project officer to assess individual member councils and provide a truly regional approach to emissions reduction through development of a Regional Energy Strategy.

To date the project has conducted Net Zero Assessments with all member councils, assisted with Revolving Energy Fund information, conduct tariff reviews, commenced Private Power Agreement negotiations, liaised with stakeholders regarding electric vehicle pole charger installation and researched creation of a benchmarking tool for councils to measure net zero targets.

The project is funded by the NSW Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration program - \$155,000.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Developing a Regional Blueprint which will reduce and limit the impact of disasters associated with natural hazards, will be the main outcome of funding received by the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) through the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF).

The DRRF is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments and is targeted at locally led initiatives to help keep communities safe in the future.

MNCJO Resilience Blueprint will build capacity, share resource, and develop leading practice in Disaster Risk Reduction across the Mid North Coast region. The MNCJO is also working with



a collective of eight (8) Joint Organisations of Council to coordinate on strategic initiatives to strengthen long-term interconnected regional approaches to resilience across NSW.

The DRRF project has several elements, including:

- 1. Audit Councils' Risk Assessments Complete an audit of each council's risk assessments to identify priority areas for improving corporate (council) and community risk preparedness.
- IP&R Action Plan Develop an action-focussed report enabling councils to imbed Climate Change impacts into IP&R and decision-making processes.
- 3. Climate Change Impact Assessments

Develop a Climate Change Risk Assessment, identify climate change vulnerabilities, using predictive modelling and innovation, enabling analysis of the highest risk areas to prioritise the need for risk mitigation measures.

4. Transport connectivity

In partnership with TNSW, undertake an assessment of key choke points/disruptions to transport networks across the region arising from natural disaster scenarios, and identifying and prioritising risk management strategies to manage these. Of particular focus is the disruption to all New South Wales, via the West/East connectivity.

5. LG Alumni Network

Local government has a history of long-term employees. These employees have a wealth of knowledge about local government process, council operations, technical information, and geographical data. A Local Government Alumni would activate when council resources are most impacted e.g., disasters. The project officer will work with council staff in Human Resources and Civil Works teams to research governance, operational and workplace procedures as well as consult with former council staff. The aim of the project is to develop a tool kit that will enable a LG Alumni to be replicated across the NSW>

6. Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Network

The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Network (RDRRN) will develop and implement a model for a network, which aims to reduce and mitigate vulnerabilities across the Mid North Coast region. The RDRRNN will bring together a body of experts for a range of related fields that identify and mitigate hazards associated with disasters and community resilience practices. The aim is to promote disaster resilience as well as to provide credible information and sharing of resources, when necessary, between councils

These projects are funded through the NSW Disaster Risk Reduction Fund - \$760,960.

Audited Financial Statements

In accordance with Local Government Act s428(4)(a) the audited General Purpose Financial Statements are attached (Attachment 2)



Information required Local Government (General) Regulation - Clause 217

Details (including the purpose) of overseas visits undertaken during the year by Board Members, Executive Officer or other persons representing the JO (including visits sponsored by other organisations)	Nil
 Total cost during the year of the payment of the expenses of, and the provision of facilities to Board Members in relation to their functions. Identify separate details on the total cost of: provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to Board Members, telephone calls made by Board Members, the attendance of Board Members at conferences and seminars, interstate visits undertaken by Board Members, including transport, accommodation, and other out-of-pocket expenses, overseas visits by Board Members, including transport, accommodation, and other out-of-pocket expenses, the expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Board Member in the performance of his or her civic functions, being expenses payable in accordance with the Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Board Members, 	Sitting fees: \$4,000
 Details of each contract awarded (other than employment contracts and contracts less than \$150,000) including: name of contractor nature of goods or service supplied total amount payable 	See below
Contractor - Talis Consultants Nature of Goods or Service - Development of Business Case and Feasibility Study Total Amount Payable - \$194,450 (ex gst)	
 A summary of the amounts incurred by the JO in relation to legal proceedings including: amounts incurred by JO in relation to proceedings taken by or against the JO (including court settlements) summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and (if finalised) the result. 	Nil
Total amount contributed or otherwise granted to financially assist others.	Nil
Statement of all external bodies that exercised functions delegated by the JO	Nil
Statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates, or other bodies in which the JO held a controlling interest.	Nil
Statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates, or other bodies in which the JO participated during that year	Nil



Statement of the activities undertaken by the joint organisation during that year to	Nil
implement its equal employment opportunity management plan	
Statement of the activities undertaken to implement its EEO management plan	See below
These initiatives are embedded in member Councils Management Plans	
 Statement of the total remuneration package of the Executive Officer including: total value of the salary component of the package, the total amount of any bonus, performance payments or other payments that 	See below
do not form part of the salary component,	
• the total amount payable by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the Executive Officer may be a contributor,	
• the total value of any non-cash benefits for which the Executive Officer may elect under the package	
 total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits 	
The Executive Office role is undertaken by the GM Bellingen Shire Council with the sup contracted Project Manager	oport of a
 Statement of the total remuneration packages of all senior staff members, expressed as the total (not individual members) including: total value of salary components of their packages total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of the salary components of their packages, total amount payable by the JO by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which they may be a contributor, total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package, total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits 	Nil

Capital Works

No proposed capital works projects undertaken (OLG Capital Expenditure Guidelines)

Government Information Public Access (GIPA) activity

The MNCJO received no requests for information under GIPA legislation during the reporting period.

Public Interest Discloser (PID)

No PID activity during the reporting period. See attachment s6CA PID Report – July 2021 to 2022 (Attachment 3)



Attachment 1 - Statement of Strategic Priorities 2021-24

Attachment 2 – General Purpose Financial Statements (2023)

Attachment 3 – s6CA PID Report – July 2022 to 2023



Statement of Strategic Priorities 2021

What is the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation?

The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) represents a new way for its member councils to work together for the benefit of the region. Established in 2018, the MNCJO has three members:

- Bellingen Shire Council
- Kempsey Shire Council
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

Together the councils cover an area of 8,658 square kilometres and a population of approximately 125,000 people.

Joint Organisations (JOs) were created in NSW following changes to the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* in late 2017 and represent a different approach for councils to work strategically with the NSW Government.

The MNCJO's primary role is to support a shared approach to the vision and long-term development of the Mid North Coast region. It builds on previous work undertaken by the councils as members of the former Mid North Coast Regional Organisation of Councils.

The MNCJO is overseen by a Board comprising the Mayors from each Member Council, supported by the General Managers of each member council... Senior Managers from Regional NSW, Destination NSW and Regional Development Australia (RDA) also attend and provide reports to the Board. The NSW OLG relationship manager also attends.

What is the timing for this plan?

This Statement of Regional Priorities (Statement) is an update to the Statement from September 2018 to September 2021. From September 2021, a new three year term of local government will come into effect, with the MDCJO Chair elected for a two year term.

What was the process for preparing this plan?

This 2021 Statement has been developed through a mix of research and stakeholder consultation. A wide range of relevant documents including regional plans and regional economic development strategies from member councils were reviewed and a workshop of the MNCJO Board was held on April 9 2021. During this workshop, performance against the 2018 Statement was assessed to understand progress to date and to determine appropriate actions and activities for the future to achieve the strategic goals.

The 2021 Statement has been reviewed and updated throughout this process and was approved by the MNCJO Board on June 4, 2021.

When will this plan be reviewed?

This Statement will be reviewed annually and at the commencement of new terms of office for the MNCJO Board.

Vision for the Mid North Coast region

The MNCJO vision is to help create a vibrant, sustainable region underpinned by economic growth and a commitment to the social and environmental wellbeing of its communities.

Mission statement

To set priorities, lead and advocate for the Mid North Coast region and work collaboratively with the community, government and non- government organisations and business to achieve them.

Functions

The core functions of the MNCJO are:

- Strategic planning and priority setting based on robust processes for identifying regional goals, with the flexibility to respond to changing priorities and needs of member councils as required
- Intergovernmental collaboration building effective working relationships with other JOs, councils and the NSW and Australian Governments
- Regional leadership and advocacy creating a shared purpose and strategic direction for the region and a commitment to constructive and cooperative implementation by all member councils
- Building efficient and effective councils by examining opportunities for shared services and capacity building across the region.

Guiding principles

- Decisions are made with a whole of region focus Flexibility to respond to changing priorities and community needs
- Accountability to members and their communities of interest
- Commitment to collaboration and good working relationships
- Clear communication between members and other stakeholders
- Commitment to make MNCJO work effectively and efficiently
- Evaluation and reporting to ensure targeted outputs and outcomes
- Strong governance, with robust processes, accountability and transparent decision-making.

Strategic goals and actions

This 2021 Statement builds on the Strategic Plan (Plan) which was prepared in 2018. This 2021 Statement contains six strategic goals (which relate to

the social, environmental, economic, infrastructure, governance and advocacy goals for the region), linked to a number of high level actions and more specific individual activities under each strategic goal.

The key partners and regional documents are also highlighted to ensure strategic alignment. In addition to the regional documents noted, there are also a large number of relevant documents prepared by each member council, including Community Strategic Plans, Local Environmental Plans and a wide range of strategies, plans and policies.



1. Social, health and wellness

Goal: an active, healthy, resilient and safe community

Key partners		Key regional documents
 NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet NSW Department of Education NSW Department of Communities and Justice NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW Health and Mid North Coast Local Health District 	 NSW Land and Housing Corporation NSW Department of Primary Industries Australian Government Department of Social Services 	 North Coast Regional Plan 2036 (being reviewed in 2021/22) North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation (Adapt NSW) *Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021-2031?? Community Strategic Plans prepared by Member Councils *Local Strategic Planning statements prepared by Member Councils Local Strategic Planning Statements prepared by member Councils

• NSW Housing Strategy 2041

No.	High level actions	Activities	Functional Area
1.1	Build capacity in the regional community to deal withsevere weather events and natural disasters	Strengthen the existing 'Resilience Partnership' with Charles Sturt University and the local community and ensure sustainable community projects are developed in the context of this partnership.	Leadership
		Engage with Resilience NSW to embed 'Preparedness Recovery and Resilience Strategies' in the area covered by the MNCJO.	
		Ensure local communities have access to information and technology relative to severe weather events in the region	
1.2	Develop plan on regional housing supply, demand and housing affordability	MNCJO councils to collaborate around LSPSs to influence zoning and unlock land supply	Planning, collaboration
		MNCJO to advocate to NSW government on regional housing issues	Collaboration
		Seek funding to Investigate the feasibility of a community land trust in the region	Planning, collaboration
1.3	Collaborate with landholders (property, land and caravan parks) to understand crisis accommodation issues	Collaborate with RDA to finalise evidence base and bring back to the MNCJO	Collaboration

2. Environment

Goal: enhance natural and cultural heritage

Key partners	Key regional documents
Local Aboriginal Land Councils	North Coast Regional Plan 2036 (being reviewed in 2021/22)
NSW Department of Primary Industries	North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation (Adapt NSW)
 NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 	 NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2021
NSW Environmental Protection Authority	North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation report 2019
NSW Environment, Energy and Science Group	North Coast Regional Emergency Management Plan 2019
North Coast Local Land Services	 NSW Natural Disaster Resilience Program (Community Resilience Innovation Program)
	NSW Floodplain Development Manual 2005
	Koala SEPP 2021
	Community Strategic Plans
	Local Strategic Planning Statements

No.	High level actions	Activities	Functional Area
2.1	Preserve strategic biodiversity and identify land with high environmental value and biodiversity corridors across the region	Deliver Regional Biodiversity Offsetting and Carbon Project (funded by OLG Financial Sustainability Project) with appointed external consultants	Planning, collaboration
		Build on the success of the Koala Recovery Partnership to improve koala conservation across the MNCJO Region	Leadership, collaboration
2.2	Maintain focus on koala protection and habitat conservation and build on the Koala Recovery Project	Build koala priorities into council plans	Planning, research, collaboration
		Create shared priorities for koala protection with MNCJO, RDA and Local Land Services (LLS)	Collaboration
		Use evidence base established through Great Koala National Park and biodiversity work to advocate to other councils and NSW government	Collaboration, research
		Actively engage the timber industry in a conversation about the future of the region and develop an evidence base with the timber industry to get the best value out of this resource	Collaboration, research

Mid North Coast

Joint Organisation

2.3	Develop improved solutions for waste and water at a regional level	MNCJO to form working group with regional waste providers and all councils to develop a strategic waste plan	Leadership, collaboration, planning
		MNCJO build on discussion paper on water and work with other JOs to investigate opportunities for water authorities to link to JOs to collaborate in strategic water planning	Leadership, collaboration, planning
2.4	Develop a plan aligned to Adapt North Coast to facilitate actions for climate change adaptation at a regional level	MNCJO to align with priorities in the regional adaptation plan and source funding to implement initiatives on a regional basis, including microgrids and other adaption strategies	Planning, collaboration

3. Economy

Goal: a diverse and robust economy which strengthens existing and creates new industries and educational opportunities

Key partners		Key regional documents
 Regional Development Australia – Mid North Coast NSW Department of Regional NSW NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet NSW Office of Local Government Property Council Australia Urban Development Institute of Australia North Coast Local Land Services TAFE NSW Schools and Early Education Centres Australian Government Department of Defence 	Destination NSW	 North Coast Regional Plan 2036 (being reviewed in 2021/22) North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation (Adapt NSW) A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW 2021 Hastings Macleay Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 Coffs Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 Bellingen Shire Council Economic Development and Tourism Plan 2015-2020 Mid North Coast SMART Region Strategy 2018 RDA Mid North Coast Regional Plan North Coast Employment Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025 Local Land Services North Coast Local Strategic Plan 2016-2021 Coffs Harbour Regional City Action Plan 2036 Port Macquarie Draft Regional City Action Plan 2036

No.	High level actions	Activities	Functional Area
	.1 Actively position the Mid North Coast as a great place to live, work, invest and play.	MNCJO in association with Destination NSWto lead Mid North Coast regional brand strategy across all councils	Planning, collaboration
		Identify opportunities for nature-based and indigenous tourism	Research, planning, collaboration
3.2	Support research to better understand responses to regional skills shortage	MNCJO to support the RDA work and its advocacy in this area	Research, collaboration
3.3	Support research for development and manufacture of assistive technologies, especially for aged care	MNCJO to support the RDA work and its advocacy in this area	Research, collaboration

4. Infrastructure

Goal: vibrant, connected cities and centres

Key partners	Key regional documents
 Regional Development Australia – Mid North Coast NSW Department of Regional NSW NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Infrastructure NSW Transport for NSW Property Council Australia Urban Development Institute of Australia North Coast Local Land Services 	 North Coast Regional Plan 2036 (being reviewed in 2021/22) North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation (Adapt NSW) A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW 2021 Hastings Macleay Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 Coffs Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 Bellingen Shire Council Economic Development and Tourism Plan 2015-2020 Mid North Coast SMART Region Strategy 2018 Local Land Services North Coast Local Strategic Plan 2016-2021 Coffs Harbour Regional City Action Plan 2036 Port Macquarie Draft Regional City Action Plan 2036 Community Strategic Plans Local Strategic Planning Statements



No.	High level actions	Activities	Functional Area
4.1	4.1 Restore and renew regional roads and bridges	Continue to support member councils with roll out of MNCJO bridges project	Planning, collaboration
		Continue joint discussions regarding a regional approach other transport infrastructure.	Planning, collaboration
4.2	Design and create safe public places and preserve the unique regional/local character of cities, towns and villages	MNCJO councils to continue to actively seek grant funding to upgrade tourism infrastructure through funds such as Stronger Country Communities, BLERF, Regional Tourism Fund etc.	Planning, collaboration

5. Regional leadership

Goal: effective and efficient governance and regional leadership

Key partners Key regional documents		Key regional documents
 Regional Leadership Executive Regional Development Australia – Mid North Coast NSW Department of Regional NSW NSW Office of Local Government NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet Other Joint Organisations 	 Local Government NSW & Local Government Procurement NSW Local Government Professionals NSW Resilience NSW 	 North Coast Regional Plan 2036 (being reviewed in 2021/22) North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation (Adapt NSW) Community Strategic Plans prepared by Member Councils Local Strategic Planning Statements RDA Mid North Coast Regional Plan

No.	High level actions	Activities	Functional Area
5.1	Develop consistency across the region with all councils having preparedness/recovery/resilience officers to enable LGA and regional response to disaster and embed the function into the core business of councils.	MNCJO to identify needs for each council and engage directly with Resilience NSW to obtain funding for these resources	Planning, collaboration
5.2	Improve financial sustainability of local governments in the MNCJO	MNCJO to undertake research to develop an evidence base to evaluate how much % increase in FAGs would lead to increased skills/jobs etc.	Leadership, research, collaboration
		MNCJO to advocate to LG NSW and federal government on FAGs	Leadership, collaboration
		Identify opportunities for shared procurement to improve efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery	Planning, collaboration
5.3		Continue to engage with neighbouring Local Government Areas about possible membership/associate membership of the MNCJO	

6. Advocacy

Goal: effective relationships with NSW and federal governments to ensure the long term sustainability of local government in the region

Key partners		Key regional documents
 Regional Leadership Executive NSW Department of Regional NSW NSW Office of Local Government NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet Other Joint Organisations Local Government NSW & Local Government Procurement NSW Local Government Professionals NSW NSW Department of Housing Transport for NSW 	 Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Department of Agriculture, Water and Australian Department of Environment and Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources Australian Government Department of Social Services 	 North Coast Regional Plan 2036 (being reviewed in 2021/22) Community Strategic Plans prepared by Member Councils Local Strategic Planning Statements prepared be Member Councils RDA Mid North Coast Regional Plan Funding agreements MNCJO Communications Plan

No.	High level actions	Activities	Functional Area
6.1	Improve coverage, speed and connectivity issues in the region	MNCJO to advocate to NBN and phone companies to improve bandwidth, availability and consistency, generally and during natural disasters	Leadership, collaboration



6.2	Develop consistency across the region with all councils having recovery officer to lead planning and implementation of recovery	MNCJO to identify needs for each council and engage directly with Resilience NSW to obtain funding for these resources	Planning, collaboration
6.3	Improve coordination and understanding of which body/agencies/department is doing to ensure efficiency of solution development and delivery	MNCJO to engage (potentially via Regional Leadership Executive) to understand existing and future initiatives in the region	Leadership, collaboration
		Schedule regular catch ups with Chairs of MNCJO and Chairs of RDA to plan each quarter	Planning, collaboration
		Develop communications plan around joint mayoral statements following meetings or initiative funding or implementation	Planning, collaboration



GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

General purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

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Mid North Coast Joint Organisation is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and has its principal place of business at:

Mid North Coast Joint Organisation 17 Burrawan Street Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.mncjo.nsw.gov.au

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement by Members of the Board and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2c) of the *Local Government Act* 1993 (NSW)

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and the regulations made thereunder.
- the Australian Accounting Standards Simplified Disclosures and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Joint Organisations Supplement to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's operating result and financial position for the period, and
- accord with Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render this report false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Mid North Coast Joint Organisation made on 26 October 2023.

Name: Steve Allan Acting Chairperson Date: 26 October 2023

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Name: Leo Hauville Voting Representative Board Member Date: 26 October 2023

Name: Liz Fairweather Executive Officer Date: 26 October 2023

Statement of Income and Accumulated Surplus for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Income:			
Member council contributions	B1-1	75	185
Grants provided for operating purposes	B1-2	673	45
Other Income	B1-3	<u> </u>	2
Total income		748	232
Expenses			
Employee benefits and on-costs		66	55
Administrative Expenses	B2-1	495	460
Total expenses		561	515
Net operating result for the year		187	(283)
Net result for the year		187	(283)
Accumulated surplus at 1 July		741	1,024
Accumulated surplus at 30 June		928	741

The above Statement of Income and Accumulated Surplus should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	988	772
Receivables	C1-2	1	31
Total current assets		989	803
Total assets		989	803
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	58	59
Employee benefit provisions	C3-2	3	3
Total current liabilities		61	62
Total liabilities		61	62
Net assets	_	928	741
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		928	741
Total equity		928	741

The above Statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts:			
Contributions from member councils		75	185
Grants		700	18
Other income		3	(1)
Payments:			
Employees		(71)	(73)
Non-employee cash outflows		(491)	(453)
Net cash provided from (or used) in operating activities		216	(324)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		216	(324)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of reporting period		772	1,096
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period	C1-1	988	772

The above Statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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A. About the Joint Organisation and these financial statementsA1. Basis of Preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board of the Joint Organisation on the 26 October 2023. The Board has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards -Simplified Disclosures, the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and Regulations, and the Joint Organisation Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Mid North Coast Joint Organisation is a not-for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

b. New and amended standards adopted by JO

The following new standards are effective for the first time at 30 June 2023.

- AASB 2022-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Illustrative Examples for Not-for-Profit Entities accompanying AASB 15.
- AASB 2020-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Annual Improvements 2018-2020 and Other Amendments.

These standards have not had a significant impact on the JO.

b. Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

c. Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the JO's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the JO and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Mid North Coast Joint Organisation makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

employee benefit provisions - refer Note C2-2

Significant judgements in applying the JO accounting policies

None are applicable at this stage.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority are presented as operating cash flows.

B. Financial Performance

B1. Sources of income

B1-1 Member Council contributions

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Port Macquarie Hastings Council	25	115
Kempsey Shire Council	25	45
Bellingen Shire Council	25	25
Total member council contributions	75	185

Accounting policy

Contributions by member councils are recognised as revenue at the point in time when the amount to be paid for the period has been determined and communicated to councils. The contribution may be in the form of a cash payment or non-monetary contribution (which is recorded at its fair value).

The methodology for determining the contributions is:

• equal contributions by all member councils in order to perform the principal functions of delivering on strategic regional priorities, regional leadership and intergovernmental cooperation.

• contributions by participating member councils for the functions of enhancing strategic capacity and direct service delivery.

B. Financial Performance

B1. Sources of income

B1-2 Grants

	Operatin	g	Capital	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NSW Reconstruction Authority - Mid North Coast				
Resilience & Disaster Risk Reduction	380	-	-	-
Department of Regional NSW - Circular Economy Centre of Excellence	192	-	-	-
Office of Local Government - Increasing Resilience to Climate Change	8	-	-	-
Office of Energy & Climate Change - Net Zero Acceleration Project	93	-	-	-
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie	-	45	-	-
Total grants	673	45	-	-
Comprising:				
- Commonwealth funding	-	-	-	-
- State funding	673	-	-	-
- Other funding	-	45	-	-
	673	45	-	-
Timing of revenue recognition				
Grants recognised over time	-	-	-	-
Grants recognised at a point in time	673	45	-	-
Total grants	673	45	-	-

Accounting policy

Grants - enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant revenue arising from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligation is transferred.

The performance obligations are varied according to the agreement but include reaching project milestones, completion of grant acquittals, whether the grant will be refunded if performance obligations are not met.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains the control of the goods/services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods of costs or time are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of the benefit.

Capital grants

Capital grants received under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's control on completion are recognised as revenue and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project.

For acquisition of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.

B. Financial Performance

B1. Sources of income

B1-2 Grants

Other grants

Assets (e.g. cash) received from other grants are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

B1-3 Other income

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Other		2
Total other income	-	2

Accounting policy

Other income is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. The gain or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer and the assets is de-recognised.

B2. Costs of providing services

B2-1 Administrative Expenses

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Contractor and consultancy costs		
- Project Manager Services	43	55
- Biodiversity Stewardship Project	24	10
- Koala Monitoring Program consultancy costs	-	188
- Circular Economy Centre of Excellence	25	-
- Community Land Trust	29	36
- Platform/Co-ordination Hub	-	10
- DRRF Regional Capability	14	-
- Scholarship Program	(5)	48
- Other	18	-
Transfer to Koala Recovery Partnership to Koala Hospital	296	-
Remuneration of auditors	16	10
Office Expenses	9	24
Other	22	69
Sitting Fees	4	7
Travelling	-	3
Total administrative expenses	495	460

Accounting policy

Employee benefit expenses

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided to the employee.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction of the future payments is available.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation receives the goods or services.

C. Financial position

C1. Assets we manage

C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	988	772
	988	772
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
External restrictions	739	609
Unrestricted	249	163
	988	772
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents		
Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	988	772
Balances as per Statement of Cash Flows	988	772

Accounting policy

For Statement of Cash Flow presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position, however are included as cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Cash flows.

C1-2 Receivables

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Other (GST receivable)	1	3
Other		27
Total	1	30
Net Receivables	1	30

Accounting policy

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment of receivables is assessed using the simplified expected credit loss model where lifetime credit losses are recorded on initial recognition. To measure the expected credit losses, debtors have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The Joint Organisation has not recognised a provision for impairment at 30 June 2023 on the basis that the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation has no history of credit losses being incurred.

C2. Liabilities of the joint organisation

C2-1 Payables

2023	2022
\$'000	\$'000
45	42
13	17
58	59
	\$'000 45 13

Accounting policy

The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequent financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Mid North Coast Organisation prior to the end of financial period that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

C2-2 Employee benefits

	2023		2022	
-	Current \$'000	Non-Current \$'000	Current \$'000	Non-Current \$'000
Employee benefits provisions				
Annual leave	3	- 3	-	-
Long service leave			3	
Total employee benefit provisions	:	3 -	3	<u> </u>
Current employee benefit provisions not expected to be settled within the next 12 months			-	

Accounting policy

Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits and annual leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method.

Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

On-costs

The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include superannuation, payroll tax and workers compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

D. Risks and accounting uncertainties

D1. Financial risk management

Risk management

The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by the finance team under policies approved by the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation Board.

The fair value of receivables, investments and financial liabilities approximates the carrying amount.

D2. Contingencies

The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects the contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June 2023 may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that the JO will be required to fund or share respectively.

E. People and relationships

E1. Related Party Disclosures

E1-1 Key management personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement and Other Comprehensive Income is \$55,196 (2022: \$61,544)

Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

There were no other transactions between the JO and the KMP and their related parties.

E1-2 Other related parties

There were no transactions between the JO and other related parties (2022:nil)

E2. Other relationships

E2-1 Audit fees

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Auditors of the JO - NSW Auditor-General:		
Audit of financial statements	16	10
Total fees paid or payable to the Auditor-General	16	10

F. Other matters

F1. Commitments

The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation does not have any commitments relating to the acquisition of property, plant and equipment that are not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities.

F2. Events occurring after reporting date

There were no events occurring after reporting date.

General Purpose Audit Reports

for the year ended 30 June 2023



Report to NSW Ombudsman Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994

Information about your authority

Name of public authority	
Location	Metropolitan Regional
Number of Staff	

Please complete the form and return it to the NSW Ombudsman by email <u>pid@ombo.nsw.gov.au</u>, facsimile (02) 9283 2911 or mail to 580 George Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000,

Information for the period

For assistance, please contact the PID Unit on (02) 02 9286 1000 or <u>pid@ombo.nsw.gov.au</u> for advice about the PID categories.	Made by public officials performing their day to day functions	Under a statutory or other legal obligation	All other PIDs
Number of public officials who made public interest disclosures to your public authority			
Number of public interest disclosures received by your public authority			
Of public interest disclosures received, how many	y were primarily about each o	of the following types of v	wrongdoing:
Corrupt conduct			
Maladministration			
Serious and substantial waste			
Government information contravention			
Local government pecuniary interest contravention			
Total			
Number of public interest disclosures (received 1 Jan 2012) that were finalised in this reporting			
Has your public authority established an intern	al reporting policy?		No Yes
Has the head of your public authority taken act	ion to meet their staff awa	reness obligations?	No Yes

If yes, please select how staff have been made aware:
Policy briefing from senior managers
Staff undertaking that they have read and understood your LALC's internal reporting policy
Training provided by the Ombudsman
Training provided by a private sector organisation
Training provided to new staff during induction
Email message to all staff
Links on your intranet site
Links on your internet site
Messages in staff newsletters
Messages in circulars
Messages on bulletin board
Messages in payslips
Messages in other publications
Statement of commitment from the head of your LALC
Brochures
Posters
Postcards
Flyers
Purse or wallet cards
Other office equipment
Other – please specify: