



Mid North Coast Joint Organisation Newsletter

Welcome

The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's (MNCJO) role is to advocate for the Mid North Coast through providing regional leadership, setting strategic priorities and identify inter-government opportunities for co-operation. This is legislated by the NSW Government.

As we know, many regional challenges and significant events such as disaster's do not know Local Government boundaries, our Member Councils understand this and by taking a regional strategic approach we aim to strengthen our region. They also realise the prospects gained through collaboration and identifying opportunities for joint projects. It is the MNCJOs role to capture these and help implement them, thus providing value for our Member Councils.

This newsletter will keep you up to date on how we're achieving this.

Meet the team

Executive Officer – Elizabeth Fairweather

I am new to the role of Executive Officer (appointed November 2023), but I've been around the MNCJO for a couple of years preparing funding applications and, once successful, managing those projects.

As a consequence of a 24-year career, I have a strong understanding of local government. I appreciate its challenges and the unique relationships with community, business, and all levels of government.

My role is to advocate for the regions strategic priorities and ensure value for Member Councils through collaboration and collective opportunities. Positive people, dynamic projects and real outcomes is what continues to drive my passion.

Project Officer (Net Zero Acceleration) – Noam Bardea

I am the Net Zero Acceleration Officer (NZA) at the MNCJO and have been in the role for 9 months. As an Environmental Scientist, I come to this role with a strong understanding of climate science and the opportunities that exist for us to decarbonise the operations of Member Councils.

Working closely with Sustainability Officers at the Member Councils, I build their capacity to implement emissions reduction initiatives. We work together sharing resources and knowledge. This collaboration goes beyond our region, via my connection with Net Zero Acceleration Officers throughout NSW I source information and resources from other regional councils.



In collaboration with the Hunter JO, I am assisting to facilitate a Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) buyers' group. This will reduce Member Councils emissions and create price certainty. The installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure is being investigated as well as planning for the transition of Member Councils fleet to EVs. On a strategic level I am working to track Member Councils emissions trajectory and map out their path to net zero.

Regional Capability Officer – Ray Chapman

I have been with the MNCJO as Regional Officer since June 2023 tasked to work closely with a wide range of stakeholders including Member Councils, State Government agencies, business, community groups and the broader community.



This position is specifically responsible for coordination of the grant funded Disaster Risk Reduction Program which builds capacity, shares resources, and develops leading practice in Disaster Risk Reduction across the three Member Councils and eight JOs.

This includes a systematic collaboration with key State agencies such as Transport NSW, Reconstruction Authority NSW. One project focuses on embedding disaster risk in Councils Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R). The Transport NSW collaborative project is to identify the user case for spatial data, management and visualisation systems, suitable tools and articulate the gaps to inform development of future State based platforms.

My vast career experience has been around delivering outcomes from Stakeholder Management and Project Management. My experience in local government was developed while working with the NSW Government on the Container Deposit Scheme engaging with Councils across the State.

Project Officer (DRRF) – Skye Frost

I bring over 17 years of experience in local government to the MNCJO, where I've been dedicated to shaping communities through strategic initiatives.



My passion for community engagement and stakeholder management is at the heart of my role as the Project Officer for the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund. In this capacity, our aim is to help our communities to identify the risks and vulnerabilities across the Mid North Coast and mitigate them through place-based disaster risk reduction solutions and collaboration across the JO Member Councils.

Navigating complex landscapes is not just a job for me; it's a calling. I believe in fostering inclusive collaborations and impactful projects that make a difference. My dedication to innovative solutions and transparent decision-making reflects my personal commitment to a safer, more resilient community.





Project Officer (Simtable) – Linda Villy

I joined the MNCJO team in March 2023 as Project Officer for the Simtables for Community Empowerment Project. My background is working in community services in the aged care and disability sector.

Working with NSW Rural Fire Service and other agencies presenting Bush Fire Awareness Workshops to fire prone communities across six local government areas has introduced me to vibrant, resourceful, and resilient communities. This has fueled my motivation to continue working in the disaster preparedness space and engage with community. My next project is focused on Flood Preparedness workshops to be presented across the MNCJOs Member Council local government areas.

2023 Highlights

Further information
[Community Land Trust](#)

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

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 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.

To hear from community
and agencies about the
value of the Simtable,
view the [Case Studies](#)

Simtable for Community Engagement

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

Through utilising the Simtable, local communities view a highly realistic demonstration of how their properties and communities may be affected by bushfire.

Workshops conducted throughout Bellingen, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Nambucca and Port Macquarie Hastings Shires, 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.



Simtable Collaboration

Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) is collaborating with the Hunter and Canberra Region Joint Organisations, Noosa and Ku-rin-gai Councils, to implement the cutting-edge Simtable program and projects across the State and inter-state.

At a recent workshop, they worked together to learn more about Simtables. As early adopters of the Simtable technology, the MNCJO shared their experience and knowledge to quickly kick-start the newcomers' projects.

Working together the JOs found ways to strengthen the tools and find new methods and techniques for the Simtable that will enhance community preparedness and create more resilient and proactive communities.

The Joint Organisations partnership in this program exemplifies the power of inter-regional cooperation in tackling shared challenges.

Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration

We were successful in a 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. 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.

Grant Funding

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.

Funded projects:

PROJECT	AMOUNT	FUNDING
Joint Organisation Net Zero	\$155,000	Dept Climate Change & Energy
Disaster Risk Reduction Fund	\$760,960	NSW Reconstruction Authority
Circular Economy Centre of Excellence	\$240,000	Business Case Strategy Development Fund – NSW Regional

We'll have more information on these projects in upcoming newsletters.

Further information
[JONZA project](#)

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