

Mid North Coast
Joint Organisation

mncjo



Mid North Coast Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 25 September 2020

Location: Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Time: 9:30am



The meeting opened 9.33am

1. 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/ Executive Officer
Craig Milburn, General Manager, Kempsey Shire Council
Jeffery Sharp, Acting General Manager, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Louise McMeeking, Director North Coast, Department of Regional NSW
Michael Thurston, General Manager, Destination North Coast
Kerry Grace, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia

Other Attendees:

Darren Boulet - Office of Emergency Management
Dr Rebecca Montague Drake - Koala Recovery Partnership

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor of Port Macquarie Hastings Council acknowledged country and our respect for elders of the collective lands on which this meeting took place.

3. APOLOGIES

Anita Gambhir - Office of Local Government

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL



5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolved: King / Pinson

That the Board confirm:

The minutes of the MNCJO Board meeting held on 3 July 2020.

The minutes of the extraordinary MNCJO Board meeting held on 11 August 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:

Ms. Katie Brooks - DPIE Senior Water Officer

Ms. Emma Lawler and Mr. Ashley Lindsay - Clarence Valley Council - Community Recovery

Mr. Steve McGrath and Melinda Brooks - Coffs Harbour Council - Community Recovery

Mr. Darren Boulet on behalf of Nambucca Council - Community Recovery

Ms. Kate McFarlane - Port Macquarie-Hastings Council - Community Recovery

Ms. Lyndal Harper- Kempsey Shire Council - Community Recovery

Ms. Liz Hull - Bellingen Shire Council - Community Recovery

Ms. Kate Wood-Foye - Charles Sturt University

Mr. Shane Fitzsimmons - Commissioner Resilience NSW

Mr. Darren Boulet, Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer, Mid North Coast

Dr. Rebecca Montague-Drake, Koala Ecologist, Hastings-Macleay Koala Recovery Partnership

Mr. Michael Thurston, General Manager, Destination North Coast

Ms. Louise McMeeking, Director North Coast, Department of Regional NSW.

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



The meeting was adjourned for morning tea 11.30am
The meeting resumed 11.36am

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 5 September 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 11 September 2020 to 25 October 2020.

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

10. MNCJO PROJECT UPDATES

10.1 KOALA RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP MONTHLY REPORT

Resolved: Pinson / King

Note the status of the Koala Recovery Partnership project as provided in the report provided by Dr Montague-Drake.

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



10.2 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

10.3 MNCJO PROJECT OFFICERS REPORT

Resolved: Pinson / King

That the Board receive and note this report which provides an update on the work of the recently engaged MNCJO Project Officer.

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

11. REPORTS FOR THIS MEETING

11.1 ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW AND TRANSFER PROJECT

Resolved: Pinson / King

That the Board:

1. Note this report on the Road Classification Review and Transfer Project
2. Receive the final draft of the MNCJO submission once finalized ahead of the Board Meeting on 25 September 2020 for endorsement and submission to the Independent Panel

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

11.2 MNCJO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Resolved: Pinson / King

Note that the MNCJO Project Officer tabled the document "Report on the conduct of the Audit for the year ended 30 June 2020 Mid North Coast Joint Organisation"

That the Board of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation:

1. Adopt the Draft Mid North Coast Joint Organisation Financial Statements for the financial



year ended June 30 2020.

2. Endorse the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation Annual Performance Statement for submission to the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) in compliance with the NSW Local Government Act (s 428 (1)).
3. Endorse the MNCJO Twelve Monthly Progress Expenditure Report to March 2020 for submission to the NSW Office of Local Government.
4. That the Executive Officer sign the Representation letter that was provided by Thomas Noble & Russell at today's meeting in preparation to complete the MNCJO audit.

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

11.3 STATEMENT OF REVENUE POLICY

Resolved: Pinson / King

That the MNCJO GMAC receive and note the below report.

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

11.4 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

Resolved: Pinson / King

1. That the Joint Organisation raise the issue of the disproportionate effect of the Emergency Services Levy on regional councils with NSW State government and Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), and seek a review to reduce the impost and establish a fairer system
2. That Kempsey Council submit a motion to the LGNSW Conference on behalf of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation outlining the disproportionate impact on local government and seeking a review of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy to reduce the impost on local government and local communities and establish a fairer system in consultation with local councils and Local Government NSW.
3. That the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation undertake a broad advocacy campaign including engagement with Local Government NSW, local State Members of Parliament, and local media
4. That the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation seek the support of all other Joint Organisations, and Country Mayors
5. That Regional Development Mid North Coast advocate to Regional Development Australia NSW Committee regarding this issue

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



11.5 OLG NSW - CIRCULAR TO COUNCILS - COMPLIANCE CALENDAR

Resolved: Pinson / King

That the MNCJO note the attached report

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson / King / Campbell
AGAINST: Nil12. OTHER JO FORUMS

12.1 NSW JO CHAIRS FORUM

Resolved: Pinson / King

That the Board receive and note this report which provides an update on issues discussed at the recent JO Chairs meeting held by Video Conference on August 6

CARRIED: 3/0
FOR: Pinson / King / Campbell
AGAINST: Nil13. STANDING UPDATES

13.1 REGIONAL NSW - LOUISE MCMEEKING

Resolved: Pinson / King

1. That the MNCJO Board receive and note the attached update.
2. That Regional NSW prepare a presentation for the next MNCJO Board Meeting on our regional youth activities.

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

13.2 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA MID NORTH COAST - KERRY GRACE

Resolved: Pinson / King

That the MNCJO Board receive and note the update provided in this report

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



13.3 DESTINATION NORTH COAST - MICHAEL THURSTON

Resolved: Pinson / King

That the MNCJO Board receive and note the attached report

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

13.4 OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - ANITA GAMBHIR

Resolved: Pinson / King

That the MNCJO Board receive and note the report emailed on 24/09/2020

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

LATE REPORTS

Nil

MATTERS RAISED BY VOTING AND NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

MEETING CLOSE: 2.16pm

Destination North Coast – Mid North Coast Joint Organisation of Councils Update

Crisis Management

Anecdotal feedback indicates the trading environment continues to be quite dynamic with differing results and trends throughout the region. Most destinations are advising of continued strong load factors at the bulk of accommodation, although a little down on the previous month. Forward booking positions remain strong with booking windows continuing to be shorter than traditional averages. Most regions anticipate they will be at capacity for the coming school holidays.

Increased bookings by NSW residents have countered the bulk of the bookings lost when the Queensland border reclosed. The Tweed Shire is unfortunately the exception in this case with multiple prominent operators reporting lower than anticipated load factors for the upcoming holiday period. Feedback from multiple LGA's indicate that destinations are experiencing increased visitation from non-traditional source markets creating unexpected opportunities to broaden the appeal of their products and locations.

Experience operators in general appear to still be struggling, not receiving the level of activity and bookings that the accommodation and food and beverage sectors are. As a result, DNC continue to work with Resilience NSW to push for the experience and attractions voucher system for this sector.

Business Events

DNC have continued to release the 'Cheers to Recovery' videos that feature operators and council staff on location welcoming visitors and event planners back to our region once the time is right. Cheers to Recovery videos have been released for the port Macquarie-Hastings, Barrington Coast, Tweed and Ballina regions have been released thus far. Similar videos for Coffs Harbour and surrounds and Byron and surrounds are due to be launched by the week commencing 21 September. Below are links to some of the videos launched thus far;

[Port Macquarie: Cheers to Recovery](#)

[Barrington Coast: Cheers to Recovery](#)

In addition, the team have been working with operators to create 'virtual site inspection' videos that DNC is funding professional video editing services for. The videos will be used in future tender documents and for general marketing purposes. Over 50 videos of North Coast product will be produced and promoted through the initiative. Below is a sample of Northern Rivers product:

[The Glasshouse: Port Macquarie](#)

DNC attended Executive PA – Summit, Brisbane on the 8th September. The event was held at The Emporium Hotel South Bank but due to border closures attendance was via Zoom. Results from the event were encouraging, producing leads valued at more than \$700K from a total of 13 clients with events ranging from 10-12 senior executives through to conferences for up to 160 delegates. The results are highly encouraging for the business events sector and demonstrate the latent demand that has developed

Future Demand and Accommodation Reinvestment Projects

The first phase of this series of research projects has been completed with the report outlining future demand and our regions capacity to accommodate this demand having been signed off. The second phase of research is nearing completion with the Accommodation Reinvestment Report that includes detailed audits of current stock across the region and per LGA, competitor analysis, best

practice guidelines and proposed methodologies for securing investment. Once complete reports will be distributed and the findings from both reports presented to each LGA independently.

The phase of this work will be the compilation of an investment prospectus aimed at securing investment into new accommodation stock and reinvestment into existing stock. Thus far 22 investment opportunities have been identified. A further round of consultation with LGA's and other relevant stakeholders is underway.

Key Projects

DNC recently requested the top three infrastructure projects per LGA that they are seeking support for. The master list of projects will be used to advocate for and accommodate requests from state and federal government and other relevant agencies, for such projects. Advocating for and assisting in the planning and development of projects that have the potential to have a definitive impact on the visitor economy is a leading objective of DNC. As a result, if your LGA have any such opportunities that you are seeking support for in regard to advocacy or assistance in planning or design we encourage you to reach out to us.