



*That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record with the amendment of adding Cr Cameron Staines as an attendee.*

Moved: Glen Innes

Seconded: Moree

CARRIED

## 6. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST/PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No disclosures were made by members.

## 7. PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Andrew Malowiecki

Mr Malowiecki provided a presentation on the final New England Road Network Strategy.

- There have been many environmental changes since this report has been developed, including COVID-19.
- There was an overview of Stages 1-4 of the Project and the process for developing the report.
- The importance of a good transport system was outlined, including the benefits to economic activity and productivity in the region.
- Once Inland Rail is operational, it will relieve some pressure on the Road Network.
- Engineering of roads is important for Road safety.
- Stage 3 included 4 main issues - Road Safety, Connectivity, Capacity and Condition.
- Stage 4 included a summary of all stages of the Road Network Strategy.
- The Strategy can be used at an LGA level or at a NEJO level.
- In relation to stage 5 business cases – Andrew recommends the Armidale to Kempsey Road or East – West Roads through Gwydir Shire Council.
- The Chair thanked Andrew for his attendance at the Board meeting.

### 2. Susan Heyman, Dr Peter Finlayson, Heather Alexandra and Sarah Dowe.

- Chairman Cr Michael Pearce welcomed the representatives to the meeting via zoom.
- The presentation included representatives from Hunter New England Health, Rural Doctors Network and the Primary Health Network. They were invited to speak in relation to increasing levels of medical offices in the New England.
- In the New England, there are not enough GPs for the population and long waiting times.
- There is an ageing workforce, 17% are registrars (doctors in training), 56% are international, 28% of GPs leave within 6 years and 65% of metro GPs would not consider moving.
- GPs can set up a business any time, like any small business.
- There needs to be a new approach to healthcare, where it is a community responsibility and consider options such as training people locally, virtual GPs and civic receptions.
- There was an overview of the virtual health network and the Rural Doctors Network, Bush Bursary Program.
- A rural health commissioner was appointed in 2017. Ruth Stewart is now responsible for legislation, policy and strategy.

- NEJO Chair Cr Pearce asked how Councils and NEJO can increase GPs and Drs in rural areas. Ms Heyman explained that Council's should work closely with various health organisations, marketing and promotion of the towns including the great attributes of the LGA, promote telehealth to supplement GPs and advocate to improve internet connectivity.
- Telehealth and virtual health is not about replacing GPs but enhancing existing services.

**ACTION: HNEH to communicate to Council's when a Doctor moves to town so that Council's can welcome them or organise a civic reception.**

**ACTION: Rural Doctors Network to send information to Council's on how to sign up to the Bush Bursary Program.**

There was a break at 12pm for lunch.

## 8. REPORTS

### 8.1 ROAD NETWORK STRATEGY

#### **30/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That the New England Road Network Strategy be adopted, with an adendum being included for Gwydir Shire Council.*

Moved: Tenterfield

Seconded: Armidale

CARRIED

**ACTION: Executive Officer to distribute the Cardno Presentation to the Board.**

### 8.2 NEW ENGLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE (REZ)

#### **31/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That NEJO write to Federal and State Government MPs and the Minister for Energy to request that they fund NEJO solar farms throughout the NEJO region, as opposed to funding overseas companies.*

Moved: Moree

Seconded: Armidale

CARRIED

### 8.3 NEJO TOURISM CAMPAIGNS

#### **32/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That the Executive Officer is authorised to:*

- 1) *contact Tourism Managers within NEJO and ask for three tourism sites, three high resolution photos and the location of their Visitor Information Centre, for inclusion on a NEJO Tourism Map; and*
- 2) *That a draft map is developed for the February Board meeting.*

Moved: Tenterfield

Seconded: Moree

CARRIED

#### 8.4 MEMBERSHIP FEES – RETURN ON INVESTMENT

##### **33/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That the report be received and noted and that a letter is sent to the Minister for Local Government and Regional NSW to increase funding for JOs.*

Moved: Tenterfield

Seconded: Glenn Innes

CARRIED

Craig Jenkins stated the Regional NSW is considering additional funding for JOs and explained that Hunter JO sent a submission in recently in relation to funding.

##### **ACTION NEJO Executive Officer to obtain information from Craig Jenkins around Hunter JO submission.**

#### 8.5 QUARTERLY REPORTS – MARCH TO SEPTEMBER 2020

##### **34/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That the report be received and noted.*

Moved: Narrabri

Seconded: Tenterfield

CARRIED

#### 8.6 GRANT SUBMISSION – BUSHFIRE COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FUND

##### **35/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That the report be received and noted and that the Executive Officer include the proposed Economic Development Plan and a NEJO Communications Strategy in the Grant Application.*

Moved: Narrabri

Seconded: Glen Innes

CARRIED

Uralla Shire Council General Manager suggested NEJO could include a business prospectus as part of the application but Craig Jenkins stated that would cost more than the \$300k grant limit.

#### 8.7 NORTHERN INLAND REGIONAL WASTE GROUP – UPDATE

- NEJO Chair Michael Pearce stated the 20 year waste strategy will be completed in March 2021.
- Tenterfield Mayor Cr Petty spoke about Waste to Energy and said the Minister for Energy is supportive of the idea.

#### **36/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That the report be received and noted and that the Draft MOU between NEJO and NIRW is amended to include a 6<sup>th</sup> objective that states “Supportive of waste conversion”.*

Moved: Tenterfield

Seconded: Narrabri

CARRIED

#### 8.8 NEJO ADVOCACY

#### **37/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That NEJO acknowledges the key project topics of advocacy and continue to advocate to relevant government departments.*

Moved: Moree

Seconded: Tenterfield

CARRIED

#### 8.9 REGIONAL ROADS – ROADS RECLASSIFICATIONS

#### **38/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That the NEJO Board send a letter to the Minister for Roads and State and Federal Ministers in support of the recommended road reclassifications.*

Moved: Moree

Seconded: Narrabri

CARRIED

**ACTION: Executive Officer to send to General Managers for review, before the letter is sent.**

#### 8.10 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **39/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That:*

- i) *the information be received and noted; and*
- ii) *the Report on the Conduct of the Audit for the year ended 30 June 2020 and the Independent Auditors Report as of 30 June, 2020 be adopted.*

Moved: Tenterfield

Seconded: Glen Innes

CARRIED

#### 8.11 YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

#### **40/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That the income and expenditure report be received and noted.*

Moved: Tenterfield

Seconded: Glen Innes

CARRIED

#### 9. NEXT MEETING

The meeting dates and locations for 2021 were decided, and include the following:

- 22 February - Tenterfield
- 24 May – Glen Innes
- 26 July – Narrabri
- 29 November – Gwydir / Armidale

#### 10. GENERAL BUSINESS

#### **41/20 RESOLUTION:**

*That the NEJO Board:*

- i) *Accept the request for Gwydir to become a member of the New England Joint Organisation.*
- ii) *Authorise the Executive Officer to complete any required paperwork to facilitate the membership.*

Moved: Tenterfield

Seconded: Moree

CARRIED

- Tenterfield Mayor Cr Petty stated the membership fees need to remain affordable.
- Armidale Mayor Viv May thanked everyone for their friendship and support in NEJO.
- Chairman Cr Pearce thanked Craig Jenkins for his attendance.
- Moree Mayor Cr Humphries thanked everyone for visiting Moree.

**ACTION: Executive Officer to send out committee enquiry on Inland Rail to General Managers for comment.**

11. CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 1.35pm.