

MINUTES OF

NEW ENGLAND JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (NEJO) MEETING HELD AT THE WILLIAM GARDNER CONFERENCE ROOM, GLEN INNES SEVERN LEARNING CENTRE, 71 GREY STREET, GLEN INNES NSW 2370 ON MONDAY, 24 MAY 2021 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Cr Michael Pearce - Chairperson (Uralla Shire Council), Cr Debra O'Brien (Armidale Regional Council), Cr Carol Sparks (Glen Innes Severn Council), Cr Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire Council) and Cr Katrina Humphries (Moree Plains Shire Council) via Zoom.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr James Roncon (Armidale Regional Council), Mr Craig Bennett (Glen Innes Severn Council), Mr Paul Henry (Inverell Shire Council), Ms Kate Jessep (Uralla Shire Council) and Ms Kylie Smith (Tenterfield Shire Council) via Zoom.

1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire Council)

Seconded: Cr Carol Sparks (Glen Innes Severn Council)

That the apologies received from Cr Peter Petty and Mr Lester Rogers for business reasons be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire Council)

Seconded: Cr Carol Sparks (Glen Innes Severn Council)

That the Minutes of the New England Joint Organisation of Councils (NEJO) Meeting held on 22 February, 2021, as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS/PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

4 DESTINATION REPORTS

4.1 RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NEJO.1/03

RECOMMENDATION:

The Chairperson advised that Ms Melissa McLeod has accepted the offer to be the Executive Officer of this organisation. Melissa has over 20 years experience in Senior Executive roles and working with boards and committees throughout this region.

From 1997 to 2018, Melissa has carried out the following roles:

- Manager, Biosecurity and Emergency Services, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services
- Senior Project Officer, Executive Unit, Local Land Services
- General Manager, New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority
- Executive Officer, New England North West Regional Development Board.

Ms McLeod commences duties on 31 May, 2021.

4.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF JOINT ORGANISATION NEJO.1/03

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire Council)

Seconded: Cr Carol Sparks (Glen Innes Severn Council)

The Chairperson provided a brief update on the interview that was conducted with him by the consultants. The themes discussed were:

- The effectiveness of the JO as an advocacy body;
- The willingness of members to work together; and
- The level of engagement with State agencies.

The Chairperson reinforced the need for the State Government to provide ongoing financial support for JO's to be effective and maintain member interest.

CARRIED

4.3 BUSINESS ARISING NEJO.1/03

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Carol Sparks (Glen Innes Severn Council)

Seconded: Cr Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire Council)

Cr Humphries reiterated her view that the Federal Government should be providing financial support for communities to establish renewable energy projects. The Chairperson indicated that he may have the opportunity to raise the issue with Minister Coulton, Federal Minister for Local Government at the ALGA meeting in Canberra.

- a) *That the information be noted; and*
- b) *The Chairperson discuss the Federal Government's Energy Policy with Minister Coulton and the role Council's can play in facilitating community energy production.*

CARRIED

4.4 GMAC MATTERS NEJO.1/03**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire Council)

Seconded: Cr Carol Sparks (Glen Innes Severn Council)

That:

- A. *LGNSW be advised of the renewed activity by ARTC to have Access Agreements completed by a member Council and that that organisation be requested to prepare a 'Local Government' position on the issue.*
- B. *That the information on the IPART review of Waste Management Charges be noted and that GMAC be requested to follow development on this issue.*

CARRIED

4.5 GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP - CORRESPONDENCE NEJO.1/03**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Carol Sparks (Glen Innes Severn Council)

Seconded: Cr Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire Council)

That the information be received and noted.

CARRIED

4.6 RENEWABLE ENERGY ISSUES NEJO.1/03**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire Council)

Seconded: Cr Carol Sparks (Glen Innes Severn Council)

- a) *That the process being undertaken by the Government to establish a New England REZ; and*
- b) *That GMAC be requested to monitor developments with this concept.*

CARRIED

4.7 GENERAL BUSINESS NEJO.1/03**RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) Next meeting to be held 16 August, 2021 at 10am via Zoom;
- b) Statement of Regional Priorities (SRP)

The next three year action plan for the SRP will need to be developed. The plan should be endorsed at the November meeting of the board. Preparatory work will need to be undertaken at the August meeting.

The Meeting closed at 11.14am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the New England Joint Organisation of Councils (NEJO) held on 30 August, 2021.

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CHAIRPERSON