

AGENDA

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the **BOARD OF NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS TRADING AS NAMOI UNLIMITED** will be held on **TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2020** commencing at 3.30pm in the Council Chambers at Walcha Council and via video conference.

Meeting URL https://bluejeans.com/465157558/3803?src=join_info

OR

Dial +61.2.8103.4256 (Sydney, Australia)
Enter the meeting ID and passcode followed by #
Meeting ID 465 157 558 Participant Passcode 3803

PLEASE NOTE: A workshop with members and guests will be held from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and a separate agenda and business paper is provided for that meeting.

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Rebel Thomson
Executive Officer
2 December 2020

BUSINESS PAPER

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER

Councillor Eric Noakes, Mayor Walcha Council will welcome members and guests to the meeting.

MEMBERS		PRESENT	APOLOGY
Cr Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Cr John Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council	✓	
Cr Doug Hawkins	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	✓	
Cr Phil Betts	Tamworth Regional Council	✓	
Cr Eric Noakes	Walcha Council	✓	
Shaun O'Sullivan	NSW Government	✓	
NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES			
Eric Groth	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council	✓	
Joanne Sangster	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	✓	
Paul Bennett	Tamworth Regional Council	✓	
Anne Modderno	Walcha Council	✓	
Rebel Thomson	Namoi Unlimited	✓	
BY INVITATION			
Cr Ron Campbell	Narrabri Shire Council	✓	
Stewart Todd	Narrabri Shire Council		✓
Jodie Healy	NSW Office of Local Government	✓	
Russell Stewart	Regional Development Australia - Northern Inland		✓
Nathan Axelson	Regional Development Australia - Northern Inland	✓	
Gary Fry	Regional Development Australia - Northern Inland	✓	

2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	Code of Meeting Practice
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	-
Attachments	-

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: THAT, applications for a leave of absence and apologies for the 8 December 2020 meeting are accepted.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: -

BACKGROUND: -

COMMENTARY: Applications for a leave of absence for this meeting, have been received from:

- Cr Col Murray
- Craig Jenkins

Apologies for this meeting have been received from:

- Max Eastcott
 - XXXX
-

3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Nil requested at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ATTACHMENT A

Author Executive Officer

Policy Code of Meeting Practice

Legal -

Financial -

Strategic Link -

Attachments ATTACHMENT A – Minutes of the previous Board Meeting

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: THAT, the minutes of the Board meeting held Monday 6 October are endorsed.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: -

BACKGROUND: -

COMMENTARY: -

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the BOARD OF NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS TRADING AS NAMOI UNLIMITED held on TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2020 commencing at 12noon to 1pm in the Council Chambers at Tamworth Regional Council.

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER

Councillor Col Murray, Mayor Tamworth Regional Council welcomed members to Tamworth for the meeting.

MEMBERS		PRESENT	APOLOGY
Cr Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Cr John Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council	✓	
Cr Doug Hawkins	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	✓	
Cr Col Murray	Tamworth Regional Council	✓	
Cr Eric Noakes	Walcha Council	✓	
Pam Welsh	NSW Government	✓	
NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES			
Eric Groth	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council	✓	
Joanne Sangster	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	✓	
Paul Bennett	Tamworth Regional Council		✓
Anne Modderno	Walcha Council		✓
Rebel Thomson	Namoi Unlimited	✓	
BY INVITATION			
Jodie Healy	NSW Office of Local Government	✓	

2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION Not applicable all members were present at the meeting.

COMMENTARY: Apologies for this meeting have been received from: Paul Bennett and Anne Modderno.

3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOTION: THAT, the minutes of the Board meeting held Monday 31 August 2020 are endorsed.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil

6. CHAIRPERSON MINUTES

Nil.

7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION

Nil.

9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

9.1 Namoi Industry and Economic Super-Cluster Project

MOTION: That, members agree;

- I. the draft Business Case for this project is endorsed; and
- II. the Executive Officer seeks a funding variation from the NSW Office of Local Government to allocate \$60,000 of its capacity building funding to this project, and subject to the approval of the grant application.

AMENDED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

10. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

10.1 Additional Briefing Papers

Nil

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 Action List

MOTION: THAT, the progress against actions identified is NOTED.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Gwydir Shire Council

SECONDED: Tamworth Regional Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY NSW JO EOs have agreed to pursue the Benchmarking with the 2019-2020 Annual Performance Statements.

11.2 Calendar of Planned Activities

MOTION: THAT the calendar of activities is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

11.3 Notice of Motion – Local Government Conference

MOTION: That, the report is NOTED.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Gwydir Shire Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

12. ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

12.1 Correspondence

MOTION: THAT, correspondence from

- I. Kaia Hodge, Executive Director Regional Water Strategies to Emma Bradbury, CEO Murray Darling Association;
- II. The Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing; and
- III. The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Member for New England.

is NOTED.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

12.2 2019-2020 Annual Financial Statements

MOTION:

That in relation to the report “2019/2020 Annual Financial Statements” for the period ending 30 June 2020, Namoi Unlimited:

- I. present the Audited General Purpose Financial Reports, together with the Auditors Reports at a Public Meeting to be held as part of Council’s Meeting on 6 October 2020, in accordance with Section 419 (1) of the Local Government Act, 1993;
- II. record as an opinion of the Joint Organisation that the Annual Financial Statements for Namoi Joint Organisation for the period ending 30 June 2020, that these statements, have been prepared in accordance with:
 - the Local Government Act 1993, (as amended) and Regulations made thereafter;
 - the Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements; and
 - the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting;
- III. the Annual Financial Statement presents fairly the Joint Organisations operating result and financial position for the year;
- IV. the Annual Financial Statement accords with Tamworth Regional Council’s accounting and other records; and
- V. the signatories are not aware of anything that would make the General Purpose Financial Report false or misleading in any way.

ENDORSED

MOVED:

Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED:

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY:

Sincere thanks are conveyed to Tamworth Regional Council for their preparation of the Annual Statement and liaison with the Auditor.

The Chair also reiterated that the ongoing challenge for the organisation is financial sustainability without any additional funding from governments. Projects and activities like VendorPanel and the Super-Cluster project are pursuing sustainability opportunities however are in their infancy.

13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

Nil.

14. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

15. CLOSED REPORTS

Nil.

16. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Meeting closed at 12.30pm.

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and specifically Section 451 of the Local Government Act, 1993 declarations of interest are required by Councillors and designated staff attending the meeting.

MEMBER	ITEM	REPORT	Type of Interest Declared (P, SNP, LSNP, RC)	REASON
STAFF	ITEM	REPORT	Type of Interest Declared (P, SNP, LSNP, RC)	REASON
P – Pecuniary, SNP – Significant Non Pecuniary, LSNP – Less than Significant Non Pecuniary, RC – Remain in Chamber during consideration/discussion of item.				

6. CHAIRPERSON MINUTES

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

9.1 Namoi Economic and Industry Super-Cluster Project – ATTACHMENT B

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	Project Business Case for funding has been completed and submitted to the NSW Government
Strategic Link	Water for the Future, Enabled and Connected Infrastructure, Engaged People and Skills
Attachments	ATTACHMENT B – BRIEFING PAPER FOR MEMBER COUNCILS

RECOMMENDATION

That;

- 1) The Briefing Paper (ATTACHMENT B) is endorsed;
- 2) The Briefing Paper and Report is presented to member Councils before the 31 March 2021;
- 3) Feedback is provided to the Joint Organisation by 31 March 2021.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE To provide members with the basis of a report for member Councils on the direct benefits and opportunities in the business case and project initiatives for a Namoi Economic and Industry Super-Cluster project.

BACKGROUND This project seeks to address the strategic regional priorities for the Namoi region. A Business Plan has been prepared for the project and has been submitted to Regional NSW.
The consultation with Councils on this project and the documentation is significant. Members requested a succinct briefing paper for Councils on the direct benefits and opportunities for Councils of this project.

COMMENTARY ATTACHMENT B provides member Councils with the information requested. If necessary, the content can be conducted in a workshop format as well.
Namoi Unlimited is seeking that the reports are presented to member Councillors before 31 March 2020.
The Business Case and associated documents for funding of \$2million over four years has been submitted through Regional NSW – New England North West. The document also outlines partnership contributions for this project.

SUBJECT: Namoi Industry and Economic Super Cluster Project

KEY ISSUES

- In 2019, in a study funded by the NSW Government, MacroPlan concluded that there was a market failure¹ in the New England North West economy, that this market failure was impeding growth, and it was manifesting in land use conflict, economic development and pinch points on the roads network.
- Based on this evidence the JO maintains that the market failure is insufficient information available to facilitate more efficient and effective outcomes and government intervention is required.
- The impact of this market failure is that growth and employment are impeded in the region. This impacts Councils, the economy and communities in the region.
- There is land use conflict occurring, specifically around intensive agricultural developments and associated natural resource allocations.
- There are reported conflicts over access to water, and there is uncertainty around the response to climate change.
- Access to energy reportedly is more expensive for producers and manufacturers in the Namoi region compared to the rest of NSW.
- Pinch points on the road networks are impeding productivity and efficiencies.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

Namoi Unlimited has developed a partnership and project business case with the Future Food Systems Cooperative Research Centre and their research partners; UNSW and UNE, and is seeking \$2million over four years in funding from the NSW Government through Regional NSW to facilitate the following opportunities;

- The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) estimated that the economy of the Namoi could expand by an additional \$900 million by 2030, on top of the roughly \$2 billion in potential economic growth.
- Supporting agriculture is the ‘engine’ of the New England North West economy.
- Facilitating economic development for the poultry and beef sectors, to create 2,700 jobs as estimated by MacroPlan Dimasi in their assessment.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNCILS

With the known market failure around access to information, global industry is increasingly data driven. Profitability, sustainability and competitive advantage all depend on access to accurate metrics, priorities, and the ability to model opportunity and risk.

The project aims to;

- Develop integrated data and analytics module across five Local Government Areas.
- Address land use and resource allocation ensuring that the Namoi region can facilitate investment and growth in the agricultural sector, building on work commenced by Tamworth Regional Council for the poultry industry.
- Collaborate to develop shared services and resourcing to address growth and jobs.
- Deliver on the strategic priorities and development strategies for the NSW Government, Namoi Unlimited and the five member Councils.

¹ A market failure refers to a situation where a market, in the absence of intervention, fails to allocate resources efficiently, and where a market failure exists, there is a potential role for government intervention.

What will this project provide for Councils?

The project will integrate fragmented data sets across Councils, government and other sources to build specific models to enable whole-of-systems analysis and multi criteria scenarios for Councils and the JO. Such a data module will enable planning, investment attraction, transport networks and economic development to be addressed.

Practically the project will deliver for Councils across a number of areas:

Information

- The data and analysis resources to implement actions and priorities identified in regional growth plans.
- Identify opportunities for engagement and resourcing to showcase opportunities for investors in regional agri-food value chain and tourism offers.
- Provide a platform to increase engagement with processors and local farmers regarding supply chain and value add opportunities.
- Completing pre-feasibility studies and assessments.

Planning and Land Use Conflict

- Create a land clustering approach to the development of chicken, lamb, beef and grains ensuring high value agricultural land is identified for future growth and expansion.
- Provide the data and analysis to identify clusters of lands/areas where conflict with urban development won't exist, creating and generating confidence in future economic development and jobs through investment.
- Enable Councils to plan for appropriate development, and contribute to planning functions and legislative requirements through the Local Government Act.
- Create a framework for Councils to develop regional planning responses specialising in agriculture and agribusiness development.

Transport Network

- Enable the JO and Councils to assess and plan for road and other transport infrastructure investment based on data, use, productivity and efficiency.
- Provide the data and analysis for the JO to form the second iteration of the Namoi Roads Network Strategy and expand this strategy to connect roads, rail and air infrastructure.

Economic Development

- Provide the Councils with the capability to develop pre-feasibility and economic development strategies.
- Provide Councils with the opportunity to specialise in regional responses to growing agriculture, identifying supply chain collaborations between businesses, and capacity to develop value add propositions.
- Identify future agri-business opportunities specific to the region.
- Identifying future market opportunities for export.
- Develop elements and components for a brand provenance strategy.

CONSULTATION

The is significant alignment to National, State and Local Government strategies for this approach.

Namoi Unlimited has consulted with its five member Councils, its industry and business reference group, the Future Foods CRC and NSW Farmers.

Significant support exists for this project and this approach.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Namoi Unlimited is seeking \$2million from the NSW Government over four years.

The Future Food Systems CRC and its research partners will contribute \$1.365million.

A strategy to obtain financial contributions from industry of \$450,000 will commence in year two of the project.

Namoi Unlimited will invest \$60,000 in year one from its Capacity and Capability Funding from the NSW Office of Local Government.

Namoi Unlimited is seeking an investment of member Councils of \$15,000 per annum for years two, three and four to the project.

The in-kind contribution to the project is estimated at \$2.1million over the four years of the project.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As part of the business case for this project, the links between plans, legislation and policy have been identified. A working group with the New England North West Regional Leadership group has been established to progress these impacts and opportunities.

9.2 Namoi Water Alliance – Funding Agreement with NSW DPIE – ATTACHMENT C

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	Contractual agreement between Namoi Unlimited and its member Councils
Financial	\$865,817 total project cost, \$715,124 has been requested in funding from NSW DPIE (Water) under the Regional Town Water Supply Strategy Program
Strategic Link	Water for the Future
Attachments	ATTACHMENT C – DRAFT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH DPIE (WATER)

RECOMMENDATION	That; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Executive Officer executes the funding deed on behalf of Namoi Unlimited. 2) Namoi Water Alliance members use this report to support submissions to Councils for their funding contributions.
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AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE	To provide member Councils with the detail in the draft funding deed for the delivery of a Regional Town Water Supply Strategy for the Namoi Water Alliance.
BACKGROUND	The Regional Town Water Supply Strategy Program was established by the NSW Government under the Safe and Secure Water Program to enable Joint Organisations to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of a Regional Town Water Supply Strategy on behalf of member Councils.
COMMENTARY	<p>Hunter H2O provides consultancy services to Namoi Unlimited and members of the Namoi Water Alliance.</p> <p>Hunter H2O have been engaged under this tender for consultancy services to scope the development of a Regional Town Water Supply Strategy for all five member Councils.</p> <p>DPIE Water provides a checklist of requirements for a Regional Town Water Supply Strategy and on agreement will provide funding of up to 75% of the total project cost.</p> <p>A scope of works has been agreed between Namoi Unlimited, Hunter H2O and DPIE Water, the total cost of the project is estimated at \$866,817.</p> <p>A copy of the terms in the draft funding agreement is provided at ATTACHMENT C.</p>

Funding Deed – Namoi Joint Organisation Project

Project Reference	SSWP260
Department	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Agency/Division	Water
Grantee	Namoi Joint Organisation of Councils

Terms

Article I. Definitions and Commencement

Section 1.01 Definitions and Interpretation

1. Interpretation

1.1 Unless the context requires otherwise, in this Deed:

- (a) the terms set out in the left hand column of the Details have the meaning ascribed to them in the right hand column of the Details;
- (b) where any time limit pursuant to this Deed falls on a day which is not a Business Day then the time limit will be deemed to have expired on the next Business Day;
- (c) a reference to a statute, regulation, ordinance or by-law will be deemed to include a reference to all statutes, regulations, ordinances or by-laws amending, consolidating or replacing same from time to time;
- (d) the meaning of general words is not limited by specific examples introduced by “including” or “for example” or similar expressions;
- (e) references to persons include bodies corporate, government agencies and vice versa;
- (f) references to the parties include references to respective directors, officers, employees and agents of the parties;
- (g) nothing in this Deed is to be interpreted against a party solely on the ground that the party put forward this Deed or any part of it; and
- (h) where an expression is defined, any other grammatical form of that expression has a corresponding meaning.

1.2 Definitions

Activity means the activity(s) described in **Schedule A – Project Milestones and Assurance**, which aim to fulfil one or more of the Objectives of the Project.

Activity Period means the period specified in **Schedule A – Project Milestones and Assurance** during which the Activity must be completed.

Assurance requirements are reports, materials or other evidence as specified in Schedule A that are required to be provided to the Department by you before payment of the amount applicable to the corresponding Milestone.

Proposal means the document titled ‘Namoi Unlimited Regional Town Water Strategy’, and provided by You to the Department and includes any amendments to that document made under this Deed.

Business Day means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in New South Wales.

Claim means any cost, expense, loss, damage, claim, action, proceeding or other liability (whether in contract, tort or otherwise), however arising and includes legal costs on a full indemnity basis.

Confidential Information of a party means all trade secrets, financial information and other commercially or scientifically valuable information of whatever description and in whatever form (whether written or oral, visible or invisible) which:

- (a) is by its nature confidential;
- (a) has been designated as confidential by a party;
- (b) is capable of protection at common law or equity as confidential information; or
- (c) is derived or produced partly from the information in paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) above

but does not include information that:

- (d) is in the public domain; or
- (e) is independently known or developed by the party receiving the information other than as a result of a breach of this Deed or any other obligation of confidentiality owed by or to any other person.

Correctly Rendered Invoice means an invoice rendered in accordance with the Department’s Fact Sheet.

Deed means this funding deed document and includes the Details, Terms, Schedule A – Project Milestones and Assurance, and any other schedules, annexures or other documents cross-referenced in this deed.

Grant means funds released by the Department as specified in the Details section above.

GST Law means *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*.

Instalments means that part of the Grant which the Department pays to you in the amounts and on the dates set out in Schedule A.

Intellectual Property or IP includes:

- (a) all rights in relation to copyright, inventions, plant varieties, trademarks, designs, patents; and
- (b) all other rights resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields including trade secrets and know-how,

but does not include Moral Rights.

Milestone and **Funding Deed Milestone** is the **Activity(s)** described in **Schedule A – Project Milestones and Assurance**, which aim to fulfil one or more of the Objectives of the Project.

Moral Rights has the same meaning as in the *Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)*.

Notice means any approvals, consents, instructions, orders, directions, statements, requests and certificates, or other communication one party gives to another party in writing under this Deed.

Objectives means the objectives of the Activities described in the Schedule A – Project Milestones and Assurance, which are the agreed results you must achieve and ensure your subcontractors achieve.

Personal Information has the same meaning as in the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)*.

Personnel includes in relation to a party, that party's: officers, employees and agents; affiliates, advisers, consultants and subcontractors; affiliates', advisers', consultants' and subcontractors' officers, employees and agents; and any other persons under that party's direction or control.

Project Material means material created as part of or in performance of the Project including any documents or data.

Special Conditions means the Special Conditions (if any) set out in that section of this Deed.

2. Commencement

2.1 This Deed will commence on the Commencement Date.

Article II. What you must do

3. Your obligations

3.1 You must:

- (a) ensure the Grant or any Instalment is used only for the approved Project;
- (b) ensure each Activity is completed within the Activity Period in accordance with this Deed;
- (c) comply with the reporting requirements set out in Schedule B;
- (d) comply with all Commonwealth, State and Local government laws that are relevant to the Project, this Deed, or your registration as an entity; and
- (e) comply with all policies, guidelines and reasonable directions the Department provides to you.

3.2 You acknowledge and agree that approval of funding under the Safe and Secure Water Program (SSWP), and/or execution of this Deed:

- (a) does not relieve You of any of Your regulatory or legislative responsibilities in relation to the Project or the resulting works;
- (b) does not carry any implication that regulatory approvals can be assumed based on the approval of funding or this Deed; and

- (c) is independent to regulatory approvals, and that all regulatory approvals remain the sole responsibility of the Grantee, to be sought from the relevant regulators without regard to this Deed.

Article III. About the Grant

4. Paying the Grant

- 4.1 The Department will pay an Instalment for each Activity at the end of the Activity Period on condition that:
 - (a) the Department receives a Correctly Rendered Invoice from you that clearly identifies the Instalment you are claiming;
 - (b) you have provided the Department's authorised officer and in accordance with Clause 17 with the evidence of compliance required under **clause 8** and the Schedule(s) showing that you have performed the Activities at the times set out in the Schedules and this Deed; and
- 4.2 the Activities have been performed to the satisfaction of the Department Notwithstanding **clause 4.1**, if the Department pays you an Instalment, this does not constitute an admission that the performance of the Project is in conformity with this Deed and no payment will be deemed to release you from your obligations under this Deed.
- 4.3 Subject to the terms and conditions of this Deed, including this clause 4, the Department will endeavour to pay Correctly Rendered Invoices within 30 days of receipt by the Department.

5. Withholding, Suspension, Changes to Instalments and Repayment

- 5.1 The Department may change the amount of the Instalment by issuing you with a Notice setting out the details of the changes.
- 5.2 If you are not complying with this Deed the Department may withhold or suspend payment of an Instalment until you comply with your obligations to the Department's satisfaction.
- 5.3 If the Department withholds or suspends an Instalment you must continue to perform your obligations under this Deed.
- 5.4 You must repay within 28 days of a demand being sent:
 - (a) any Instalment spent in breach of this Deed;
 - (b) all unspent Instalments;
 - (c) any overpayment;
 - (d) any interest earned on any Instalment required to be repaid.
- 5.5 Where you have failed to comply with this Deed, the Department will calculate the amount of repayment you must make with regard to the extent you have failed to complete the Activities of the Project.
- 5.6 The Department may set off the amount of any overpayment or claim for repayment against any future Instalment due.
- 5.7 Any repayment the Department claims from you under this **clause 5** will be a debt due and owing by you to the Department.

6. Holding of Grant

- 6.1 This **clause 6** applies to the extent that you receive any funds under this Deed prior to incurring costs associated with such funds or prior to completing your obligations which apply to the relevant Instalment.
- 6.2 Each Instalment must be held in trust for the benefit of the Department from the date it is received either:
 - (a) in a separate bank account used solely in connection with the Grant; or
 - (b) into a general bank account provided that sufficient accounting controls are in place to track the expenditure of the Grant.
- 6.3 You must not expend any part of the Grant until the Department has notified you that you may release the specified amount of the Grant for the Project.

7. GST

- 7.1 Unless otherwise indicated, all consideration for any supply under this Deed is exclusive of any GST imposed in relation to the supply.
- 7.2 If:
- (a) despite any other provision of this Deed, GST is imposed on a supply you make to the Department under this Deed; and
 - (b) the Department is or will be entitled to receive an input tax credit (as defined in the GST Law) in relation to that supply,
 - (c) the Department will pay you an additional amount equal to the GST imposed on that supply, at the time and in the manner payment is otherwise payable under this Deed in relation to that supply.
- 7.3 You must be registered under the GST Law at the time of making any supply under this Deed on which GST is imposed.
- 7.4 If you are not registered under the GST Law as required under **clause 7.3**, you will not be entitled to receive any additional amount as provided under this **clause 7**.
- 7.5 If for any reason the Department pays you an amount under this **clause 7** which is more than the GST imposed on the supply, you must repay the excess to the Department on demand or the Department may set off the excess against any other amounts due to you.

Article IV. Material and Information

8. Reporting Requirements

- 8.1 You agree to provide the Department with written progress Reports at the times and containing the information specified in **Schedule B – Reporting Requirements** (“Progress Reports”).
- 8.2 You must also provide any other information the Department reasonably requires from time to time concerning the Project.
- 8.3 If any Progress Report contains information confidential to you, you should mark the relevant parts of the Report accordingly.
- 8.4 You must provide financial statements of income and expenditure in respect of the Grant (“the Statements”) to the Department within 60 Business Days after:
- (a) completion of the Activity or any termination of this Deed, whichever is the earliest; and
 - (b) the completion of each Financial Year in which a Grant is made.
- 8.5 The Statements must include a definitive statement as to whether:
- (a) the financial information for the Project represents the financial transactions fairly and is based on proper accounts and records; and
 - (b) the Grant was expended for the Project and in accordance with this Deed.
- 8.6 You must keep financial accounts and records relating to the Project so as to enable:
- (a) all receipts and payments related to the Project to be identified in your accounts and reported in accordance with this Deed;
 - (b) unless notified by the Department, the preparation of financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards; and
 - (c) generation of an income and expenditure statement for each financial year of the Project with the Budget, including:
 - i. a comparison of the income and expenditure in each financial year against the Budget; and
 - ii. the audit of those records in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

9. Intellectual Property

9.1 Intellectual Property in all Project Material vests in you, unless otherwise stated in the Special Conditions.

10. Confidential Information

10.1 Each party must maintain the confidentiality of all commercially sensitive information it receives from the other party, including the amount of the Grant, except in accordance with **clause 12** (Public Announcements) or as otherwise agreed in writing.

11. Privacy

11.1 You must:

- (a) ensure that Personal Information that is provided by the Department or collected by you under or in connection with this Deed is used only for the purposes of this Deed and is protected against loss, unauthorised access, use, modification and disclosure, or against other misuse;
- (b) not disclose any Personal Information without the written consent of:
 - i. the individual to whom the Personal Information relates; or
 - ii. the Department,unless otherwise required or authorised by law;
- (c) comply with the Information Protection Principles applying to NSW public sector agencies under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) when doing any act or engaging in any practice in relation to Personal Information as if you were an agency directly subject to that Act; and
- (d) include equivalent requirements regarding Personal Information (including this clause 11) in any subcontract entered into for the provision of any of the Activities under this Deed.

12. Public Announcements and Acknowledgement

12.1 You must:

- (a) seek the consent of the Department prior to any public announcement about the Project;
 - (b) acknowledge the support of the Department, as directed by the Department from time to time:
 - i. in any public statements about the Project;
 - ii. on the home page of any web content established in connection with the Project;
 - iii. on any equipment or other facility funded wholly or in part by the Department;
 - (c) use the Department's logo when acknowledging the Department's support of the Project in compliance with the [NSW Government Brand Guidelines](#).
- 12.2 The Department may publish the title and brief description, including outcomes, of the Project and the amount of the Grant.

Article V. Dealing with Risk

13. Disclosure of Information

13.1 You acknowledge that, under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, the Department may be required to publicly disclose information about this Deed at <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au>. None of the disclosure obligations require the disclosure of:

- (a) the commercial-in-confidence provisions of a contract;
- (b) any matter that could reasonably be expected to affect public safety or security; or
- (c) information which would be exempt from disclosure if it were the subject of an application under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

13.2 You may nominate any items you consider are confidential and why, to assist the Department in determining what items to disclose.

14. Work Health and Safety

14.1 You must:

- (a) comply with, and must ensure that all of Your Personnel comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (NSW) and the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017* (NSW) (**WHS Legislation**) when performing work under this Deed; and
- (b) so far as is reasonably practicable, consult, co-operate and co-ordinate activities with the Department and any other person who, concurrently with You, has a work health and safety duty under the WHS Legislation in relation to the same matter.

14.2 You must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that any Activity or other work performed in connection with this Deed is without risk to the health and safety of persons who may in any way be affected by such Activity or work.

14.3 If a Notifiable Incident (as defined in the WHS Legislation) occurs in connection with an Activity or other work carried out under this Deed, You must report the incident to the Department within 1 business day and confirm in writing within 3 business days thereafter. Within 14 days of the incident provide the Department with copies of any notices or other documentation provided to or issued by the relevant government regulator in relation to the Notifiable Incident, and provide the Department with such other information as may be required by the Department to facilitate the notification to or investigation of the Notifiable Incident in accordance with WHS Legislation.

Article VI. Terminating the Deed

15. Termination

15.1 Unless terminated earlier, this Deed will end once you have completed the Project to the Department's satisfaction and the Department has paid all Instalments due.

15.2 Where a party has breached this Deed:

- (a) the other party may give a Notice to that party requiring it to rectify that breach within 30 days of receiving that Notice; and
- (b) if the party which received the Notice fails to rectify that breach in time, the other party may terminate this Deed immediately by giving a further Notice.

15.3 The Department may terminate this Deed immediately by Notice if:

- (a) you breach a provision of this Deed in a manner that, in the Department's opinion, is not capable of remedy;
- (b) you materially breach any of the following provisions: **clause 3** (Your Obligations), **clause 6** (Holding of Grant), or **clause 8** (Reporting Requirements); or
- (c) you become insolvent, if you are the subject of a debtors or creditors petition under the Bankruptcy Act 1966, or if you resolve to go into administration or liquidation or have a summons for your winding up presented to a Court or enter into any scheme of arrangement with your creditors.

15.4 The Department may immediately terminate this Deed by giving you Notice, if any one or more of the following occurs:

- (a) in the Department's opinion you are not carrying out the Project diligently and competently;
- (b) you have not completed one or more of the Activities by the date they are due to be completed;
- (c) the Department considers the Project no longer viable;
- (d) the Department considers that there has been a material change in circumstances in your financial position, your structure or your identity; or

- (e) you have not made significant progress on the performance of your obligations under this Deed to the satisfaction of the Department by the date that is 6 months after the date of this Deed; or
- (f) you have not completed a Milestone within 6 months of the due date for that Milestone, and you have failed to satisfy the Department that such events or circumstances have been alleviated, within 30 days of receiving a Notice from the Department requiring you to do so.

Article VII. Other Legal Matters

16. Dispute Resolution

16.1 If a dispute arises in relation to this Deed (“a **Dispute**”), a party must comply with this **clause 16** before starting arbitration or court proceedings except proceedings for urgent interlocutory relief.

16.2 A party claiming that a dispute has arisen must notify the other party in writing giving details of the dispute (**Dispute Notice**) in accordance with the requirements of **clause 17** (Notices).

16.3 Following receipt of a Dispute Notice, each party must refer the Dispute to a senior representative, who:

- (a) does not have prior direct involvement in the Dispute; and
- (b) has authority to negotiate and settle the Dispute.

16.4 If the Dispute is not resolved within 10 Business Days, from the date the Dispute Notice is received by the party to whom the Dispute Notice is given, the party which gave the Dispute Notice under **clause 16.2** must refer the Dispute for mediation by the Australian Disputes Centre Limited (ADC) for resolution in accordance with the mediation rules of the ADC.

16.5 If the Dispute is not resolved within 40 Business Days after referral to mediation either party may initiate proceedings in court.

16.6 Each party must pay its own costs of complying with this clause and split the costs of the mediator evenly.

17. Notices

17.1 Unless otherwise stated in this Deed, all Notices to be given under this Deed must be in writing, and hand-delivered, posted or emailed to the Authorised Officer specified in the Details or as otherwise notified in writing.

17.2 The receiving party will be deemed to have received the Notice as follows:

- (a) if hand delivered, on the day on which it is delivered or left at the relevant address;
- (b) if sent by post within Australia:
 - i. if posted using Express Post, the priority letter service option of regular post, or the priority service option for Registered Mail, on the fourth Business Day after the day on which it is posted;
 - ii. if posted using the regular post option, on the tenth Business Day after the day on which it is posted;
- (c) if sent by email before 5.00pm on a Business Day, the first of the following occurring:
 - i. when the sender receives an automated message confirming delivery; or
 - ii. four hours after the time sent (as recorded on the device from which the sender sent the email) unless the sender receives an automated message that the email has not be delivered.
- (d) if sent by email after 5.00pm on a Business Day or on a day that is not a Business Day, then it will be deemed to be received on the next Business Day.

17.3 Any such mode of service will be in all respects valid notwithstanding that the party on whom service is affected may be in liquidation, bankruptcy or wound up and notwithstanding any other matter or event whatsoever.

18. General

18.1 Survival: The following clauses survive termination or expiry of this Deed: **clause 8** (Reporting Requirements), **clause 10** (Confidential Information), **clause 11** (Privacy), **clause 15** (Termination), **clause 18.3** (Keeping of records), this **clause 18.1** and any other clause which by its nature is intended to survive this Deed.

18.2 Subcontractors: You remain fully responsible for the performance of the Project if you subcontract the performance of any part of the Project.

18.3 Keeping of records, audit and rights of access to such records: You:

- (a) must keep complete and accurate records and books of account with respect to your performance of the Project (the “Records”), and must retain such Records for a minimum of seven (7) years after expiry or termination of this Deed;
- (b) provide all reasonable assistance in order for the Auditors to properly carry out the inspections and audits referred to in this clause.

18.4 Conflict of Interest: You must not carry out or be involved in any capacity in an activity or business, which may conflict with, or adversely affect, your ability to carry out your obligations under this Deed, and you will immediately notify the Department in writing if such a conflict or risk of such a conflict arises. You must take all reasonable efforts to ensure that your staff and contractors abide by this clause.

18.5 Entire Deed: This Deed states all the express terms agreed by the parties as to the matters referred to in this Deed. It supersedes all prior contracts, obligations, representations, conduct and understandings between the parties relating to the subject matter of this Deed.

18.6 Variation: This Deed may only be varied by agreement in writing including by an exchange of emails confirming any change to Schedule A delivery milestones and payment milestones relating to the Grant.

18.7 Inconsistency: If there is any inconsistency between provisions of this Deed then the order of precedence will be:

- (a) the **Details**; then
- (b) any **Special Conditions**; then
- (c) these **Funding Terms**; then
- (d) any **Schedules**.

18.8 Negation of employment, partnership or agency

- (a) This Deed does not create a relationship of agency, partnership, and/or employment between the parties.
- (b) You must not represent yourself as being an employee or agent of the Department or as otherwise able to bind or represent the Department.

18.9 Waiver

- (a) If a party fails to exercise any of its rights under this Deed, or delays exercising those rights, that failure or delay will not operate as a waiver of those rights or any future rights or in any respect estop a party from relying on the terms of this Deed to their full force and effect.
- (b) Any waiver by a party of a breach of this Deed must be in writing and will not be construed as a waiver of any further breach of the same or any other provision.

18.10 Assignment: You must not assign or novate your obligations or interests under this Deed, without the prior written consent of the Department.

18.11 Counterparts: This Deed may be signed in any number of counterparts which taken together will constitute one instrument.

18.12 Governing Law: The laws of New South Wales govern this Deed and the parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in that State.

Schedule B – Reporting Requirements (refer to **clause 8**)

Section 7.01 Reporting requirements (Progress Reports):

1. You must provide to the Department's authorised officer in accordance with clause 17, monthly Activity Progress Reports on the status of all on-going and completed activities for the period to which the report relates, consisting of:
 - a) project reference number (for all correspondence);
 - b) a brief description of the activities' objective/s;
 - c) all activities undertaken during the reporting period;
 - d) the status of results and milestones achieved to date from the project;
 - e) an update of the Gantt chart (at least as detailed as at Schedule B) with actual progress tracked;
 - f) financial report of actual expenditure and forecasts related to the Grant funding;
 - g) details of any delay in the delivery of the project;
 - h) copies of published reports and materials in relation to the Project; and
 - i) such other information reasonably requested by the Department.
 - j) WHS report, including an update from the Principal Contractor in relation to WHS matters (which report must include, at a minimum, any matter in relation to your obligations under Special Condition f and clause 14 of the Deed);
2. The Department may meet with you each quarter, at the Department's discretion, to discuss progress on the Project.
3. Upon completion of the Project, you must promptly provide to the Department a Final Report, outlining the delivery of the Project, including Project acquittal.

9.3 Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Project

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	Section 60 NSW Local Government Act
Financial	Increasing Resilience to Climate Change funding
Strategic Link	Water for the Future
Attachments	-

RECOMMENDATION	That; <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The report on progress is noted.2) The resources are released to the Councils to promote through their social media functions and websites.
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AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE	To provide the members with information about the release of marketing and communications materials associated with funding received from the NSW Government through LGNSW Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Resilience program.
BACKGROUND	<p>Namoi Unlimited was provided with funding from the NSW Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Resilience Program to investigate the use of recycled water in the maintenance and construction of gravel roads.</p> <p>There are a number of stages to this project, the project is currently seeking approval under Section 60 of the Local Government Act to conduct the trail of recycled water on gravel roads in the Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council areas.</p>
COMMENTARY	<p>Namoi Unlimited was chosen by LGNSW to be a case study project for the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Program. Materials for the case study were funded and developed by contractors engaged by LGNSW.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited, members and staff from Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council participated in a video for LGNSW, and a three series podcast.</p> <p>The link to the video case study is provided; https://www.lgnsw.org.au/Public/Public/Policy/Case-Studies - Climate-Change-videos.aspx</p> <p>The podcast series ask how do we secure water as the critical enabler for communities, economies and the environment in the context of a changing climate. Like much of NSW the Namoi region is recovering from the worst drought in living memory.</p>

In this exciting new podcast series, Climate Resilience: Namoi, you'll hear directly from staff and councillors from Walcha and Tamworth Regional councils in the Namoi region about their experiences of unprecedented drought, and how they are preparing for a future of climate uncertainty.

These stories of climate resilience, produced and presented by former ABC documentary maker, Gretchen Miller. The podcasts are proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW through the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Program. Sound engineering by Judy Rapley.

<https://lgsw.org.au/Public/Policy/podcasts.aspx>

Councils are encouraged to use these resources to promote the use of recycled water to augment town water supplies in times of drought into the future.

It is also an opportunity to promote the challenges associated with these complex projects, such as described in item 10.1.

9.4 Engaged People and Skills – Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce for the New England North West region

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Engaged People and Skills
Attachments	-
RECOMMENDATION	<p>That the Board;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Note the report and 2) Endorse the membership of Namoi Unlimited through the Executive Officer to the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce for the New England North West.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE	To provide a report to members about the introduction of the Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce through the Commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment for the New England North West region.
BACKGROUND	Engaged People and Skills is one of the strategic regional priorities for members and Namoi Unlimited. The involvement of the JO and Local Government in this framework recognises that skills and labour are critical to our region.
COMMENTARY	<p>The Local Jobs Program (LJP) recognises the impact of COVID-19 has been different across labour markets, and locally developed place-based solutions have the potential to effectively support the economic recovery of local labour markets.</p> <p>The Local Jobs Program supports tailored and coordinated approaches to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment across 25 Employment Regions across Australia. The New England North West NSW is one of the identified regions.</p> <p>In each of these regions the program will provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an Employment Facilitator and LJP Support Officer in each region, this is being coordinated through Bronwyn Pearson of Pinnacle Solutions.

- a Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce, members of the Taskforce in this region are; the facilitator - Bronwyn Pearson, Annette Bugden – Best Employment, Adam Bennett – TAFE NSW, Marcus Watson – Backtrack, Nicola O’Neill – Narrabri Shire Council, Bronwyn Cocking – Training Services NSW, Craig Jenkins – Regional NSW, Nathan Axelsson – NIRDA, Jye Segboar – Tamworth Chamber of Commerce and Rebel Thomson from Namoi Unlimited.
- a Local Jobs Plan tailored to local labour market circumstances.
- projects or activities funded through a Local Recovery Fund, that support the priorities in each Local Jobs Plan.

The aim of this program is to ensure that the maximum number of people are placed in appropriate employment or training opportunities as quickly as possible to meet employer needs as the labour market recovers.

Information will be provided by the National Skills Commission (NSC) and National Careers Institute (NCI) to each Taskforce. This will assist them to understand local labour market conditions and respond to local challenges resulting from the pandemic to increase employment outcomes.

The LJP supports local stakeholders to design solutions to local issues. These include, but are not limited to, those that:

- improve labour market outcomes for the region
- connect local stakeholders, including employment services providers, employers and higher education and training organisations
- promote collaboration between the Australian Government, state government, local government and community driven skills and employment initiatives
- lead to skills and employment outcomes that meet local labour market and employer needs
- transition people to new roles by reskilling and upskilling in the skills needed in the region
- provide opportunities to take advantage of local current and upcoming employment
- improve awareness of local labour market needs during the recovery stage.

Local Jobs Program: Key Priorities - Summary

1. Maximising the extent to which employment opportunities arising from growth sectors such as Agriculture and Agribusiness, Health Care and Social Assistance as well as key infrastructure projects, including the emergence of the region as a renewable energy hub, the Inland Rail, are filled by local job seekers, including through creating pathways into growth sectors using existing Australian and NSW Government programs.
 2. Facilitating and supporting the transition to other employment, including self-employment, for people whose roles have ceased or been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 3. Reducing the labour market disadvantage of Indigenous Australians in the region including through maximising opportunities for Indigenous
-

youth who form a relatively high proportion of the Indigenous population.

A full copy of the Local Jobs Plan is provided at
<https://www.employment.gov.au/new-england-and-north-west>.

9.5 Governance and Sustainability – Financial Sustainability Report – ATTACHMENT

D

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	A plan to pursue Financial Sustainability is in place, and is a strategic regional priority under Governance and Sustainability
Attachments	ATTACHMENT D – FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT (Q2)
RECOMMENDATION	That, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Notes the report and progress; and 2) Endorses directions from JOLT.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE	To provide regular reports to the Board and members on the future sustainability of Namoi Unlimited.
BACKGROUND	To drive financial sustainability a plan namely 'the Financial Sustainability Plan' was developed and endorsed by members. Reports are provided to the Board quarterly, ensuring members discuss directions and progress.
COMMENTARY	The General Managers will conduct a workshop among members at their December meeting to discuss and direct actions around financial sustainability. The Report for the second quarter is included at ATTACHMENT G.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT – Q2

ATTACHMENT D – FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT (Q2)

	Completed
	Commenced

	Off- track
	Not Yet Commenced

INTRODUCTION

This report is provided to the members of Namoi Unlimited quarterly, to provide an update on actions in the Financial Sustainability Plan 2020-2023 for Namoi Unlimited to address financial sustainability.

PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASING		PROGRESS	STATUS	FUNDS IDENTIFIED	
2019-2020	Purchase and implementation of VendorPanel.	Establishment of a Procurement Working Group		-	
		Implementation of VendorPanel for member Councils and the Joint Organisation		-	
		Attracting Local and Regional businesses to member Councils		-	
2020-2021	Analysis of external contractors to Councils	-		-	
	Creation of a regional business model for the VendorPanel resource sharing project.	-		-	
	Application and use of the system locally and regionally.	VendorPanel is a participating member of the Procurement Working Group and is providing reports to JOLT on a regular basis to these groups to guide directions and actions.			-
	Attracting Local and Regional businesses to member Councils	Second campaign to be developed with the Procurement Working Group			-
AGGREGATED PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT		PROGRESS	STATUS	FUNDS IDENTIFIED	
2020-2021	Roads and Transport Working Group	Assess aggregated purchasing and procurement opportunities for an estimated \$16million across five Councils for bitumen, road pavement, maintenance, patching and sealing.			
	Namoi Water Alliance	Project management fee has been incorporated into the draft Deed of Agreement for the Regional Town Water Supply Strategy.			\$30,240
		Assess aggregated purchasing and procurement opportunities, next meeting is planned for 2 December 2020.			

Waste and Recycling

Assess aggregated purchasing and procurement opportunities for an estimated \$5.7million in waste and recycling services.

HR

Numbers of potential apprentices and trainees appropriate for the Commonwealth Wage Subsidy requested.

AICD numbers for an online program currently at 10 people, minimum number for a program is 12.

REBATES	PROGRESS	STATUS	FUNDS IDENTIFIED
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LGP

Reports from LGP indicate that members rebates could double if members provided the rebates to the JO. Current rebates are estimated at \$15,334, under the collaborative model the rebates would increase to \$30,000 per annum.

There are three identified uses for this fee by the JO;

- As an incentive for Councils to identify areas of aggregated procurement.
- Funds from rebates if they were intended to cover the budget requirement for VendorPanel in years two and three of the agreement.
- Funds are nominated to be project management fees for procurement for the JO.

Member Councils and General Managers are discussing this internally and have been asked to provide advice by the end of February 2021.

\$33,267

Northern Rivers JO

LGP rebates to pay for the VendorPanel subscription.

TRAINING	PROGRESS	STATUS	FUNDS IDENTIFIED
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2020-2021

Career Pathways for Local Government

Identification of training and recruitment processes for identified target markets; young people, Indigenous and women.

‘Your Career is Local’ attraction campaign and resources for Councils.

A proposed variation with OLG Capacity Building grant will provide funding for this initiative. Grant application submitted.

Local Government Training and Capacity Building

‘Your community is local’ attraction of candidates into Local Government.

2021 Local Government Elections

Namoi Water Alliance

Deferred to 2021-2022 due to COVID

Potentially a shared service opportunity as Gwydir Shire Council identified as an RTO.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS, COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS		PROGRESS	STATUS	FUNDS IDENTIFIED
2020-2023	Value Report	Value Reports detail the financial and project outcomes of the JO and Councils and are provided every six months. Next report is scheduled to be presented in January/February 2021.		
	Delegations and transfers Tabling, valuing and acknowledging Member Council in-kind contributions.	Tamworth Regional Council continues to provide; office, ICT, finance functions, HR and payroll No further in-kind contributions identified.		
MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS		PROGRESS	STATUS	FUNDS IDENTIFIED
2020-2023	Member Councils agree to contribute sufficient funds to cover the fixed costs relative to the annual administration budget approved by the members.	Proposal discussed with members but was rejected for this financial year.		
PROJECT PARTICIPATION MEMBERSHIP		PROGRESS	STATUS	FUNDS IDENTIFIED
2020-2021	Identify businesses and organisations to work with Namoi Unlimited on a project basis making a contribution to the activity being undertaken by the Joint Organisation	Proposal from Kent Woodcock provided examples for business partnerships to be developed as part of projects, not pursued by the members.		
FEE FOR SERVICE - OUTSOURCING STAFF ASSETS		PROGRESS	STATUS	FUNDS IDENTIFIED
2020-2021	Identify and establish the process, parameters and approvals.	Prices have been established for members and non-members. The use of the EOs time is to be discussed with their Chair of JOLT as its requested.		
	Walcha Council	Risk Management policy, procedures and guidelines.		\$3,500
	Establish the schedule of fees for services as described in grant or program funding applications.	Prices have been established for members and non-members. The use of the EOs time is to be discussed with their Chair of JOLT as its requested.		
SHARED SERVICES		PROGRESS	STATUS	FUNDS IDENTIFIED

2020-2021

Establishment of a draft investigations assessment and proposal.

Preliminary Assessments Completed

RMCC additional contractual requirements

Business Case for Shared Services

Assess the proposed process and refine.

Guideline completed

Audit and Internal Risk Management Framework as a shared service passed the preliminary assessment. Referred to business case.

Preliminary Assessment presented to JOLT (11/2020) and JOLT has agreed to proceed to briefing paper for the December JOLT meeting.

Audit and Internal Risk Management deferred until advice is received from the NSW post the consultation period.



9.6 Governance and Sustainability – Annual Performance Report – ATTACHMENT

E

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	A plan to pursue Financial Sustainability is in place, and is a strategic regional priority under Governance and Sustainability

Attachments **ATTACHMENT E – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT**

RECOMMENDATION That the Annual Performance Report is endorsed and submitted to the NSW Office of Local Government.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE To provide members with a copy of the Annual Performance Report for the 2019-2020 to be submitted.

BACKGROUND -

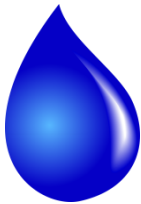
COMMENTARY -

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS



Member Councils invested \$179,740.

Namoi Unlimited attracted an additional \$575,000 in program funding.



Namoi Unlimited received \$285,000 to investigate the use of recycled water in Australia and on gravel roads.



\$134million of funding for identified strategic road in the Namoi Roads Network Strategy.



Over 100 people attended events to obtain drought support and access training, 56 people undertook training, 32 people enquired about employment, and 19 course enquiries have been made to the training providers post the event.



Value Reports demonstrate the orientation to performance.

FOREWORD

The conversation about the value of membership to Namoi Unlimited is underpinned by the requirement that Local Government must demonstrate that any activities - are the best and most efficient use of rate-payers funds. This report is intended to illustrate the activities of Namoi Unlimited and guide member Councils in discussing and assessing the value obtained from their investment.

The principal functions of Joint Organisations of Councils in NSW are to:

- A. Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities.
- B. Provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities.
- C. Identify and take up opportunities for intergovernmental collaboration on matters relating to the joint organisation area.

Our vision is to be a productive, smart and liveable region. A region recognised for its strong leadership, innovation, and excellence in regional collaboration.

Change is a constant dynamic in our world; however it is likely we may not see such a period of structural adjustment and change again in our lifetimes. It should be acknowledged that this financial year will go down in history as one of the most difficult, particularly for those of us that live in regional Australia.

The worst drought in the history of Australia continues across the Namoi region of Councils, noting that all five Local Government Areas are still in drought affected, with a small pocket in the Gwydir Shire Council still in intense drought and two parts of the southern ends of the Tamworth Regional Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council in drought. Despite some rains and predictions of above average rainfall for the rest of 2020, our water storages have not yet fully recovered.

The summer of 2019-2020 will be remembered for the extreme bushfires that raced across the nation, impacting Walcha Council, Tamworth Regional Council and Gwydir Shire Council areas.

Wild weather and flooding also impacted the Liverpool Plains Shire Council.

Then in March 2020 our communities were impacted by the global pandemic of COVID-19.

We should be extremely proud that as a group of leaders we have been able to support each other through this very difficult time. We remain a strong and committed group, and an organisation navigating our way through the challenges that are ahead of us.

Our organisations are changing and shifting to the virtual world of working together both as Councils and as a Joint Organisation. Our communities are changing. Unemployment is expected to rise significantly. Businesses have been the social and economic impact of drought and now must adapt to social distancing and health requirements of this pandemic.

However, I also see opportunities.

Regional Australia has become an attractive place to work, to live and to raise a family.

There is a growing demand for home grown products and services and the 'buy from the bush' campaign has created a positive brand for regions.

Australian businesses are innovating and adapting to respond to COVID-19 with equipment for our health service, products and sanitisers.

More than ever, we need to be innovative and flexible in our local and regional leadership, committed to tackling the difficult challenges.

I acknowledge and thank the members and their Councils for their investment in the activities of Namoi Unlimited. Our work is acknowledged as innovative and collaborative.

There is a strong commitment from members to pursue our strategic regional priorities, stewardship of these priorities rests with the Executive Officer, and the work of steering committees and working groups. Specifically I acknowledge the efforts of:

- Tamworth Regional Council and Gunnedah Shire Council in their carriage of the Water for the Future priority;
- Walcha Council and Gwydir Shire Council in the Enabled and Connected Infrastructure priority; and
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council in people and skills, building scale, capacity and capability of the region and its human resources.

We should recognise that we are two years into the new Joint Organisation arrangements under the *NSW Local Government Act*, and whilst we have worked together during the pilot, and as a ROC for probably a decade, this agenda is relatively new. We could not have undertaken our ambitious agenda without the commitment and guidance of the Board, our General Managers and our Executive Officer. We recognise that as a cohesive collaboration of Local Government Authorities, we are stronger and more resourceful, and it has been a pleasure to serve as your Chair.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cr Jamie Chaffey', written in a cursive style.

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairperson, Namoi Unlimited (Mayor, Gunnedah Shire Council)
8 December 2020

INTRODUCTION

Our Purpose

The NSW Government established Joint Organisations of Councils in 2017 by amendment to the *NSW Local Government Act*. Namoi Joint Organisation of Councils trading as Namoi Unlimited was proclaimed in May 2018. The role of Namoi Unlimited is to engage and collaborate with the NSW Government, working together to build stronger councils and communities.

Our Vision

Is to be a; *productive, smart and liveable region. A region recognised for its strong leadership, innovation, and excellence in regional collaboration.*

Our Principal functions

The core function of Joint Organisations of Councils is collaboration - collaboration between Councils, the NSW Government and the Australian Government. Joint Organisations are enabled to establish collaborative arrangements with key agencies and organisations with similar functions, values and activities. The principal functions of Namoi Unlimited are to:

- A. Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities.
- B. Provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities.
- C. Identify and take up opportunities for intergovernmental collaboration on matters relating to the joint organisation area.

Our Values and Guiding Principles

The values of Namoi Unlimited are:

- Member Councils will actively collaborate to lead and empower each other.
- Member Councils will engage actively, honestly and ethically.
- Member Councils will be transparent and accountable to the communities they represent.

Qualification

This report is designed to provide the member Councils of Namoi Unlimited, their Councillors, staff and stakeholders with a report that demonstrates the value of working together for a period of time. 'Value' is defined as illustrating the financial value, importance and usefulness.

This report consolidates the activity for the 2019-2020 financial year, and will form part of the Annual Performance Report and audit statements provided to the Minister for Local Government and the NSW Government at the end of 2020.

This document is intended to be a public document.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Namoi Unlimited has three identified Strategic Regional Priorities;

Water for the Future

Agriculture, agricultural products, commodities and services underpin the economies of the Namoi region. The dynamics of global markets, climate change and changing consumer demand, mean our core industry must evolve and adapt. The availability, security and access to water underpin every facet of agriculture. Water is also critical to the other two priorities identified. Our action will be targeted towards growth and development and water is the critical enabler for industry, business, communities, lifestyle, tourism and the environment.

Enabled and Connected Infrastructure

The provision of goods and services, connecting people and business, and addressing the perception of remoteness and isolation in regional areas are all dependent on having fully functional and connected infrastructure. Roads, rail, air infrastructure, energy and telecommunications infrastructure are critical for the future growth and the development of the region.

The role of Namoi Unlimited is to understand the capacity and capability of existing infrastructure and networks, and then take a future focussed approach to prioritising, investing and advocating for critical and necessary infrastructure, necessary to enabling and supporting growth.

Engaged People seeking Skills for the Future

People and their skills are fundamental to the growth of our economies, our communities and lifestyle. Local Government is one of the largest employers in the Namoi region and has an important role to play in the attraction of people to the region, and the development of skills to meet future workforce demands.

The members of Namoi Unlimited will identify, promote and engage in opportunities to address skill shortages within both Councils and across communities.

DEMONSTRATED EVIDENCE OF ADVANCING THE STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED

This section of this report describes progress toward the identified outcomes of each strategic priority identified in the Strategic Regional Plan 2018-2021 and the actions included in the Annual Business Plan.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY: Water for the Future Strategy²

Identified Outcomes	Activity
Targeted and strategic advice to hone the pursuit of opportunities for regional growth.	<p>The Namoi Water for the Future Strategy has aligned water resources, with land availability, growth opportunities and has been accepted as a critical piece of research for the NSW Government's regional water strategies.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited worked with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to develop the Namoi Economic and Spatial Supply Chain Assessment Report.</p> <p><i>The main economic enabler of the region is the strong private sector investor interest in the expansion of meat processing and intensive agriculture.</i></p> <p><i>This is linked to the Namoi region's strong natural endowments which have underpinned the region's historical strength in agriculture.</i></p>
Identification and pursuit of endowments and drivers for growth in the Business Case for a Special Activation Precinct Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS).	<p>The Namoi Economic and Spatial Supply Chain Assessment Report as well as the New England North West Intensive Agriculture Gap Analysis identify the drivers and impediments for economic development.</p> <p><i>Economic enablers for the Namoi region could include that the region is strategically located in a high value fertile agricultural region with good access to regional and national freight routes (both road and rail), good access to ports and airports and its hinterland is rich in the complementary agricultural activities that can be easily leveraged to turbo-charge the Namoi economy.</i></p> <p>Although the NSW Government invested in the development of the Namoi Economic and Spatial Supply Chain Assessment Report, a Special Activation Precinct proposal was not presented to the NSW Cabinet by DPIE.</p> <p>The outcome of that report was that; <i>if the identified expansion plans are realised, the beef, lamb, poultry and grain industries will be a significant economic enabler for the Namoi region.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed expansion of these industries could generate directly, indirectly and via induced spending at local businesses around 2,700 jobs (expanding the workforce by 7%, equivalent to 1.4% per annum over a 5-year horizon).</i></p> <p>Namoi Unlimited is pursuing five identified goals from this Report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GOAL 1 - Strategic economic planning and development ▪ GOAL 2 - Improved coordination of land use and planning ▪ GOAL 3 - Roads and transport networks ▪ GOAL 4 - Climate Change Adaptation ▪ GOAL 5 - Marketing and promotion to attract investment <p>This project is being pursued through Regions NSW, DPIE and other agencies. A project brief has been presented to the Australian Government also.</p>

² Text in italics in this section of the report is credited to MacroPlan Dimasi (2019), Namoi Economic and Spatial Supply Chain Assessment Report

Identified Outcomes**Activity**

Building stronger and more resilient communities.

Training for Council staff into the development of business cases for projects with NSW Treasury was postponed due to COVID.

In response to drought; Namoi Unlimited coordinated training and employment activities across all five member Council areas.

The objectives of these events were to;

- To coordinate events across the Local Government Areas of Walcha Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Gunnedah Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council that adds to existing program and support delivery by agencies.
- To provide access to opportunities for locals to discuss drought support and local casual employment opportunities and understand the training requirements to support obtaining casual work.
- To provide an opportunity for one-day training to be conducted in the five Local Government Areas to encourage people to undertake training locally.

The program of events were extremely successful with the identified outcomes being;

- Five events coordinated across each of the Local Government Areas in Nundle, Walcha, Gunnedah, Bingara and Quirindi.
- Opened additional links for Councils into existing program support and agencies providing the support.
- Although the threat of bushfires across the region impacted attendance, over 100 people attended these events to obtain support, access training in their own communities and talk to people about job opportunities.
- 56 people undertook training over the five days, which is significant. There was a genuine link made between compliance training and work opportunities.
- 32 people enquired or have enquired about employment across the region.
- 19 course enquiries have been made to the training providers post the event; this is additional potential people for training.

Increase the scale and capacity of Member Councils.

Pursuit of best practice planning and operations across local water operations.

Pursuit of best practice planning and operations across local water operations and road maintenance.

Increasing scale and capacity is targeted to Local Water Utilities and operations in the Namoi Water Alliance, activity highlights included;

- Completion of competency training program for water operators;
- Renewal of the tender and consultancy services for members;
- Completion of a Gap Analysis to identify requirements for Councils to undertake and complete Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) plans;
- Commencement of a new collaboration with DPIE – Water on the Namoi Regional Water Strategy; and
- Confirmed eligibility for funding under the Regional Town Water Strategy for member Councils.
- Smart Water Mark membership for the next three years.

Identified Outcomes**Activity**

- Pursuit of changes to the application of Section 60 of the Local Government Act Approval for water or sewage treatment works and applications for Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council.

Namoi Unlimited was successful in a funding application to the *NSW Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Program* and received \$285,000 to investigate the use of recycled water in Australia and on gravel roads, conduct a community survey about the expectations of use into the future and conduct a pilot with two of the member Councils in the use of recycled water on gravel roads.

Research demonstrates that there are opportunities in NSW to increase the use of recycled water where it is safe to do so.

Increase in the opportunities for learning, apprenticeships, traineeships and careers with Local Government.

There is a skill shortage in water operations emerging, both in staff and trainers.

Members have engaged to collaborate on upskilling staff to a competency level of Certificate III.

Prior to COVID, the group was expected to engage with their training provider to discuss (1) ongoing training requirements, (2) how Councils can assist with assessment, and (3) a train the trainer proposal.

Members have also agreed to rotate meetings across the five Council areas, and include tours of facilities creating learning and collaboration opportunities.

Develop opportunities for strong, connected, high speed and accessible telecommunications to support local government.

Namoi Unlimited attended consultations on the NSW Government's digital connectivity strategy this year, reinforcing the findings of the national review into telecommunications.

Namoi Unlimited requested that regions collaborate to develop a Regional Digital and Connectivity Strategy that identifies works and priorities for the long-term.

A targeted and accelerated approach to growing trade and investment attraction in the region.

The pursuit of the Namoi Trade and Investment Strategy slowed in 2019-2020 due to the ongoing impact of the worst drought in Australia's history, depleting livestock numbers, the availability of feed and fodder, as well as water in the region.

Identification and facilitation of key new market opportunities for regional producers.

Funding for access to new markets for regional producers and the development of a network for business is being pursued through applications currently under assessment with the Australian Government.

Development of, and support for a network of trade, investment and export businesses in the region.

Namoi Unlimited continued to distribute information to its regional producer's network in relations to training, networking and funding programs.

Contribute to and be recognised for, developing better ways for Government to engage and invest in regional Australia.

Namoi Unlimited remains a respected member of the NSW network of Joint Organisations, and is one of four Joint Organisation representatives on the Ministers Advisory Group for Financial Sustainability of Joint Organisations.

Namoi Unlimited is in a collaborative process with DPIE – Water in the development of the 30 year for water and infrastructure in the Namoi.

Identified Outcomes	Activity
<p>Creditable and evidence based regional advocacy and information that informs Government policy.</p>	<p>The register of positions of advocacy was finalised and distributed to member Councils. Positions of Advocacy promoted by Namoi Unlimited are provided in this document.</p> <p>Member Councils have been asked to endorse the positions to further strengthen advocacy.</p>
<p>Coordinate and facilitate access opportunities for member Councils to advocate for economic growth, business development, and business cases for water and other infrastructure development.</p>	<p>In October 2019, member Councils undertook an advocacy event to Canberra with business and agricultural representatives from the Namoi region.</p> <p>Meetings were held with The Hon Mark Coulton MP Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government and the Assistant Trade and Investment Minister, Senior Adviser to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Treasurer, The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, with Commonwealth Environmental Office representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Regional Australia Institute and Senior Advisers with Water and Drought Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>In addition to the advocacy to the Commonwealth Government over the impact of drought on the region, advocacy on behalf of members in the Water for the Future strategic priority occurred, specifically;</p> <p>Advocacy across Water for the Future included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regions NSW – Resources for Regions Program Review ▪ Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development ▪ NSW Legislative Assembly has tasked the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development to inquire into and report on, the impacts of drought on regional NSW ▪ Drought – its impact and solutions for State, Commonwealth and Local Governments ▪ Water for the Future ▪ Special Activation Precinct for the Namoi region ▪ Business and Drought ▪ Section 60 of the Local Government Act ▪ Socio-economic Analysis of the Murray Darling Basin ▪ Northern Basin Commissioner – Murray Darling Basin <p>A planned advocacy trip to the NSW Parliament in May 2020, had to be postponed due to COVID.</p>

STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY: Enabled and Connected Infrastructure

Identified Outcomes	Activity
<p>Identified process to highlight, substantiate and promote enabling infrastructure for the region.</p>	<p>Namoi Unlimited developed a process to address proposed additions to the Namoi Roads Network Strategy. This adds to the development of new initiatives for the Strategy.</p> <p>\$134.2million of the identified priorities have been funded with the support of the Namoi Roads Network Strategy.</p>
<p>Develop relationships, efficiencies and opportunities to work together.</p> <p>Improved information and service delivery.</p>	<p>Relationships with Transport for NSW (RMS) remain the key stakeholder in roads and freight. As members of the Roads and Transport Working Group the RMS provides a strategic and collaborative view to the regional priorities.</p>

Identified Outcomes	Activity
	<p>Additional relationships have been created with the safety and quality team in connection with the collaborative approach to Roads Maintenance Contracts with Councils (RMCC).</p> <p>The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator also participates in Steering Committee meetings as required.</p>
<p>Develop the rationale and the forum for collaborating across regions on infrastructure.</p>	<p>Collaborative approaches to the New England Joint Organisation were made to assist with the development of their Roads Strategy.</p> <p>Consultation on their plan and linkages into the Namoi has not yet commenced.</p>
<p>Participate and facilitate opportunities to pursue the connectivity of infrastructure within the Namoi region, within NSW and across the Eastern seaboard.</p>	<p>MacroPlan Dimasi (2019) identified specific Transport, Freight, Road Network and Public Transport priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A number of road networks including bridge strengthening issues were identified to meet high mass limit specifications to support the use of high productivity vehicles. ▪ Funding is required to build road network capacity – bridges, road strengthening and overpasses for key transport networks. ▪ Lack of public transport to meat processors in Tamworth. Almost all personnel drive by car. ▪ Whitehaven Mines offers 16 public transport bus services a day and this works well for their employees, but other industries find it hard to compete for the higher wages and better conditions offered at the Mine. ▪ Inland Rail could be a great benefit for reducing high transport costs for the region. ▪ Access to intermodal terminal facilities would help reduce freight costs and offer opportunities for more local downstream processing. ▪ Heavy vehicle regulation an issue as American made machinery is often too big to comply with NSW road network requirements.
<p>Contribute to and be recognised for, developing better ways for Government to engage and invest.</p>	<p>Namoi Unlimited commenced a second pilot with Transport for NSW (RMS) around the new contract and additional clauses identified in that contract. Areas identified for potential collaboration include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clause 3.7 Industrial Relations Management ▪ Clause 3.8 Interfaces, communication and stakeholder engagement ▪ Clause 6 Subcontracting ▪ Clause 10.8 Prequalification for Sub-Contractors ▪ Clause 12.2 Compliance and Notifications of Compliance 12.3 ▪ Clause 12.3 NSW Code and NSW Guidelines ▪ Clause 12.4 Aboriginal participation in construction ▪ Clause 12.5 Heavy Vehicle Law – Chain of Responsibility Provisions ▪ Clause 12.6 Skills Development and Training ▪ Clause 12.8 Environmental Management ▪ Clause 12.10 Quality Management and Records ▪ Clause 12.14 Building Code 2016 when specified ▪ Clause 12.15 Australian Government WH&S Accreditation ▪ Clause 17.5 Benchmarking across zones ▪ Clause 21.2 Safety and protection of persons and property ▪ Clause 21.3 Clean up work areas and premises ▪ Clause 25.2 Public and Ministerial inquiries
<p>Coordinate and facilitate access opportunities for member Councils to advocate</p>	<p>Namoi Unlimited coordinated the consultations and identification of priorities under the Commonwealth Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) program.</p>

Identified Outcomes	Activity
for enabled and connected Infrastructure priorities.	The Joint Organisation has prioritised and submitted proposals into the New England Corridor and the Toowoomba to Seymour Corridor. The identified priorities submitted were; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County Boundary Road, Gwydir Shire Council ▪ IB Bore Road, Gwydir Shire Council ▪ New England Highway Upgrades on the southern side of Tamworth, Tamworth Regional Council ▪ Intersection of the New England Highway at Willow Tree to Quirindi, Liverpool Plains Shire Council ▪ Chimney Sweep Bridge, Walcha Council ▪ Surveyors Creek Bridge, Walcha Council
Creditable and evidence based regional advocacy and information that informs Government policy.	NSW Road Classification Review Committee and their Terms of Reference. Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) future priorities and linkages.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY: Engaged People and Skills

Identified Outcomes	Activity
Capitalise on strategic and operational opportunities to increase services within Councils.	With the completion of an audit of skill shortages across Councils last financial year, this years focus was on identifying and creating a pathway for careers into Local Government for three specific target markets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth
Promote employment opportunities within Local Government.	Namoi Unlimited recognises that approximately 70% of the regions young people will not go to university after school. This presents a unique opportunity to attract young people aged 15-19 years into careers in the Local Government sector.
Increase in the opportunities for learning, apprenticeships, traineeships and careers with Local Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First Nations people As a significant regional employer a focus on the employment of First Nations people from across the region is a significant opportunity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women 35 years + The final target market is women aged 35 and over, supporting women to re-enter the workforce, and retrain to develop a career in Local Government. The overarching criterion across these target markets is to promote and support people living in the Namoi region. A campaign to actively promote careers in Local Government has been interrupted because of COVID-19.
Nurture skills and talent in Local Government sharing experience and expertise.	Working groups and steering committees are focused on sharing experience and expertise, these groups are particularly active; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Namoi Water Alliance ▪ Namoi Roads and Transport Steering Committee ▪ Contaminated Lands – planning and compliance ▪ Procurement, economic development and marketing teams for the implementation of VendorPanel
Build stronger communities and build service delivery.	The most significant investment in building stronger communities is the purchase of the extension software for VendorPanel. VendorPanel helps private and public organisations simplify procurement processes, reduce risk, maximise value.
Increase the scale and capacity of Member Councils.	

Identified Outcomes

Activity

VendorPanel has functionality that simplifies procurement and provides the Councils with;

- Preferred Supplier List Management – simplifies the management of Preferred Supplier Lists to increase spend under contract and drive competition and transparency.
- Supplier Insurance & Accreditation Integration - VendorPanel integrates with global pre-qualification platform Avetta making it easy for buyers to review Supplier status before including them in bids or awarding work.
- Sourcing - simplifies the way Staff source from Supplier lists and the Marketplace, and get total control of your sourcing.
- Social Procurement - integrates Social Procurement/Local and Regional Economic Development into our supply chain to make a positive impact, drive economic development and support objectives.
- Public Tenders - streamlines management of your public tenders, with simple integrated evaluation tools, powerful reporting and one-click reporting.
- Contract Management Integration – where Buyers can pass details of successful suppliers and responses to a CM application, including VendorPanel Contracts, to create a draft contract.
- Integrated Reporting & Analytics - drives strategic value with data driven insights and total visibility of sourcing via informative and easy to read dashboards.

Namoi Unlimited facilitated the development of policy, procedures and registers for Councils to address contaminated lands.

Namoi Unlimited has developed a framework for the investigation of Shared Services across the region.

Representation on the New England North West Regional Leadership Executive and sub groups;

- New England North West Drought Taskgroup
- Northern NSW Renewables Working Group
- New England North West Regional Economic Development Sub-Committee
- New England North West Regional Plan 2036

The development of shared services in general is extremely complex. The framework provides Councils with the detail about how investigations are to be undertaken, the development and analysis of a business case, as well as the development of any shared service.

Creditable and evidence based regional advocacy and information that informs Government policy.

Advocacy on the application of Section 44 Rural Fires Act, attracting an extension on the submission of expenses for Councils.

Additional areas of advocacy were;

- Community and Council led recovery after drought, fire, flood and COVID
- SENATE ENQUIRY SUBMISSION Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas
- NSW Network of Joint Organisations
- Capacity and support for Small Business in Regional NSW
- Socio-economic Analysis of the Murray Darling Basin

TRANSACTIONAL ASSESSMENT OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITY

ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES	ALIGNMENT TO KEY FUNCTIONS	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION	CASH VALUE TO COUNCILS (includes annual budget expenditure and grant funding)	IN-KIND VALUE TO COUNCILS (includes annual budget expenditure and grant funding)	STAFF INVESTMENT (Based on \$200 per hour x five for the Executive Officer.)		STATUS
					Executive Officer	Member Councils Contribution	
Water for the Future Enabled and Connected Infrastructure Engaged People seeking Skills for the Future	Inter-governmental Collaboration	Establishment grant for the Joint Organisation of Councils from the NSW Government through the Office of Local Government.	\$150,000	-	\$2,400	-	Completed or Ongoing
		New England North West Regional Leadership Executive	-	-	\$12,000	-	Completed or Ongoing
		New England North West Regional Economic Development Sub-Committee	-	-	\$6,000	-	Completed or Ongoing
		New England North West Regional Plan 2036 – monitoring committee and project liaison for the Joint Organisation, completed projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a Regional Intensive Agribusiness Strategy to foster ongoing investment, specify guidelines for intensive agriculture and food processing and map suitable future precincts for these uses. Map important agricultural land and develop guidelines to support the implementation of the important agricultural land mapping through local plans. Deliver an annual New England North West Housing and Land Monitor Prepare guidelines for local housing strategies that will provide guidance on planning for local affordable housing needs. 	-	-	\$8,000	-	Completed or Ongoing
	Advocacy and Leadership	Increasing resilience to Climate Change to manage the impact of reduced water availability on gravel roads and the potential use of waste water.	\$285,000	-	\$30,000	\$5,000	Completed or Ongoing
		NSW Joint Organisation Executive Officer and Chairs Networks, Ministerial Advisory Group meeting	-	-	\$25,600	\$12,600	Completed or Ongoing
		LGNSW Sustaining Regions Forum and Drought Response Forum	-	-	\$3,200	-	Completed or Ongoing
		Canberra Advocacy event – representation to Ministers and advisors for education, Local Government and regional development, energy, trade and investment, drought and Local Members of Parliament and discussions with the Regional Australia Institute.	\$10,000	-	\$10,000	-	Completed or Ongoing
		Community consultations representations Farm Household Assistance Review, New England North West Drought Taskforce	-	-	\$4,800	-	Completed or Ongoing
		Namoi Economic and Spatial Supply Chain Report ³	-	\$175,000	\$12,800	-	Pending
Water for the Future	Planning and Prioritisation Inter-governmental Collaboration	Namoi Water Alliance	\$27,040	-	\$30,000	\$8,000	Completed or Ongoing
		Trade and Investment Strategy	-	-	\$5,000	-	Completed or Ongoing
	Advocacy and Leadership	Small and Medium Enterprises Export Hub application to develop and support the network of exporters in the Namoi region.	-	-	\$8,000	-	Pending
		Representation of Member Councils with Safe and Secure Water to facilitate opportunities with government and partners for investment into the provision of water, infrastructure and skills.	\$165,000	-	\$16,000	-	Pending

³ This is an estimated as the report was paid for by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES	ALIGNMENT TO KEY FUNCTIONS	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION	CASH VALUE TO COUNCILS (includes annual budget expenditure and grant funding)	IN-KIND VALUE TO COUNCILS (includes annual budget expenditure and grant funding)	STAFF INVESTMENT (Based on \$200 per hour x five for the Executive Officer.)		STATUS
					Executive Officer	Member Councils Contribution	
		Application for Regional Town Water Strategy funding ⁴ and negotiations on IWCMs for Councils.					Completed or Ongoing
	Inter-governmental Collaboration	New England North West Drought Task group – distribution of factsheets, program information and contacts.	-	-	\$15,000	-	Completed or Ongoing
		Namoi ROSCOs and Critical Water Panel Representation	-	--	\$8,000	-	Completed or Ongoing
		Namoi Water Sharing Plans review	-	-	\$2,000	-	Completed or Ongoing
	Advocacy and Leadership	Annual membership of the Smart Water Mark	-	-	-	\$11,000	Completed or Ongoing
		Murray Darling Basin Socio-economic Analysis of the impacts of the Basin Plan			\$2,000		Completed or Ongoing
	Advocacy and Leadership	NSW Digital Connectivity Strategy	-	-	\$500	-	Completed or Ongoing
Enabled and Connected Infrastructure	Planning and Prioritisation	Namoi Roads Network Strategy	\$134,200,000				Completed or Ongoing
	Inter-governmental Collaboration	RMCC new contract analysis, project planning and prioritisation, preparation			\$30,000	\$8,000	Completed or Ongoing
		Gunnedah Shire Council will represent the region on the Department of Planning Council Stakeholders Panel.	-	-	-	\$6,400	Completed or Ongoing
Engaged People seeking Skills for the Future	Inter-governmental Collaboration	Contaminated Lands Officer for 3 years, this year the project delivered a policy, procedure and register template for Councils.	\$420,000	-	\$30,000	\$8,000	Completed or Ongoing
		Finding Your Feet Event Series	\$10,000	-	\$24,000	-	Completed or Ongoing
		TOTAL		\$175,000	\$285,300	\$59,000	Completed or Ongoing

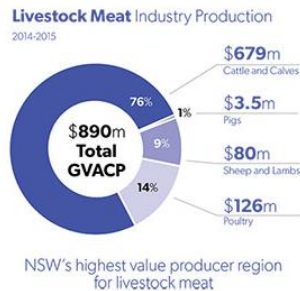
⁴ This is an estimated of the quote for works. Quote is estimated at \$220,000, Councils are eligible for 75% of funding from the NSW Government.

ENDORSED POSITIONS OF ADVOCACY

<p>1. Water for the Future</p> <p>Water is the critical enabler for industry, business, communities, lifestyle, tourism and the environment.</p> <p>Communities across the Namoi Joint Organisation of Councils deserve secure access to quality water resources.</p> <p>The availability and security of water enables Local Government and communities to plan for future social, environmental and economic growth with confidence.</p> <p>The climate of NSW is variable and drought is an inevitable feature in our landscape, therefore it should be considered in the same light as other business risks.</p> <p>Planning for the long-term is the most effective way that community and farmers can prepare for drought and other downturns.</p>	<p>A1.1 Government funding for Council owned water and sewer operations and projects that can demonstrate investment will provide improvements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ public health ▪ water security ▪ economic, environmental outcomes and or social benefits. <p>A1.2 Governments will provide funding, programs and financial assistance to Councils to provide access to water that will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ undertake regional strategic planning for the provision of water; ▪ provide entitlement to meet the current and future demands of growth from development; and ▪ maintain access to substantial storage capacity for emergency situations including drought. <p>A1.3 Governments support and implement policy, processes and systems that provide an equitable sharing of surface and groundwater resources and that water entitlements and allocations are secure and tradeable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surface and groundwater policy and management for NSW. ▪ NSW water resources planning, policy and regulation including negotiations with the Commonwealth. ▪ Basin specific planning, policy and management for the Great Artesian Basin and the Murray Darling Basin. ▪ Catchment planning, policy and management for the Macleay, Gwydir, Border Rivers, Namoi and Peel catchments.
<p>2. Agriculture, Agribusiness and Innovation</p> <p>Agriculture, agricultural products, commodities and services underpin the economies of the Namoi region.</p>	<p>A2.1 Governments provide programs and funding for Local Government that can stimulate the economy for business and support businesses to maintain employment and where prolonged impact of drought on regional and local employment and the economy can be demonstrated, small business can access similar assistance to that offered to primary producers.</p>	<p>COAG Agreement and Natural Disasters policy and application</p> <p>Drought policy and incentives</p> <p>Employment and incentives policy, jobs and action plans for employment in regional Australia</p>

3. Intensive Agriculture Strategy

In the New England North West of NSW agricultural production accounts for 17.5 per cent of the State’s gross agricultural value, the second highest regional contribution in NSW. The strength of the sector will rely on favourable climate and soils, access to national and international markets, strong broadacre cropping and grazing sectors and emerging intensive agriculture and food processing sectors.



Intensive agricultural enterprises create jobs in the agricultural supply chain and open opportunities for agribusiness and innovation, service, research and education.

A3.1 Government funding and resourcing to develop the Namoi region as a regional meat production area and food processing precinct.

A3.2 Government support for an environment that provides consistency across the region for planning for and operations of, meat and livestock enterprises.

A3.3 Government support for an environment that markets the Namoi region as a food and fibre hub for NSW and the world.

A3.4 Government funding and resourcing to assist producers to accelerate production of food and fibre into world markets.

A3.5 Government legislation and policy for the “Right to Farm’ in NSW.

- NSW Right to Farm Policy that reinforces rights and responsibilities establishes baseline and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of land use conflicts, land use planning, reviews of relevant environmental planning instruments to minimise conflicts, additional Government intervention be required.
- Transport and logistics planning, prioritisation and funding.
- Ownership and operations of abattoirs and saleyards.
- Investment including domestic and foreign investment.
- Export marketing, markets, support and resourcing.
- Government environmental policy relative to farming, agriculture and intensive agriculture planning and practice.
- Potentially reshape and consistency from a planning approach and perspective
- Food production, security and the protection of natural resources which sustain food production.
- Planning and approvals for mixed purpose operations, increasing renewables and use and operations on prime agricultural land

4. Foreign Ownership of Prime Agricultural Land

Council members of Namoi Unlimited represent some of Australia’s premier agricultural enterprises and lands.

Foreign economies had a total of \$3.3 trillion invested in Australia at the end of 2017. The United States and United Kingdom are the biggest investors in Australia,

A4.1 Governments supports business and industry to grow and prosper in the Namoi region, creating employment and opportunities for the Local Government Areas it represents.

A4.2 Governments supports the role of the Foreign Investment Review Board as a non statutory body

Australian Government policies on foreign investment, bilateral international treaties and free trade agreements.

<p>followed by Belgium, Japan and Hong Kong (SAR of China). China is our ninth largest foreign investor, with 2.0 per cent of the total.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited acknowledges community concern in relation to acquisition of prime agricultural land by foreign owned entities. Namoi Unlimited will monitor media and examine decisions of the foreign Investment Review Board in relation to the purchase of prime agricultural land.</p>	<p>established to advise the Treasurer and the Government on Australia’s Foreign Investment Policy. Specifically that, proposed direct interests in an agribusiness generally require approval where the value of the investment is more than \$58 million, with an exemption applying to investors from Australia’s trade agreement partners and a \$0 threshold applying to Foreign Government investors.</p> <p>A4.3 Government funds the continued publication of reports on Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land by the Australian Taxation Office.</p>	
<p>5. Trade and Investment</p> <p>The <i>Regional Australia Institute</i> told Namoi Unlimited in 2015, that if it wanted to grow the economy it needed to support; agriculture, agricultural innovation, provide opportunity for investment on the right terms and accelerate exports.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited will engage and develop relationships in overseas markets in pursuit of new trade and investment opportunities to grow the region.</p> <p>Regions like the Namoi need specific and expert assistance to monitor dynamics of global markets, climate change and changing consumer demand, to assist industry to evolve and adapt.</p>	<p>A5.1 Governments increase the capacity and capability of, and funding for, Councils to grow the economy and create jobs across regional NSW by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resourcing Councils to providing place based response and dedicated support to businesses to export their products and services. ▪ Resourcing Councils to work with the NSW Government to attracting international investment. ▪ Increased resources for international offices, engagement, communications and marketing of regional NSW. 	<p>Australian Government policy, investment and programs for AusTrade.</p> <p>NSW Government policy, investment and programs for the Department of Industry and Trade and the Department of Primary Industries.</p>
<p>6. Mining and Resource Development and Extractive Industries</p> <p>The New England North West geology is diverse and there is the potential for mineral and energy exploration and production.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited believes communities need to be advised and informed of the potential risks to water, land and community resources as a result of mining and resource development in the Namoi region.</p>	<p>A6.1 Governments recognises the importance of protecting important farmlands such as the Liverpool Plains.</p> <p>A6.2 Governments continue to reduce exploration licenses in areas where development of mining or resource development encroaches on agricultural enterprises.</p> <p>A6.3 Governments approach mining development sensitively to minimise negative impacts on the environment, agricultural land, neighbouring businesses and the community.</p>	<p>NSW Government planning and land use legislation and policy, including the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Standing Council on Energy and Resources Multiple Land Use Framework.</p> <p>NSW Government mining and extraction legislation and policy including; NSW Mineral Exploration and Development Assessment and Approvals Process for Major Mining and Petroleum (including coal seam gas) Projects.</p>

<p>The Gunnedah coal basin contains the State’s third largest coal reserves and coal seam gas potential. Coal deposits also surround the Local Government Areas of Liverpool Plains Shire, Gunnedah Shire and have the potential to impact the economy of Tamworth Regional Council and to a lesser extent the rest of the Namoi region.</p> <p>The New England North West also contains deposits of gemstones, industrial minerals and extractive materials, with many small-scale mines in operation.</p>	<p>A6.4 Governments will work with Local Government to respond to the lifecycle of mining with the intent of providing public resources and services and infrastructure that reflects growth.</p> <p>A6.5 Government deliver greater protection to agricultural land from the impacts of mining and coal seam gas (CSG) activity, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ coal seam gas exclusion zones; ▪ safeguarding biophysical strategic agricultural land ; ▪ application and scrutiny of the Gateway process for State significant mining and coal seam gas proposals; ▪ acknowledging Critical Industry Clusters including the equine industry in the Namoi region; ▪ implement a Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel to scientifically assess mining and coal seam gas impacts on strategic agricultural land and its associated water resources; ▪ introduce regulations governing exploration activity, overseen by a Land and Water Commissioner; ▪ introduce an Aquifer Interference Policy; and ▪ introduce independent, robust and transparent Agricultural Impact Statement for all mining and resource development projects in the Namoi region. <p>A6.6 Governments extend, support and fund bioregional assessments to provide transparent and scientific information on potential impacts of gas and coal mining developments on water and the environment.</p>	
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<p>7. Connected and Enabled Freight and Transport Infrastructure</p> <p>The network of roads plays an important role in the freight challenge for NSW. The movement of freight across accessible and efficient road networks is critical for business and communities.</p> <p>increasing rail freight movements due to mining and resource development, rail level crossings are frequently closed.</p> <p>Investment and upgrading of rail infrastructure for passengers and freight capacity to enhance road capacity and reduce haulage costs.</p>	<p>A7.1 Government recognise and fund strategic network approaches to identifying and addressing transport and freight impediments.</p> <p>A7.2 Governments negotiate and fund the Namoi Roads Network Strategy staging an investment of \$300 million in roads to unlock the regions road transport network.</p> <p>A7.3 The Government requires ARTC to action and address;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the number of closed periods for crossings and the length of time crossings are closed; ▪ advise Councils of proposed closures of crossings; ▪ take any action to mitigate the cumulative impacts of increased rail transport on communities; ▪ collaborate with Governments to plan solutions for infrastructure upgrades; ▪ Upgrading of rail haulage network through Liverpool Plains Shire Council and the Gunnedah Shire Council. <p>A7.4 Governments plan and invest in increased capability and capacity for passenger and freight on rail on the North West Rail Line Network including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Newcastle to Narrabri, ○ Werris Creek to Tamworth ○ Newcastle to Armidale ○ Barraba Spur Line ○ Inland Rail ○ Tamworth Intermodal ○ Werris Creek Over rail bridge ○ Quirindi Over rail bridge 	<p>Strategic rail infrastructure policy, programs and investments, the Investment Infrastructure Program, the Black Spot Program, Bridges Renewal Program, Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program, Roads to Recovery</p> <p>Roads and Maritime NSW programs for funding</p> <p>Transport for NSW Freight and Ports Strategy</p> <p>Heavy Vehicles and freight policy, frameworks and logistics</p> <p>Roads to Recovery Statement of Expectations</p>
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	<p>A7.5 Governments further subsidise passenger rail travel pricing.</p> <p>A7.6 Commonwealth Government funding for Roads to Recovery increase in real terms road funding direct financial assistance to Local Government.</p> <p>A7.7 Governments commit to working with Local Government and to provide funding for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commercial air services into Gunnedah; ▪ Development of the Tamworth International Air freight capability and capacity; ▪ Slots for regional services into Sydney Airport; ▪ Providing ongoing information to Local Government about the introduction of a second airport at Badgery’s Creek and the future of Kingsford Smith Airport. 	
<p>8. Energy Infrastructure</p> <p>Namoi Councils support the view that renewable energy is essential to Australia’s future economic growth and prosperity and a strategic driver in providing for future jobs and assisting with the lowering of greenhouse gas emissions posed by climate change.</p> <p>The development of renewable energy sources and enterprises in the region should not be to the detriment of base load security or the introduction of new technologies.</p> <p>Organisations like Namoi Unlimited can work with all levels of government to plan and prepare for infrastructure and energy needed into the future.</p>	<p>A8.1 Governments provide financial assistance by way of subsidies and incentives to industry to develop and harness the energy technologies such as Bio Energy, Geothermal Energy, Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Pumped Hydro and HELE to support economic development and reduce energy prices.</p> <p>A8.2 Governments support and incentivise the development of the New England North West region as a Hub for Renewable energy in NSW.</p> <p>A8.3 Governments support the investigation of energy projects to support innovation between the agricultural and energy sectors.</p> <p>A8.4 Governments engage early and consistently to inform the community of potential and approved developments.</p>	<p>NSW Electricity Supply Act 1995</p> <p>Australian Energy Market Commission</p>

<p>9. Federal Government Local Government Assistance Grants (FAGs)</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited supports the Australian Local Government Association’s (ALGA) position on grants.</p> <p>Local government (councils) is the third tier of government in the Australian system of government. Councils are primarily responsible for providing a wide range of critical local area services including planning, libraries and waste management and for infrastructure provision (e.g. roads and footpaths, parks, sporting grounds and swimming pools) required by the local community.</p> <p>Local government nationally employs about 187,000 Australians (around 10 per cent of the total public sector). It also owns and manages non-financial assets with an estimated written down value of \$408 billion (2015-16), raises around 3.6 per cent of Australia’s total taxation revenue per annum and has an annual operational expenditure of around \$35 billion (2015-16), just under 6 per cent of total public sector spending.</p> <p>Nationally, local government derives nearly 90 per cent of its revenue from its own sources (including rates and services charges), compared to around 50 per cent for state governments. Grants from other levels of government make up only 10 per cent of local government’s total revenue, however these grants are particularly important in areas with a low rate base, and/or high growth rate, and rapidly expanding service and infrastructure needs.</p> <p>Local government’s expenditure is directed towards the provision of local services across the nation. These services include: housing and community amenities, transport and communications, recreation and culture and general public services. These services are critical</p>	<p>A9.1 Secure annual Commonwealth funding for local government equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue.</p> <p>A9.2 Oppose revenue constraints such as rate capping and cost shifting.</p> <p>A9.3 Encourage councils to acknowledge Financial Assistance Grants as a Commonwealth untied grant to local government.</p> <p>A9.4 Strengthen local government’s credentials as a trusted partner for tied Commonwealth grants.</p> <p>A9.5 Secure annual Commonwealth funding for joint organisations of Councils.</p>	<p>ALGA Federal Budget 2019-20 Submission</p>
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<p>to the productivity, wellbeing and liveability of local communities and cumulatively of the nation.</p>		
<p>10. Engaged People Seeking Skills for the Future</p> <p>People and their skills are fundamental to the growth of our economies, our communities and lifestyle.</p> <p>Local Government is one of the largest employers in the Namoi region and has an important role to play in the attraction of people to the region, and the development of skills.</p> <p>Competition for skills across the region occurs across a number of sectors, for example mining and resource development offers above market rewards and conditions which inhibits the ability of Local Government to compete for skills.</p> <p>There is a perception that there are ‘no jobs or limited jobs’ in regional areas.</p> <p>As a group of Councils, members can collaborate to increase capacity and capability in skills areas that maybe difficult to full as individual Councils.</p>	<p>A10.1 Regional Trade Training Centre located in Gunnedah Shire Council including funding to establish and operate a trades training Centre in the heart of the Gunnedah Basin which is estimated to contain recoverable coal reserves of 1.48 billion tonnes - about 13% of NSW total coal reserves.</p> <p>A10.2 TAFE NSW is funded and strategically positioned to meet the workforce needs of Local Government, industry and the regional community.</p> <p>A10.3 Establishment of a University in the Tamworth Region including funding for the establishment of a university in Tamworth Regional Council that services the Namoi region and beyond. Commonwealth placements to fund the ongoing operations of a university in the region.</p>	
<p>11. Emergency Assistance</p> <p>Across Australia local government plays an important role building resilient and sustainable communities, particularly when it comes to dealing with natural hazards and other threats.</p> <p>Local governments are increasingly playing crucial roles in preparing communities through various mitigation interventions, assisting in response and playing a key leadership role in rebuilding and recovery efforts.</p> <p>Namoi Unlimited supports the ALGA policy work focuses on ensuring local government is recognised and supported in helping to build greater levels of resilience</p>	<p>A11.1 To do this ALGA is actively engaging with other levels of government on the continuation of appropriate Commonwealth funding to support councils and communities to mitigate and recover from natural disasters.</p> <p>Emergency Management</p> <p>Investment in the mitigation of risk, the promotion of community safety and warning systems, engaging partners and communities, protecting built and natural environments and community resilience.</p> <p>Support and funding for a whole-of-government, multi-agency and all hazards approach.</p>	<p>Emergency Management Australia</p> <p>National Strategy for Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub</p> <p>Productivity Commission – Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements (2014)</p> <p>Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</p>

<p>in Australia’s diverse communities and geographic regions.</p> <p>The size, severity, timing, location and impacts of disasters are difficult to predict and our changing climate increases the uncertainty about future risks. Scientific modelling suggests that climate change will likely result in an increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Rising sea levels are increasing the likelihood of coastal erosion and severe inundation.</p> <p>Disaster resilience is a shared responsibility for individuals, households, businesses and communities, as well as for governments.</p> <p>In 2018, following floods, cyclones and fires which greatly impacted communities across Australia, the Commonwealth Government established a National Resilience Taskforce within the Home Affairs Department to lead nation-wide reforms to reduce the impact and financial burden of disasters on our communities and economy. The Taskforce’s first priority is to develop a five-year national disaster mitigation framework to reduce the impact of disasters.</p> <p>Local governments contribute to Australia’s biosecurity in both metropolitan and rural/regional areas. The movement of animals and other livestock through our cities and towns via ports, roads and rail, as well as by foot across diverse rural landscapes, can expose our domestic agricultural and grazing industries and natural environment to risk from invasive pests, disease and noxious weeds.</p>	<p>Natural Disaster Resilience</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government invests a total of \$26.1 million each year in the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience to fund priority disaster resilience initiatives. These funds are matched by state and territory governments.</p> <p>Changes to the Natural Disaster Recovery (NDR) Program to allow councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ greater flexibility and the self-determination of how NDR funding is spent; ○ funding to be spent on the replacement of infrastructure to the same standard of that damaged or destroyed; ○ a disaster management program and pool of funds to fund renewal or replacement of vital public. <p>Biosecurity</p> <p>ALGA provides support to state and territory local government associations on national-scale biosecurity issues through representation on peak working groups including the National Biosecurity Committee and on Federal Government initiatives that work across the tiers of government to help maintain and protect Australia’s biosecurity.</p> <p>The role and investment in this function at a Local Government level is increased.</p>	
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DROUGHT ADVOCACY

IMMEDIATE DROUGHT RESPONSE

1. Provide an additional round of funding for Councils in the Namoi region of up to \$2million under the Drought Communities Programme funding to be spent on local infrastructure projects that provide local employment and local contractor spend.
2. Provide funding to pre-schools to fund and provide social and mental health resources for children living in drought declared communities.
3. Enact an amendment to the existing eligibility criteria for Drought Loans through the Regional Investment Corporation that will extend eligibility for loans to small business in drought declared areas, that:
 - At least 75% labour is provided to the farm business.
 - At least 50% income earned from the farm business (under non-drought circumstances).
4. Provide funding direct to Local Government Authorities to waive Land Rates on primary production land in drought impacted areas.
5. Direct program administrators to prioritise funding for incentives and businesses to support, establish and retain business and employment in drought impacted areas.
6. Investigate whether capital repayments of debt by primary producers could be fully tax deductible. This would assist primary producers reduce debt in good times so that they can draw on the equity in lean times. It would reduce interest repayments meanwhile providing a cashflow benefit. This option would have a similar effect to the Farm Management Deposit Scheme.
7. Investigate whether GST should be added to the interest repayments made by primary producers. EG, if a primary producer makes an interest repayment of \$200,000.00, the sales required to fund that is \$220,000.00. If the repayment had GST added to it, then the primary producer would be able to balance out purchases to NIL GST cost, for improved cashflow.
8. Place a \$1million off-farm asset limit under the Farm Management Deposit Scheme to ensure that the primary producers who access the Scheme need the benefit it offers and use the deposited funds in lean times. At 30 September 2019, the total holdings in the Scheme were \$5.75 billion (cf. agriculture.gov.au).
9. Provide a 100% rebate on farm Water Infrastructure up to the value of \$100,000.00 to build water reserves for future droughts.
10. Reform to the Farm Household Allowance including (and as recommended by the review committee):
 - Decoupling the FHA from the Social Security Act 1991 with the aim of simplifying and tailoring the application process and eligibility settings to farm businesses.
 - Prioritisation of a meaningful mutual obligation process, whereby farmers work with the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) to engage in a viability assessment enabling them to either plan through the current financial hardship and prepare for future business shocks, or exit the industry with dignity.
 - Revise the eligibility for the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) role to include business support. Enhance the role of the RFCS under the FHA program to focus on business coaching of recipients, with the addition of a role for a financial advisor. To minimise duplication, this should utilise existing processes undertaken by the RFCS.

WATER

11. Water infrastructure is critical for the region's economy. A number of reports at a State and Commonwealth level have indicated there are issues in the coordination and collaboration, management and priority of programs, policy and initiatives.

Water is the number one concern for Namoi Unlimited, its Councils, business and communities.

A psychologist commented to our delegate Jock Nivison that the most pronounced increase in clientele for her - is citizens with enormous anxiety over water security. This is being enhanced by the never ending media around "day ZERO" where towns will run out of water.

When basic human needs such as water, shelter and safety are threatened or removed then people have trouble processing anything beyond that and it is debilitating for these people.

From a business point of view, there is unanimous consensus that any town without long term water security will decline.

Namoi Unlimited, the member Councils and the delegation have water security priorities to:

- Guarantee town and business use
- Harness the potential to grow productivity and employment

Water policy and programs require a cross-government, priority focus and consolidated approach. We need National leadership and cooperation on water.

12. Increasing the Emergency Water Grant to 50% and extending the repayment period. In the 2014 drought this created a substantial injection of capital into the community and provided water security for this current drought. Animal welfare issues are more acute when water security is weakened.

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

Research and Collaboration

13. Development of Inter-governmental and Inter-agency Committee to create and implement an early warning system for drought, be responsible for the analysis of data on crop and pasture conditions, fodder and grain stores, percentage change in livestock numbers and rainfall departure from 'normal' precipitation.

Priority for research should be the 123 Local Government Areas deemed eligible for drought communities funding.

Recording the intensity, duration and spatial coverage of drought will assist future drought measures.

Create a rigid framework around drought with clear defined levels of assistance that automatically kick in at certain levels of severity.

This will provide farmers with surety, greater capacity for budgeting and decision-making.

14. Consolidate research and review of economic development programs in regional NSW/Australia.

Funding and support for local and regional Chambers of Commerce to employ high level business development resources or contract resources that are aligned and complementary to the economic development functions of Local Government to implement a level of business support and referral.

Consolidate the learnings and research on attracting, supporting and retaining business and employment to regionals. Fund appropriate organisations to assess these learnings and resource projects and activities for businesses.

Domestic and global consumers are demanding the products that Australian producers are providing and able to provide. Research primary production commodity prices for beef, dairy and others, to understand why prices at the farm gate are not keeping up with inflation. Funding and resourcing needs to be provided at a regional level rather than an industry level, to understand transport and other barriers.

This would potentially develop solutions to address the erosion of incomes on farms and generate more available funds to build resilience in farming operations.

Future Programs and Assistance

15. Consider tax reform around drought, work with the NSW Government to remove Payroll Tax in rural and remote areas, incentivise business development and employment in these areas. Work toward a resolution of Payroll Tax with the NSW Government, whereby it is eventually removed entirely and replaced entirely by a tax on production rather than fixed costs.

Fund a regional tax relief and incentives trial and pilot program across the New England North West region to support the growth of business, employment.
16. Programs and Grants for innovation in drought management, available to individuals and business for projects that have the potential to benefit the whole industry.

Establish infrastructure programs and incentives for businesses predominately servicing agriculture, similar to those that have been or are in place for Primary Producers.
17. Greater incentives for critical professions such as doctors, nurses, teachers to work in rural areas, and stay in rural areas.
18. Fund and enable training providers to specialise and enhance financial literacy in the agricultural sector. There are short courses like “the business edge course” that are important for farmers to build skills around strategic decision making - however, they can be expensive. There is potential to build the capability of unskilled labourers to become well informed, strategic managers.
19. Diversify the criteria for the Farm Management Deposit Scheme that can produce an income stream to dividends and interest growth in times of drought. Change the eligibility to enable company structures to access the scheme but maintain the asset tests.
20. Consider a superannuation type scheme around drought with compulsory payments (similar to the stock levy) to create an income stream and economic stimuli in drought.
21. Build resilience in agricultural communities and families by continuing and increase efforts to decentralise government departments and services. Such activities attract people to communities, ensure incomes are diversified and build capacity in agricultural reliant towns.
22. Develop clearly defined legislation around how banks will deal with farm debt, especially in times of drought; there should be a mechanism to protect good farmers from unjustified foreclosure.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A full copy of the Audited Financial Statements for the 2019-2020 year is provided on the website at www.namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au/content/uploads/2019/10/191017-AGA-Board-Meeting-Walcha.pdf

Financial Statements 2020

Namoi Joint Organisation General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

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

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (as amended) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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 the JO's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with JO's accounting and other records.

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

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of JO made on 6 October 2020.



Cr Jamie Duffley
Chairperson
6 October 2020



Cr Col Mummy
Voting Representative Board Member
6 October 2020



Rebel Thomson
Executive Officer
6 October 2020

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 2. Revenue from continuing operations

\$	AASB	2020	Period 11/06/18 to 30/06/19
(a) Member Council contributions			
Gunnedah Shire Council	1058 (2)	30,540	30,000
Gwydir Shire Council	1058 (2)	30,540	30,000
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	1058 (2)	30,540	30,000
Tamworth Regional Council	1058 (2)	30,540	30,000
Walcha Council	1058 (2)	30,540	30,000
Namoi Water Alliance Membership	1058 (2)	27,036	-
<u>TOTAL MEMBER COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS</u>		<u>179,736</u>	<u>150,000</u>

The AASB notation (above) identifies the revenue recognition pattern for material items of Council revenue:

15 (1) Indicates income recognised under AASB 15 "at a point in time",
 15 (2) Indicates income recognised under AASB 15 "over time",
 1058 (1) Indicates income recognised under AASB 1058 "at a point in time", while
 1058 (2) Indicates income recognised under AASB 1058 "over time".

\$	2020	Period 11/06/18 to 30/06/19
(b) User charges and fees		
Vehicle Leaseback Fees	7,958	-
China Study Tour Fees	-	22,788
<u>TOTAL USER CHARGES AND FEES</u>	<u>7,958</u>	<u>22,788</u>

The AASB notation (above) identifies the revenue recognition pattern for material items of Council revenue:

15 (1) Indicates income recognised under AASB 15 "at a point in time",
 15 (2) Indicates income recognised under AASB 15 "over time",
 1058 (1) Indicates income recognised under AASB 1058 "at a point in time", while
 1058 (2) Indicates income recognised under AASB 1058 "over time".

\$	AASB	2020	Period 11/06/18 to 30/06/19
(c) Other revenues			
Other - ATO credit pre 2019	1058 (1)	9,032	-
<u>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE</u>		<u>9,032</u>	<u>-</u>

The AASB notation (above) identifies the revenue recognition pattern for material items of Council revenue:

15 (1) Indicates income recognised under AASB 15 "at a point in time",
 15 (2) Indicates income recognised under AASB 15 "over time",
 1058 (1) Indicates income recognised under AASB 1058 "at a point in time", while
 1058 (2) Indicates income recognised under AASB 1058 "over time".

Operating	Operating	Capital	Capital
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Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 2. Revenue from continuing operations (continued)

\$	AA&B	2020	Period 11/06/18 to 30/08/18	2020	Period 11/06/18 to 30/08/18
(d) Grants					
Joint Organisation Establishment	15 (1)	72,007	300,000	-	-
China - Namoi Engagement Project		-	20,000	-	-
Contaminated Lands Program	15 (2)	38,372	140,000	-	-
New England North West Export Workshop		-	7,890	-	-
Increasing Resilience to Climate Change	15 (2)	144,080	-	-	-
OLG Capacity Building	15 (1)	23,193	-	-	-
Total grants		<u>277,652</u>	<u>467,890</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Grant revenue is attributable to:					
- Commonwealth funding		-	20,000	-	-
- State funding		133,572	447,890	-	-
- Other funding		<u>144,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>277,652</u>	<u>467,890</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The AA&B notation (above) identifies the revenue recognition pattern for material items of Council revenue:

15 (1) Indicates income recognised under AA&B 15 "at a point in time",

15 (2) Indicates income recognised under AA&B 15 "over time",

1058 (1) Indicates income recognised under AA&B 1058 "at a point in time", while

1058 (2) Indicates income recognised under AA&B 1058 "over time".

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 4. Expenses from continuing operations

\$	2020	Period 11/06/18 to 30/06/18
(a) Employee benefits and on-costs		
Salaries and wages	168,722	156,788
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	25,461	26,203
Superannuation	16,960	18,267
Workers' compensation insurance	4,024	12,114
Total employee costs	215,167	213,372
<u>TOTAL EMPLOYEE COSTS EXPENSED</u>	<u>215,167</u>	<u>213,372</u>
Number of 'full-time equivalent' employees (FTE) at year end	1	1
Number of 'full-time equivalent' employees (FTE) at year end (incl. vacancies)	1	1

(b) Borrowing costs

(i) Interest bearing liability costs

Interest on leases	260	-
Total interest bearing liability costs	260	-
Total interest bearing liability costs expensed	260	-
<u>TOTAL BORROWING COSTS EXPENSED</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>-</u>

Accounting policy for borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

\$	2020	Period 11/06/18 to 30/06/18
(c) Administrative expenses		
Contractor and consultancy costs	-	-
- Media and Communications	10,599	24,946
- Namoi Water Alliance	16,325	28,470
- Namoi Water Strategy	-	105,350
- Contaminated Lands	37,701	-
- Increasing Resilience to Climate Change	109,080	-
- Skills Pathways and Promotions	1,320	-
Auditors remuneration ²	6,150	6,000
Subscriptions	29,362	20,000
Training	-	10,934
Travel		
- Chair	4,179	2,044
- Employees	4,130	15,653
- Ningbo delegation	-	3,166
- Trade & Investment - China Study Tour	-	56,200
- Advocacy	8,805	9,841
- Other	647	-
Meetings	1,519	2,621
Other	17,178	18,069

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 4. Expenses from continuing operations (continued)

\$	2020	Period 11/06/18 to 30/06/19
Total administrative expenses	246,995	303,294
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	246,995	303,294
	-	-

2. Auditor remuneration

During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms

Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:

(i) Audit and other assurance services

Audit and review of financial statements	6,150	6,000
Total Auditor-General remuneration	6,150	6,000
Total Auditor remuneration	6,150	6,000

Accounting policy for expenses

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

\$	Notes	2020	Period 11/06/18 to 30/06/19
(d) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets			
Right of use assets	9	17,893	-
Total gross depreciation and amortisation costs		17,893	-
Total depreciation and amortisation costs		17,893	-
TOTAL DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION AND IMPAIRMENT FOR NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		17,893	-

Accounting policy for depreciation of non-financial assets

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method to allocate the cost of the asset over the estimated useful life. The useful life is included in Note 9 for right of use assets.

NAMOI UNLIMITED'S PROFILE

Namoi Unlimited consists of a range of Councils including Gunnedah Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council. Through member council cooperation, Namoi Unlimited is able to build on the unique and diverse economic, cultural and natural qualities of each region. JOs will not impose significant red tape or cost to their communities.



Namoi Unlimited is a Joint Organisation of Councils in New South Wales. Joint Organisation's of Councils is a voluntary function of Councils that enables them to collaborate, plan, set priorities and deliver important projects in regional NSW.

Councils in the Namoi region are; Gunnedah Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council.

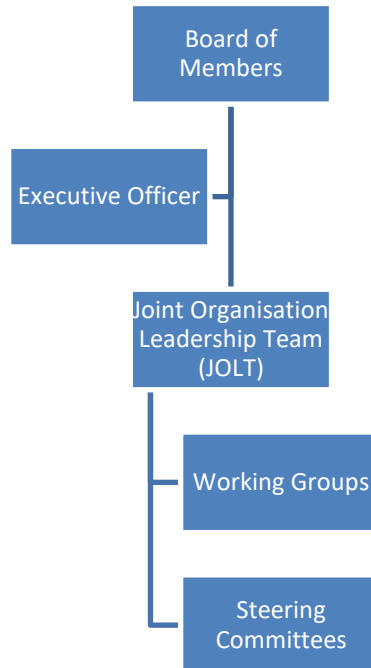
REPRESENTATIVES

The Board of Namoi Unlimited includes the Mayors of member Councils.

- Councillor Jamie Chaffey, Chairperson and Mayor Gunnedah Shire Council
- Councillor Colin Murray, Deputy Chairperson and Mayor Tamworth Regional Council
- Councillor Andrew Hope, Mayor Liverpool Plains Shire Council
- Councillor John Coulton, Mayor Gwydir Shire Council
- Councillor Eric Noakes, Mayor Walcha Council

The NSW Government is a non-voting Member and is represented by the Director – Regional NSW for the New England North West region.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



The Mayors receive advice and information about strategic and operational opportunities from the General Managers of member Councils. Working Groups are established with key experienced personnel from within each member Council. The Board, the General Managers Group and various working groups meet regularly throughout the Namoi region. The administration of the organisation is reliant on the support of member Councils and their staff. The organisation employs an Executive Officer to guide the organisations activities.

Steering Committees

A Steering Committee is a partnership between representatives of Namoi Unlimited, Member Councils, external parties or identified stakeholders to provide advice and undertake specific and collaborative project activities for Namoi Unlimited.

Active 2019-2020 Steering Committees are:

- Namoi Water Alliance (Established November 2012)
Established to collaborate on the supply, access, security, service functions, management and operation of water and sewer facilities.
- Roads and Transport (March 2016)
Established to collaborate and develop a road network that prioritises and focusses on freight, safety and regional development.

Working Groups

A Working Group is a partnership between Namoi Unlimited employees and representatives of Member Councils to provide advice and undertake specific and collaborative project activities for Namoi Unlimited.

Active 2019-2020 Working Groups are:

- Joint Organisation Leadership Team (JOLT)
- Contaminated Lands Project

MEMBER CONDUCT

Members are Councillors and are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community.

To guide the conduct of elected members, Council Code of Conduct and standards of conduct, behaviour, accountability and responsibilities apply to ensure public confidence is maintained.

The community expects the business of Local Government is to be conducted with efficiency, transparency and impartiality.

To mitigate any personal or private interests that may compromise the conduct and decisions of a Member, declaration of conflicts of interest is a standing agenda item for all Board meetings.

Member Allowances

The Chair and Members are not paid an annual fee. Member's expenses incurred by representing their Council discharging their functions and responsibilities may be paid by the Joint Organisation. Nil payments for expenses have been claimed by members.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Statutory Regulation	Report
Amount of rates and charges written off during year Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Reg), cl 132	Nil
<p>Total cost during the year of the payment of expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, councillors in relation to their civic functions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors • Telephone calls made by councillors • Attendance of councillors at conferences and seminars • Training of councillors and provision of skill development • Interstate visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses • Overseas visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses Reg cl 217(1)(a) 	Nil
Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a councillor 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 Mayors and Councillors	Nil
Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child of, or an immediate family member of, a councillor Reg cl 217(1)(a1) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii)	Nil
Details of each contract awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000 including: name of contractor (except employment contracts – contracts of service), nature of goods or services supplied and total amount payable Reg cl 217(1)(a2) (i), (ii)	Nil
Summary of the amounts incurred by the council in relation to legal proceedings including: amounts incurred by council in relation to proceedings taken by or against council (including out of court settlements), summary of the state of the progress of each legal proceeding and (if finalised) the result Reg cl 217(1)(a3)	Nil
Include resolutions made concerning work carried out on private land, including: details or a summary of any resolutions made under section, and Reg cl 217(1)(a4) & Act s 67, 67(2)(b)	Nil
Details or summary of any work carried out, where the charge is less than the approved fee, the proposed fee to be charged and the total amount subsidised by the Joint Organisation	Nil
Total amount contributed or otherwise granted to financially assist others Reg cl 217(1)(a5) & Act s 356	Nil
Statement of all external bodies that exercised functions delegated by the Joint Organisation Reg cl 217(1)(a6)	<p>Tamworth Regional Council has been delegated functions to provide human resources, financial, ICT, GIPA and PID functions to the Joint Organisations at no cost to the Joint Organisation.</p>

Statutory Regulation	Report
Statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which the Joint Organisation held a controlling interest Reg cl 217(1)(a7)	Nil
Statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which the Joint Organisation participated during the year Reg cl 217(1)(a8)	Nil
Statement of activities to implement its EEO management plan Reg cl 217(1)(a9)	Nil
Statement of the total remuneration package of the general manager Reg cl 217(1)(b)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v)	The salary component of the Executive Officer's package for the 2019-2020 financial year was
Total value of the salary component of the package	\$178,522.95.
Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of the salary component	Nil
Total amount payable by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the general manager may be a contributor	\$16,959.79 was the Employer's contribution, the Employee made Nil additional contributions.
Total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package	Nil
Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	Nil
Statement of the total remuneration packages of all senior staff members, expressed as the total (not of the individual members) Reg, cl 217(1)(c) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v)	Nil
A statement detailing the stormwater management services provided (if levied) Reg cl 217(1)(e)	Nil
A statement detailing the coastal protection services provided (if levied). Reg cl 217(1)(e1)	Nil
Detailed statement, prepared in accordance with such guidelines as may be issued by the Director-General from time to time, of the council's activities during the year in relation to enforcing, and ensuring compliance with, the provisions of the Companion Animals Act 1988 (CA Act) and the Companion Animal Regulation 2018	N/R
Report on certain proposed capital works projects where a capital expenditure review had been submitted OLG Capital Expenditure Guidelines	Nil
Councils considered to be 'human service agencies' under the CR Act (provide services directed at carers and/or people being cared for by carers) must report on compliance with the CR Act for the reporting period. Carers Recognition Act 2010 (CR Act), s 8(2)	N/R

Statuary Regulation	Report
Information on the implementation of council's Disability Inclusion Plan and give a copy to the Minister for Disability Services Disability Inclusion Act 2014, s 13(1)	Nil
Particulars of compliance with and effect of planning agreements in force during the year Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, s 7.5(5)	Nil
Recovery and threat abatement plans - Councils identified in a plan as responsible for implementation of measures included in the plan, to report on actions taken to implement measures as to the state of the environment in its area. Fisheries Management Act 1994, s220ZT (2)	Nil
Details of inspections of private swimming pools Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 (SP Reg) cl 23	Nil
Information included on government information public access activity. Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, s 125(1) Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, cl 8, Schedule 2	Namoi Unlimited received zero formal access and zero informal applications for the reporting year under Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009 (GIPA).
Information included on public interest disclosure activity. Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994, s 31 Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011, cl 4	Namoi Unlimited has no knowledge of any Public Interest Disclosures on its activities.

10. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

10.1 Section 60 Approval - Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Project

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	NSW Government DPIE (Water) Process for the Approval for Section 60 sewerage treatment works
Legal	Section 60, Local Government Act
Financial	Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Program Funding
Strategic Link	Water for the Future
Attachments	-

RECOMMENDATION	<p>That,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The report is noted.2) A Briefing Paper on agreed directions for advocacy is developed on behalf of members.3) When the application for Section 60 is completed and submitted;<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Correspondence is sent to the Minister for Water regarding the future opportunity for recycled water in communities and the outcomes of this project.▪ Correspondence is sent to the Minister for Local Government and the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Local Government regarding the process for the use of recycled water for Councils.▪ A meeting is sought with LGNSW, the NSW Water Directorate, Namoi Unlimited and DPIE (Water) Secretary regarding future opportunities for recycled water and project outcomes.▪ Copies of correspondence is sent to The Hon Kevin Anderson MP – Minister for Better Regulation.▪ Copies of correspondence and advocacy for assistance is sought from local members in the NSW Parliament.
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AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE To provide members with an advice and directions on advocacy on the application of Section 60 approval relative to the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change project funded through LGNSW by the EPA.

BACKGROUND Namoi Unlimited received funding under the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Program to undertake a project to;

- Assess opportunities for Councils to use recycled sewer water for gravel road maintenance and construction.
- Assess public acceptance and support for the use of recycled water.
- Seek approval through the Section 60 process to pilot the use of recycled waste water on gravel roads in the Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council areas.

COMMENTARY

Part of the strategic regional priority for Water for the Future, was a project to assess the opportunities to use recycled sewer water. This recommendation forms part of the Water for the Future strategy.

Funding was received by the NSW Government to undertake a project to;

- A. Complete a desktop assessment of the use of recycled water in Australia and around the world.
- B. Conduct a community survey to gauge support/objections to the use of recycled water for a number of uses. This part also aimed to increase the communities understanding of the types of recycled water and their potential uses.
- C. Complete a Section 60 process to pilot and test the use of recycled sewer water on gravel roads in the Tamworth Regional Council area and Walcha Council area.
- D. Assess the opportunities and results for increasing resilience to climate change for Councils through the use of recycled water.

Parts A and B of this project have been completed. Part A has been completed and provides detail on the use of recycled water in Australia and around the world. This part also provided details of what Councils and for what purpose the use of recycled water has been obtained.

Part B provides support from the community for the use of recycled water (for specific tasks) in the community.

The need to complete a Section C application as part of this project was not anticipated however the project funds have supported the engagement of the consultant to assist with this process.

Under Section 60 of the Local Government Act, local water utilities are required to obtain ministerial approval for water recycling schemes. Whilst the responsibility of the NSW Local Government Act rests with the Local Government Minister, approval under Section 60 of the Act rests with the Minister for Water.

The process to obtain a Section 60 is extensive ensuring that any risks to human health and the environment is considered thoroughly. This process involves;

- Undertaking initial consultation with DPIE Water
- Undertaking a comprehensive risk assessment including holding a risk management workshop with DPIE Water, NSW Health and the EPA.
- Develop and submit a recycled water management plan.

There are a number of areas that an application needs to address under the risk assessment guidelines, specifically, those that are causing concern for this project are;

- **Maximum risk levels of all potential hazards and hazardous events.**
 There has been significant work done with Councils on identifying the potential hazards, and managing the risks. The most recent Council to receive approval under Section 60 is Mid Coast Council. The approval was an amendment to an existing Section 60 approval, now extended to Tuncurry Treatment Plant and Hawkes Nest for recycled water to be used for stock water as well as road maintenance. This information and experience is to be used in forming our final application. The testing of water from both Tamworth and Walcha treatment plants has been undertaken, a further set of testing is to be completed in November/December.
- **Identify all controls for each event according to its risk level, ensuring that the levels derived are realistic and acceptable. Identify controls for the identified risks.**
 Council officers are already exposed to such risks in treatment plants and appropriate measures and controls are in place, and no significant incidents have been reported.
 The acceptable use proposed is at Level 4 Water Restrictions for Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council.
- **Ensure indicative log removal values for treatment and onsite controls match the required log removal values for the highest level of public exposure according to the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risk (2006).**
 This document provides specific guidance for a number of uses but not specifically roads maintenance.

Without Section 60 approval either for use or the trial in this project may not be completed.

Councils will complete the additional set of testing required, finalise the risk management strategy aligning it to the national guidelines, and then submit the Application for Section 60 approval to DPIE Water. This is expected to be completed early in 2021.

There is significant interest from Councils across NSW about the outcomes proposed in this project.

The opportunities for recycled waste water to be used to combat climate change – safely, is documented in numerous reports as well as in the Australian Guidelines.

The use of recycled water on gravel roads or any road maintenance project from a local water utility facility brings transport costs into play, yet it seems that water from any source for road maintenance and construction doesn't appear to be valued in applications for funding from member Councils.

It would appear that the only resources available to Councils to investigate schemes of use such as this, rest with Councils. Specific funding and or resourcing through DPIE can assist in developing these opportunities for greater water security in the Namoi region.

This is a potential area for advocacy for Namoi Unlimited in collaboration with LGNSW and the NSW Water Directorate.

Namoi Unlimited last wrote to the Minister for Local Government on the 4 December 2019 seeking support to from the Minister to the Minister for Water for a review of this process. The Minister for Local Government referred the correspondence to the Minister for Water.

10.2 Additional Briefing Papers – ATTACHMENT F

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	Advocacy and Leadership
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Water for the Future, Enabled and Connected Infrastructure and Engaged People and Skills
Attachments	ATTACHMENT F – TEMPLATE FOR ADDITIONAL BRIEFING PAPER

RECOMMENDATION

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE	To provide members with the opportunity at a Board meeting to discuss and develop positions of advocacy.
BACKGROUND	-
COMMENTARY	-

RECOMMENDATION

That ...

- Proposed actions

KEY ISSUES

- Urgency

CONSULTATION

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

BACKGROUND

11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 General Purpose Financial Reports for Period Ended 30 June 2020 –

ATTACHMENT G

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	Code of Meeting Practice for Namoi Joint Organisation of Councils
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	
Attachments	ATTACHMENT G - General Purpose Financial Reports for the Period Ended 30 June 2020 PLEASE NOTE ATTACHMENT G IS PROVIDED AS A SEPARATE PDF ATTACHMENT TO THIS BUSINESS PAPER.

RECOMMENDATION	THAT in relation to the report Namoi Joint Organisation Financial Reports for Period Ended 30 June 2020, members receive and note the NSW Auditor report and commentary as presented on pages 34 to 39.
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AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE	The purpose of this report is to present the Report from the NSW Auditor included in the final copy of the Audited Financial Reports for Namoi Joint Organisation for the period ended 30 June 2020.
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BACKGROUND	The Financial Reports for Namoi Joint Organisation for the period ended 30 June 2020, were endorsed by resolution at the meeting on the 6 October 2020. These reports were lodged with the NSW Office of Local Government on the 27 October 2020.
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ATTACHMENT G, provided The Auditor General's report on pages 34 through to 39. in the ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 1 has supplied unqualified financial audit reports.

COMMENTARY	The Report on the Conduct of the Audit, providing detail on the Net Operating Result and Financial Position has been provided by the Audit Office and is now included in the Annual Financial Reports.
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In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, a notice was published on the www.namoiunlimited.nsw.gov.au website giving public notice

that the Financial and Auditor's Reports are available for inspection at any of the member Council's offices, and that the reports would be formally presented in its entirety to the meeting on the 8 December 2020.

In accordance with section 420 of the Act, submissions in relation to the Financial Reports are now invited from the public. Any submissions received will be referred to the Auditor General and reported in due course.

11.2 Action List – ATTACHMENT H

Author	Executive Officer
Policy	Advocacy and Leadership
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	Water for the Future, Enabled and Connected Infrastructure and Engaged People and Skills
Attachments	ATTACHMENT H – ACTION LIST

RECOMMENDATION


AMENDED/ENDORSED

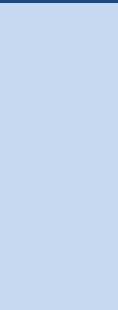
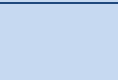




MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE	To provide members with a report on identified actions from Board meetings and meetings of JOLT.
BACKGROUND	-
COMMENTARY	-

 Completed	 Underway	 Overdue	 Not yet commenced
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Date	Strategic Regional Priority	Resolution	Action	Status
03/12/2019 BOARD	Advocacy and Leadership	Gwydir Shire Council sought a report from the Executive Officer to table a benchmark activity report of Namoi Unlimited activity and value to other Joint Organisations through the publishing of their Annual Performance Reports.	NSW JOs will collect these reports and a small group will be initiated to develop a set of benchmarks or consistency across those reports. These reports are to be submitted by the end of November early December. Assessment of these reports will commence between Christmas and New Year, and a report tabled at the March meeting of NSW Joint Organisations.	
JOLT	Engaged People and Skills	Regional Workforce Strategy and Bio-diversity Project Officer business case	Proposed for consideration Q3 2020-2021 financial year.	
18/05/2020 JOLT	Organisational Growth and Governance	Proposal to develop a shared service under the proposed new framework for Internal Audit and Risk.	Preliminary assessment has been completed, the draft proposal is referred to member Councils for feedback and commitment. This service was deferred until advice is received from OLG on the possible roll out of this function.	
27/11/2020 JOLT		Proposal to develop a shared service under the proposed new contract clause for Sub-Contractor management in RMCC agreements.	Preliminary assessment has been completed, a draft proposal is to be prepared for the December JOLT meeting for feedback and commitment.	
06/10/2020 BOARD	Strategic Regional Priorities	Namoi Industry and Economic Super-Cluster Project members agree; I. the draft Business Case for this project is endorsed; and II. the Executive Officer seeks a funding variation from the NSW Office of Local Government to allocate \$60,000 of its capacity building funding to this project, and subject to the approval of the grant application.	Business case has been completed and submitted to Regional NSW to commence the project funding assessment.	
19/10/2020		A briefing paper for Councils, describing the benefits for Councillors to consider is to be developed.	Refer Agenda Item 9.1	

JOLT		HR Working Group to aggregate numbers for the CTH apprentices and trainees subsidy, and meet with Joblink Plus in relation to the CTH program and the draft MOU.	Draft MOU has been provided to Joblink Plus, information has been requested from members of the HR working group.	
	Organisational Growth and Governance	Procurement Strategy developed.	Refer Directions in the Financial Sustainability Report at Agenda Item 9.5	

11.2 Calendar of Planned Activities – ATTACHMENT I

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Organisational Growth and Governance
Attachments	ATTACHMENT I – CALENDAR OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	THAT the calendar of activities is noted.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide members with the opportunity to have visibility over the calendar of activities that the Executive Officer represents members.
BACKGROUND:	Providing to members an outline of activities planned by the Joint Organisation.
COMMENTARY:	-

ATTACHMENT I – Joint Organisation Planned Activity

Dec	4	Namoi Water Alliance	Tamworth
		New England North West Resilience and Recovery Sub-Committee of the Regional Leadership Executive	Online
	8	Procurement Working Group	Online
		Board Meeting	Walcha
	10	LGNSW and DPIE Climate Adaptation Group	Online
		Contaminated Lands Project Working Group	Online
	14	JOLT Workshop on Financial Sustainability	Tamworth
	18	NSW Contaminated Lands network meeting	Online
	20	Executive Officer on Leave	
Jan	4	Executive Officer returns from Leave	
	12	Procurement Working Group	Online
	18	JOLT meeting	Tamworth
Feb	2	Board Meeting	Quirindi

11.3 2020-2021 Budget – ATTACHMENT J

Author	Executive Officer/JOLT
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Organisational Growth and Governance
Attachments	ATTACHMENT J – 2020-2021 BUDGET

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: That the members endorsed the revised 2020-2021 Budget.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To seek the endorsement of members for a revised budget for 2020-2021.

BACKGROUND: The annual budget is approved at the commencement of the financial year, a review has been conducted by the Executive Officer and JOLT.

COMMENTARY: Budgets for administration and project work have been reviewed and are provided in the following attachment.

Members should note the amendments to the revised budget for 2020-2021.

- Completion of the 2019-2020 audit
 - Review of anticipated project management fees as per the introduction of fees in the Statement of Revenues
 - Review of general expenditure in response to COVID and travel and meeting activity
 - Anticipated project work contracted or in negotiation
-

**2019-2020 NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION BUDGET (Ex GST) -
ADMINISTRATION**

		EX GST BUDGET ADMIN
Income		
Retained Earnings	Unrestricted Cash 2019-2020 Audit	154,569
Fees	\$31,334 X 5 members	156,670
Project Income	Council work	3,500
	Contaminated Lands	4,158
	Increasing Resilience to Climate Change	16,850
	Namoi Regional Town Water Supply Strategy	30,240
Administration	Interest	-
TOTAL INCOME		365,987
Expenses		
Administration & Governance	Bank Fees	300
	Business Name Registrations	-
	Audit	6,500
	Board Meetings	1,500
	JOLT	825
	Other Meetings	1,000
	Printing & Stationary	250
Travel and Accommodation	Chair's Expenses	2,000
	EO Expenses	2,000
Employees and Costs	Executive Officer	200,000
	Workers Compensation	-
	Telephone	420
	Motor Vehicle	10,000
	Engagement and Communications	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		224,795

2019-2020 NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION BUDGET (Ex GST) - PROJECT ACTIVITY

			EX GST BUDGET PROJECTS
Income			
Retained Earnings	Restricted Cash	2019-2020 Audit	312,355
Fees	Namoi Water Alliance	Internal Restricted Cash	32,209
	VendorPanel	Annual Licence Fee*	50,000
Grants	Contaminated Lands		140,000
	Increasing Resilience to Climate Change	Project Officer	22,800
	Namoi Regional Town		
	Water Supply Strategy	Contract Management	238,916
		Council Contributions	-
		RTWSS DPIE Grant	325,000
TOTAL INCOME			1,121,280
Expenses			
Strategic Regional Projects	Water for the Future	OLG - Capacity Building	30,000
		Namoi Water Alliance	-
		RTWSS DPIE Grant	588,916
	Enabled Infrastructure	OLG - RMCC Capacity Building	30,000
	Vendor Panel		
	Membership	Annual Licence Fee*	50,000
	Skills and People	OLG - Graduate Program	30,000
	Contaminated Lands	EPA - Capacity Building	239,000
	Increasing Resilience to Climate Change		92,000
	Namoi Industry and Economic Super-Cluster Project		-
	Advocacy & Leadership		-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			1,059,916

12. ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERTAINING TO THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

12.1 Vale Doug Cush

Author	Chair
Policy	-
Legal	-
Financial	-
Strategic Link	-
Attachments	-
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:	That correspondence is sent to Mrs Helen Cush and family acknowledging the life long work of her husband Doug Cush in the New England North West region.
AMENDED/ENDORSED	
MOVED:	
SECONDED:	
REJECTED/CARRIED	
PURPOSE:	To provide the opportunity for members to acknowledge the contribution of Mr Doug Cush to the region.
BACKGROUND:	-
COMMENTARY:	<p>The NSW grains industry has lost one of its favourite sons and one of the most innovative farmers with the passing of Doug Cush.</p> <p>Mr Cush, 72, of Saltwell, Bellata, and Bellata Gold Milling, Tamworth, became known well beyond farming circles when he established a milling and export operation to process premium-quality durum wheat from his North West NSW farms into award-winning semolina and flour.</p> <p>He was a fierce advocate for ensuring farmers were properly rewarded for their premium grain and the creation of Bellata Gold Milling allowed him to take control of the processing and marketing of his high-quality durum wheat.</p> <p>The Bellata district between Narrabri and Moree produces some of the best durum wheat in the world. Bellata Gold became a shining example of what could be achieved for economic growth in regional Australia through the local processing of food.</p> <p>Doug was a strong supporter of Namoi Unlimited’s push for greater export capacity and capability for the region, and participated in the 2019 visit to China.</p> <p>Doug is survived by his wife, Helen, and their three daughters Penny Blatchford, "Innesfail", Gurley, Natalie Tydd, "Yatta", Bellata, and Michelle Shaw, Bardon, Qld, along with nine grandchildren.</p> <p>(This report includes content from the article “Farming loses leading advocate and innovator Doug Cush, aged 72” by Vernon Graham from the Farm National Online published on the 28 Oct 2020.)</p>

12.2 Gwydir Shire Council – ATTACHMENTS K AND L

Author	Chair
Policy	-
Legal	NSW Local Government (Regional Joint Organisations) Proclamation 2018 [2018-192] (February 2020)
Financial	-
Strategic Link	-
Attachments	<p>ATTACHMENT K – REPORT FROM GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 NOVEMBER 2020</p> <p>ATTACHMENT L – REPORT TO NAMOI UNLIMITED MEMBERS</p>

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: That Namoi Unlimited seeks urgent advice from the NSW Office of Local Government through the Minister to clarify the process for Section 400ZC 2(b) ‘amendment to a joint organisation’.

AMENDED/ENDORSED

MOVED:

SECONDED:

REJECTED/CARRIED

PURPOSE: To provide a report to members after correspondence was received from Gwydir Shire Council regarding their future association with Namoi Unlimited.

BACKGROUND: At a Council workshop at the end of October Gwydir Shire Council Councillors collectively decided to seek the concurrence from Namoi Unlimited enabling Gwydir Shire to relocate their membership into the New England Joint Organisation and Gwydir Shire Council requested that this be tabled at the next Namoi Unlimited Board Meeting.

COMMENTARY: A report was then tabled to the meeting of Gwydir Shire Council on the 26 November, a copy of that report is provided at ATTACHMENT K.

At the meeting of General Managers held 27 November 2020, the Executive Officer was asked to provide a report on the request, including the process, the implications, the risks and opportunities. This initial report is provided at ATTACHMENT L.

Based on the information contained in the Act, Namoi Unlimited believes that the decision to be part of a Joint Organisation does not rest with the Joint Organisation itself, but rather with Councils.

Gwydir Shire Council has resolved its intent to seek membership of the New England Joint Organisation rather than Namoi Unlimited. *[Section 400P Council must approve the inclusion of a council area in a joint organisation area.]*

Section 400ZC Amendment and dissolution of joint organisations says;

- (1) *The Governor may, by proclamation, amend or revoke a proclamation in force under this Part for the purpose of amending the constitution of, or of dissolving, a joint organisation.*
- (2) *A proclamation for the purpose of amending the constitution of a joint organisation:*
 - (a) *May change the name of the joint organisation, or*
 - (b) *May vary the joint organisation area by adding or removing council areas and may specify the name of each council whose area is included in or removed from the joint organisation area.*

Further the above, dictates (without formal advice from the NSW Office of Local Government), that the decisions and resolutions regarding this matter rest with Gwydir Shire Council and the Minister for Local Government.

Council - 26 November 2020

Gwydir Shire

Council - 26 November 2020

Gwydir Shire
Council

Item 9 Joint Organisation Membership

FILE REFERENCE 20/28060

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 4. Proactive Regional and Local Leadership

OUTCOME: 4.1 WE ARE AN ENGAGED & CONNECTED COMMUNITY

STRATEGY: 4.1.2 Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur - GM - external

AUTHOR General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report recommends that the Council transfers its membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation (NEJO).

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

The Council has now had the opportunity to attend a Board Meeting and several General Managers' Advisory Group Meetings following the Council's decision to seek Associate Membership to New England Joint Organisation.

The original report to Council outlining why Gwydir should seek Associate Membership of NEJO included the following map of the NEJO Membership:



This map really says it all and highlights the relative importance of Gwydir to the NEJO but, at the moment, the Mayor attends the Board Meetings but does not have any voting rights.

Certainly Gwydir's transport interests are much more closely aligned to those of the other Councils in the NEJO with both interstate (NSW-Queensland) and east-west transport links being the main focus.

At the recent Councillor Workshop the membership of Gwydir in either Namoi Unlimited or NEJO was discussed. The Workshop was advised that the strategic interests of Gwydir rest more with the NEJO than with Namoi Unlimited. The Councillors present at the Workshop indicated their support to explore transferring the Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to NEJO.

This process has commenced with a request having been forwarded to the Executive Officer of Namoi Unlimited to have the matter of Gwydir's resignation from Namoi Unlimited on the agenda for discussion at the next Namoi Board Meeting to be held on 8th December 2020 at Walcha. Gwydir is seeking the support from Namoi Unlimited to Gwydir's switch to NEJO. The Mayor advised the Namoi Chair prior to the formal request being forwarded.

Similarly a request seeking full membership of NEJO will be forwarded to the NEJO Executive Officer if the Council endorses the recommendation contained in this report. The NEJO Board Meeting is being held next Monday at Moree Plains Shire Council.

COMMENT

If all the above procedural pieces are put into place the final decision will resent with the Minister for Local Government as the change will need to be gazetted in order to be put into effect.

Gwydir Shire Council continues to hold the view that Namoi Unlimited and New England Joint Organisations should be one body.

CONCLUSION

The senior staff and Mayor believe that the better choice between the two existing Joint Organisations for Gwydir is be a full voting member of the New England Joint Organisation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

FURTHER that both Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisations be formally advised of the Council's decision to transfer this Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation.

FURTHER once the concurrence of the Boards of both Joint Organisations has been received to the transfer of this Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation that the Minister for Local Government and the Council's State Member be advised seeking their support for the transfer.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT L – REPORT TO NAMOI UNLIMITED MEMBERS

KEY ISSUES

Gwydir Shire Council has requested Namoi Unlimited provide its concurrence to their intent to transfer its membership of a Joint Organisation from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation of Councils.

CONSULTATION

Gwydir Shire Council has reported to its Council. The General Managers discussed this request at its meeting on the 27 November 2020. Written advice was requested from the NSW Office of Local Government, a response was not received at the time of writing this report.

PROCEDURAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no prescribed process for this request for Namoi Unlimited to address. There is no precedent for Namoi Unlimited to investigate and provide advice to members on this request.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 400O describes the Formation of Joint Organisations, (1) the Governor may by proclamation establish joint organisations for the purposes of this Act.

Section 400P Council must approve the inclusion of a council area in a joint organisation area. The Minister must not recommend the making of a proclamation under this Part (including an amending proclamation) that includes the area of a council in a joint organisation area unless the Minister certifies that;

- a) Not less than 28 days before the certificate was given, the council, by resolution, approved the inclusion of the councils area in the joint organisation area, and
- b) When the certificate was given, the resolution had not be rescinded.

Section 400ZC Amendment and dissolution of joint organisations

- (1) The Governor may, by proclamation, amend or revoke a proclamation in force under this Part for the purpose of amending the constitution of, or of dissolving, a joint organisation.
- (2) A proclamation for the purpose of amending the constitution of a joint organisation:
 - (a) May change the name of the joint organisation, or
 - (b) May vary the joint organisation area by adding or removing council areas and may specify the name of each council whose area is included in or removed from the joint organisation area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications in this financial year and future years have been identified. The decision of Gwydir Shire Council would impact revenues in future years.

Gwydir Shire Council has been a ‘member’ of Namoi Unlimited since its inception and therefore part of the decision making process for a number of directions and activities, these commitments are identified below:

- (1) Employment of the Executive Officer, \$200,000 per annum for four years, concluding in the 2022/2023 financial year.
- (2) Namoi Water Alliance Smart Watermark Agreement, \$11,041 for the 2021/2022 financial year.
- (3) VendorPanel, \$7,500 for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years.

Gwydir Shire Council's share of these forward contracts (beyond the 2020/2021 financial year) is \$80,000 for the Executive Officer, \$2,208.20 for the Smart Water Mark agreement, and \$15,000 for the VendorPanel agreement, totalling \$97,208.20.

Namoi Unlimited has a number of contractual relationships for funding bodies that incorporate Gwydir Shire Council, including;

- (1) Contaminated Lands Capacity and Capability Building Program - \$140,000 for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years, including the provision of training services contract for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial year.
- (2) NSW Office of Local Government Capacity and Capability Program – remaining \$90,000 for the 2020-2021 financial year.

Funding bodies would need to be consulted on the impact of Gwydir Shire Council's decision on the above agreements.

Namoi Unlimited is currently in negotiation for two funding agreements that include unconfirmed contributions from Gwydir Shire Council, including;

- (1) Namoi Economic and Industry Super Cluster project
- (2) Namoi Regional Town Water Supply Strategy

Funding bodies would need to be consulted on the impact of Gwydir Shire Council's decision on the above agreements.

OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be future operational implications for the delivery of projects to member Councils. The operational impacts are unknown at the time of writing this report. Consultation with funding partners and member Councils is required to be able to table the operational implications.

REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Joint Organisations have three key functions (1) the identification of strategic regional priorities and plans to achieve them, (2) inter-governmental relations, and (3) leadership and advocacy. The work of a Joint Organisation is considered complex, however members have recognised the value of being part of a Joint Organisation by resolving and endorsing Value Reports to member Councils.

The decision of Gwydir Shire Council notes 'geography' as the main reason for the request to transfer their membership.

This report could evoke public discussion about the Joint Organisation of Councils, the decision of Gwydir Shire Council, the implications for Namoi Unlimited and its member Councils.

13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

14. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

15. CLOSED REPORTS

Nil provided at time of distribution of this Notice of Meeting.

16. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING