



ISJO Board Papers

Friday 30 April 2021

9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Shellharbour Council

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1. Welcome & Acknowledgement to Country

To welcome Board and guests and provide an Acknowledgement to Country.

2. Attendees and Apologies

Member Council voting delegates:

Wollongong City

Clr Gordon Bradbery, Chairman

Clr David Brown

Shellharbour City

Clr Marianne Saliba, Deputy Chairman

Kiama Municipal

Clr Mark Honey

Clr Kathy Rice

Shoalhaven City

Clr John Wells

Clr Mark Kitchener

Member Council General Managers

Non-voting Delegates

Carey McIntyre, Shellharbour City

Mike Dowd, Kiama Municipal

Stephen Dunshea, Shoalhaven City

Greg Doyle, Wollongong City

ISJO Affiliates

Paul Knight, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council

Department of Planning Industry and Environment:

Regional NSW

Anthony Body, Director

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment:

Local and Regional Planning

Sarah Lees, Director

Department Planning, Industry & Environment:

Office of Local Government

Alison Murphy, Council Engagement Manager

ISJO

Melinda Liberato, acting Chief Executive

Guests

Neville Fredericks, Illawarra Escarpment Walk Committee

Natasha Clark, Illawarra Escarpment Walk Committee

Gary McDougall, Illawarra Escarpment Walk Committee

Olena Tulubinska, Chief Financial Officer, Shoalhaven Council

Vanessa Phelan, Budget and Reporting Officer, Shoalhaven Council

Apologies

Clr Amanda Findley

Clr John Murray

3. Presentations & Guests including Parliamentary Members

Presentations:

9.35 – 9.50

Sarah Lees, Director, Southern Region – Local and Regional Planning, Industry and Environment

9.50 – 10.10

Neville Fredericks, Illawarra Escarpment Walk Committee, joined by Tash Clark and Gary McDougall

10.10 – 10.25

Group discussion on Regional Projects in progress led by Greg Doyle, General Manager, Wollongong City Council

4. Meeting Opening

4.1 Confirmation of previous minutes

Recommendation that the Board endorse the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2021.

4.2 Actions arising from previous minutes

Item	Topic	Completed	Notes
4.2.1	Increased Visitor numbers and effect on infrastructure. A document be created that summarises the ongoing impacts increased visitor numbers has on Council resources and infrastructure. It is envisioned that this document be utilised to support grant funding applications and ongoing advocacy for the Illawarra Shoalhaven region	In progress	Data currently being collected and collated. A regional statement to be drafted and circulated.
4.2.2	Investigate opportunities to partner with state government to look at a safety signage solution. With a view to provide consistent signage across all LGA's. Paul Knight and Anthony Body to engage appropriate parties with respect to different land ownerships	In progress	Greg Doyle to provide update on Wollongong progress.

4.3 Correspondence

4.3.1 Letter dated 03 March 2021 from the Audit Office of NSW relating to the Joint Organisation audit, finalising the 2020 Financial with noting nil issues to be addressed.

4.3.2 Letter from The Hon. Shelly Hancock MP advising that ARTD consulting have been engaged to complete the Joint Organisation review. The Joint Organisation Chair and the Executive Officer will be consulted, a further that two stakeholders with direct relationships with the Joint Organisation be nominated to participate in the review.

Recommendation

4.4 Consideration of Late Business

The ISJO Constitution allows for the consideration of late business if, at the commencement of the meeting, items are listed for possible discussion at the conclusion of tabled business and if there is general agreement by delegates that it is appropriate to discuss the matters on the day.

Recommendation that any items of late business be noted for later discussion.

4.5 Declaration of Interest

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

5. Reports

5.1 Chair's minute

Recommendation

That the information be received and noted.

As the Illawarra Shoalhaven continues to respond to opportunities and challenges arising from the pandemic, I am pleased to note that staff from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation have been delivering valuable services in our region.

The quick response to the recent Parthenium weed outbreak has proven highly successful. This included dedicated taskforce drawn from multiple locations around the State, complemented by a specially trained dog team, to inspect and uncover further risks. While the containment and eradication process is ongoing, the results to date are encouraging.

ISJO is also providing leadership in strategies that aim to divert household waste from landfill. For the latest stage of our reuse pilot program, ISJO staff completed a first-pass collection of kerbside items booked and presented through the council clean-up service in the Wollongong LGA. Items that could repurposed and reused were rescued and sold during a special charity event. The number of items collected and repurposed, along with the community response, was very positive. A final report on the program is being prepared for the Board.

One of our biggest opportunities during the next few years is to strengthen our market position in cycling tourism. Our region is preparing to host a series of major cycling events, including L'Etape and the UCI 2022 Road World Championships, which will attract a large domestic and international audience. To capitalise on these opportunities, we are currently developing a Regional Tourism Cycling Strategy that will help to seek funding, build on momentum created through cycling events, drive the visitor economy and provide local communities with legacy benefits.

The ISJO Executive Officer position has been advertised and applications close on 9 May. A recruitment panel has been established to oversee this process and ISJO Mayors will have the opportunity to provide input on recruitment decisions. I would like to thank Melinda Liberato for her contribution whilst acting in the Executive Officer role.

And finally, I was pleased to receive correspondence from the Minister for the Local Government recently advising that the NSW Government is committed to the ongoing success of Joint Organisations. The Office of Local Government has engaged a consultant to undertake an evaluation of JOs ISJO will use this process to convey our views on the most appropriate framework to support JOs in the future.

Clr Gordon Bradbery AM

ISJO Chair

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5.2 DPIE - Regional NSW Update

Referred by: Anthony Body, Director Illawarra Shoalhaven

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation

That the Board accept and note the report.

NSW Government Update

Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW)

- On 8 March, Minister for Energy and Environment the Hon. Matt Kean MP, confirmed that Port Kembla will be the site of NSW's first hydrogen hub. DRNSW is facilitating the development of the Hydrogen Hub with key stakeholders across government, industry, and research partners.
- On 16 March, the successful applications under Round 4 of the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund were announced. A total \$2.1 million was allocated across 15 projects, including upgrades for sporting fields, local amenities and murals.
- On 29 March, the NSW Government announced the creation of Investment NSW. The new group will enhance NSW's global position as a safe place to do business, attracting investment capital and creating jobs for NSW. It brings together the Jobs, Investment and Tourism group from Treasury, Destination NSW among others. There is no material impact on the work of DRNSW Regional Development.

Aboriginal Partnerships

- DRNSW is working to build culturally appropriate partnerships between the NSW Government and Aboriginal organisations and businesses that will support the economic and cultural aspirations of the Aboriginal community.
- This will include the creation of a culturally appropriate partnership framework.
- The focus areas for Aboriginal partnerships include community development, economic development and land activation.
- DRNSW has appointed Nyssa Murray as a Senior Coordination Officer to drive the Aboriginal Partnerships activity in the Illawarra Shoalhaven.

Illawarra and Shoalhaven Aboriginal Partnership Meetings

- DRNSW has formed a Shoalhaven Aboriginal partnership that includes representatives from local, state, federal government and Local Aboriginal Land Councils. The aim of the partnership is to support LALCs to achieve their aspirations in relation to land use and economic development. The group will collaborate on regional projects identified by the LALCs.
- DRNSW intends to establish a similar Aboriginal Partnership group in the Illawarra and will reach out through local government to develop the relevant governance.

Keeping Places

- On 31 March the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, announced \$3 million to explore establishing Keeping Places as sites of remembrance for Survivors of the Stolen Generation. The Keeping Places will also serve to educate the public about the history of the Stolen Generation.

DRNSW and Aboriginal Affairs will jointly develop a business case into how the Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home can be preserved as a culturally significant site.

Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program – local government pilot

- DRNSW is continuing to work with Training Services NSW on the Local Government Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program pilot.
- Wollongong City Council is partnering with DRNSW and Training Services NSW to deliver a construction pre-employment program that will create new training and employment pathways for unemployed people in the region. The first program is anticipated to commence in early May.

Regional Youth

- The first Regional Youth Taskforce for 2021 was held in Coffs Harbour on 28 March. The event focused on the 'Work ready' pillar of the Regional Youth Framework.
- Taskforce members expressed their interest in connecting with local youth councils. Office of Regional Youth network members are scoping the best way to enable this, and would appreciate local government input on this process.

Nowra Riverfront Advisory Taskforce

- Work is continuing with the Nowra Riverfront Advisory Taskforce to identify and strategic development sites within the Precinct.
- Following discussions between the Co-Chairs and Minister Hancock, the Taskforce meetings will now move to a bi-monthly schedule. The next meeting is 20 May.
- DRNSW is working with DPIE and Shoalhaven City Council to prioritise relevant planning studies, including sourcing relevant funds to progress towards a planning determination.

Bushfire Business Recovery Survey

- Resilience NSW conducted a survey to check in on businesses a year on from the bushfires. The survey ran from 20 November to 31 January 2021. The following is an analysis of the responses provided by Illawarra Shoalhaven businesses. Key findings include:
 - 81% of businesses faced a drop in income in the 3 months after local bushfires, losing \$59,500 revenue on average.
 - 59% have not recovered the loss of income 12 months after the bushfires.
 - 46% of businesses reported no impacts currently, and are on track to recover.
 - Businesses identified they are experiencing the following challenges: mental health (14%), cash flow (11%) and attracting customers (9%).
 - Over half of respondents said they did not access any recovery support with businesses showing low awareness of business support services.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Leadership Executive

- The Illawarra Shoalhaven Leadership Executive (ISLE) is meeting on Friday 21 May.
- The meeting will include a discussion about the new ISLE Statement of Intent, which will set out the strategic priorities for the ISLE members for the next 12 months.
- Melinda Liberato is the ISJO representative on the ISLE.

Recovery and Resilience Sub-Committee

- The Sub-Committee met on 4 May to discuss and report on the work being led by agencies across the region in response to bushfires and COVID-19.
- The focus of next meeting will be housing and homelessness in the region and finalising the Recovery and Resilience Reporting Template.

Workforce Development Sub-Committee

- The Sub-Committee will next meet on 18 May to deliver projects that will create training pathways and sustainable employment outcomes for people in the region.
- These projects include the roll-out of the Productivity Bootcamp in Nowra, a new skills program targeted to the Shoalhaven defence industry, project scoping to support the hospitality industry on the South Coast.
- DRNSW has appointed Eden Paull as Deputy Director, Workforce Development, to drive cross-regional and state-wide skills projects

NSW Government Announcements

Regional Events Acceleration Fund

- A \$20 million Regional Events Acceleration Fund has been announced, providing grants to boost major events in regional areas. There are two streams:
 - Stream One: Up to \$200,000 to support temporary event infrastructure and operational improvements at existing regional events
 - Stream Two: Minimum \$100,000 for the attraction, delivery and retention of major international and domestic events to regional areas across NSW.

Business Events Industry Support Package

- Destination NSW has announced a \$5.5 million Business Events Industry Support package, including \$4 million for business events and \$1.5 million for regional conferences.
- Wollongong is eligible to apply for the business events funding.

Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF)

- The BCRRF is being delivered through joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Stream 2 of the BCRRF will see \$29 million allocated to 173 community projects to be delivered in 50 bushfire impacted LGAs across NSW.
- Resilience NSW has advised all applicants of the outcome of their application.

Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLER)

- The Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund closed on 28 January. More than 650 applications were received, requesting over \$1.6 billion in funding. Successful projects will be announced from June 2021.

NSW Storm and Flood Clean-up

- Shoalhaven LGA is eligible for the NSW Storm and Flood Clean-up.
- The clean-up program assists households, businesses, primary producers and local councils affected by the floods and includes both insured and uninsured properties.
- Other grants available to these affected in the community include:

- Small business recovery grants up to \$50,000 (direct damage) - for short-term targeted assistance e.g. safety inspections and repairs to premises
- Primary producer recovery grants up to \$75,000 (direct damage) - for short-term targeted assistance e.g. salvaging crops, repairs to infrastructure

NSW Small Business Commission: Business Survey Wave 1

The NSW Small Business Commission has released its Business Survey Wave 1 Report, the first in the Wave series for 2021. It focuses on the impact on small and medium-sized businesses in NSW.

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5.3 DPIE Office of Local Government Update

Referred by: Alison Murphy, Council Engagement Manager

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation

That the Board accept and note the report.

A verbal update will be provided by Alison Murphy from the Office of Local Government

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5.4 Management Report of the acting Chief Executive

Referred by: Melinda Liberato, acting Chief Executive

Prepared by: Melinda Liberato

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation

That the Board receive and note the report.

5.5.1 Regional Cycling Strategy

ISJO has engaged a third party to commence work on a regional cycling strategy through partnering with Transport for NSW's Regional Planning team who are working on a range of multi-modal transport plans for the Illawarra Shoalhaven region. There has been a sharing of research including that undertaken by our member Wollongong City Council who has recently developed the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030. This strategy will enable all regional cycling plans, whether it be undertaken by the state government, local government or ISJO to be in alignment and designed to support the intent of all.

Workshops with key stakeholders and resource sharing is complete with a final draft of the strategy due for completion by end of May 2021. The project is being led by acting ISJO CEO Melinda Liberato.

5.5.2 Enabling Water Sensitive Urban Communities

Consultation via several workshops with the four participating member Councils has now been completed ISJO has engaged Water Sensitive Cities Index providers, Alluvium and Mosaic Insights to develop a water sensitive communities benchmarking and transition strategy for the region. The process is based on the benchmarking framework developed by the national Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. The benchmarking is a key component of the first and second stages of the regional project generating an understanding of where are positioned in comparison with other regions; sharing regional case studies; and regional capacity building. Alluvium and Mosaic Insights have now distributed the report to the member Councils via the Working Group.

A key deliverable for the funding was the development of a Regional Strategy to Enable Water Sensitive Urban Communities. Alluvium Consulting have been engaged to facilitate and deliver a Regional Strategy. A visioning workshop has been completed with an encouraging number of participants attending across a range of stakeholders. A draft strategy has now been delivered which is currently being reviewed by all Working Group.

Further, a podcast series featuring a number of Council staff has been created funded by LG NSW that will be used as a valuable resource for other Councils across the state.

Following the resignation of Emma Struys from the Project, a review of the remaining deliverables will occur to ensure maximum return for both the funding body (LG NSW) and our region. The most likely scenario will be the transition of the frameworks be brought forwarded, supported by ISJO.

5.5.3 Parthenium Weed Outbreak

The Illawarra District Weeds Authority has continued to monitor and manage the outbreak of the State prohibited weed found in the Kiama Local Government area.

ISJO has now received additional funding to cover the cost of ongoing management and control. Sniffer dogs were utilised to investigate any infestations of neighbouring farms with no further outbreaks found.

5.5.4 Regional Waste – Circular Economy – MDF & Particleboard Project

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation of Councils (ISJO) recently partnered with Wollongong City Council and the University of Wollongong to benchmark and characterise resources in the kerbside clean-up bulky waste stream.

As previously reported ISJO partnered with Green Connect to undertake a first pass collection of kerbside items which were booked and presented through the Council clean-up service. The aim of this project is to better understand the types of items being presented for collection, along with their suitability for reuse or repurposing in order to further identify opportunities to divert waste from landfill. Items were collected assessed for diversion, repaired and refreshed, and catalogued. A pop up shop seen more than 500 people attend.

The ISJO team are in the process of assessing the viability of a longer term initiative. A business case will be presented in the future with a recommendation.

5.5 General Managers' Committee Report

Referred by:

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation

That the Board receive and note the report.

A verbal update will be provided by the General Managers

6. Matters for Board Endorsement

6.1 ISJO Quarterly Budget Review

Referred by: Stephen Dunshea, CEO Shoalhaven Council

Prepared by: Olena Tulubinska, Chief Financial Officer, Shoalhaven Council

Attachments: Quarterly Budget Review

Recommendation

That the Board:

1. That the board acknowledge that this financial report is a work in progress.
 2. That the board notes that there will be
 - a. Approximately \$200K will be received in Salaries Savings
 - b. Additional \$40K will be received in LGP
 - c. Interest income was overestimated
 3. The Board transfers \$40K of internal restriction in Regional Procurement to unrestricted
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7. Matters for Strategic Decision Making

Referred by:

Prepared by:

Attachments: Nil

8. Matters for Noting

8.1 Marketing Report

Referred by: Melinda Liberato, acting Chief Executive

Attachments:

Marketing Report March 2021

Recommendation

That the Board:

1. Receive and note the report.
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8.2 Executive Officer Recruitment Update

Referred by: Carey McIntyre, CEO Shellharbour Council

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation

That the Board:

1. Receive and note the report.
-

A verbal update will be provided.

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9. Late Business item

Referred by: Cr Gordon Bradbery

Attachments:

Attachment A - Mayoral Minute – Request for drum lines to be used for shark management in Wollongong

Attachment B - Council Notice of Motion – NSW Shark Management Strategy Review

Recommendation

That the Board:

1. Endorse a letter of support from ISJO Chair for shark netting.

10. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting for 2021 will be held on Friday 25 June at a venue to be advised.

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