



# ISJO Board Papers

Friday 26 February 2021

10.00 am – 1.00 pm

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# Board Papers 26 February 2021

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## 1. Welcome & Acknowledgement to Country

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

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## 2. Attendees and apologies

Member Council voting delegates:

Wollongong City

Clr Gordon Bradbery, Chairman

Clr David Brown

Shellharbour City

Clr Marianne Saliba, Deputy Chairman

Clr John Murray

Kiama Municipal

Clr Mark Honey

Clr Kathy Rice

Shoalhaven City

Clr Amanda Findley

Clr John Wells

Member Council General Managers

Non-voting Delegates

Carey McIntyre, Shellharbour City

Jessica Rippon, 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:

Anthony Body, Director, Regional NSW

Department Planning, Industry & Environment:

Office of Local Government

Karen Purser, Manager Council Engagement Team

Alison Murphy, Manager Council Engagement Team

ISJO

Melinda Liberato, acting Chief Executive

Guests

Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Isabelle Virgona, Policy Advisor, Department of Planning and Public Spaces

Mayor Brticevic, Campbelltown Council

Lindy Deitz, General Manager, Campbelltown Council

Kate Stares, Campbelltown Council

Deb Murphy, Chief Executive Officer, RDA Illawarra

Adam Zarth, Executive Director, Illawarra Business Chamber

Apologies

Clr John Murray

Wollondilly Council

## 3. Presentations & Guests including Parliamentary Members

Parliamentary Members:

10.20 – 10.50

3.1 The Hon. Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Presentations:

10.05 – 10.20

3.2 Group discussion on increased visitor numbers to our regions and the impact on infrastructure

10.50 – 11.20 - tentative

3.3 Group discussion on Rock Fishing given the recent events

11.20 – 11.30

3.4 Presentation from Office Local Government Joint Organisation review

12.00 – 12.30

3.5 Group discussion with Wollondilly and Campbelltown Council surrounding mutual issues facing our regions and opportunities for collaboration and advocacy

## 4. Meeting Opening

### 4.1 Confirmation of previous minutes

Recommendation that the Board endorse the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2020.

### 4.2 Actions arising from previous minutes

Item	Topic	Completed
6.2	Acting Chief Executive to invite Wollondilly Shire Council to join ISJO and accept their offer of \$5000 for a second tier Program Associate Membership.	Complete
7.2.3	Upload a copy of the pre-audited financial statements with the amended shortfall to the ISJO website and provide a copy of the statements to the Office of Local Government.	Complete
9.1.2	Request for extension of rental assistance for Bushfire affected people – Clr Findley to prepare a draft letter on behalf of ISJO and circulate to the Board for approval.	Unknown
9.2.2	ISJO to provide letter/s of support to Shoalhaven City Council for their application of Bushfire Recovery Grant Funds.	Complete

## 4.3 Correspondence

- 4.3.1 Letter dated 16 December 2020 from the Office of Local Government relating to the Joint Organisation review and Terms of Reference for the review – Attachment E

Recommendation that the information be received and noted.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 5. Reports

### 5.1 Chair's minute

#### Recommendation

That the information be received and noted.

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We have learnt from the bushfires and pandemic that people and organisations within our Region are motivated to help others and willing to adapt to change.

The ISJO team has continued to deliver key regional programs for Illawarra and Shoalhaven and I thank them for their efforts. The response to recent to the Parthenium weed incursion highlights the important role of the Illawarra District Weeds Authority in engaging the community and helping to control priority weeds in the Region.

ISJO is also continuing to investigate ways to divert household waste from landfill, recently partnering with Wollongong City Council and the University of Wollongong to benchmark and characterise resources in the kerbside clean-up of bulky waste. Now, through the reuse pilot program, ISJO staff have begun a first-pass collection of kerbside items which have been booked and presented through the council clean-up service. While helping us better understand the items being presented for collection, the program will also determine what is suitable for reuse or repurposing. These items can then be refreshed and diverted from landfill.

Our work on the circular economy featuring MDF and Particleboard is improving our understanding of commercially viable opportunities to reduce waste via recycling, business to business reuse and onsite heat energy generation. We are also looking at Biochar and Activated Carbon opportunities through a research agreement with RMIT that will run until May 2021.

In good news for businesses impacted by the pandemic and last summer's bushfires, we are recording increased visitor numbers within our Region. We are working collaboratively to limit the impact on our infrastructure and explore the implications for tourism and our communities.

We have seriously worked on the financial sustainability of the organisation. Thanks to the General Managers who have explored and managed options with Melinda Liberato. We have gone through a serious rethink and have tabula rasa to address our collective future.

I look forward to our continued collaborations in 2021 as we deliver better outcomes for the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region.

Clr Gordon Bradbery AM  
ISJO Chair

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Referred by: Anthony Body, Director Illawarra-Shoalhaven, Department of Regional NSW

Attachments: N/A

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Recommendation:

- That the Board accept and note the report.
- 

NSW Government Update

Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW)

- The NSW Government has announced an update to its [20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW](#), which resets the NSW Government's overarching regional economic strategy and identifies new investment priorities for regional jobs and growth. The updated vision:
  1. identifies emerging sectors and future industries for Government investment;
  2. includes 50 new priorities to drive long-term stimulus impact;
  3. underpins investment in the regions from now until 2038;
  4. sets out a plan for jobs and population growth in regional NSW; and
  5. leverages remote and altered working patterns that have emerged as a result of COVID-19.
- Applications for the \$2 million Round Four of the PKCIF closed on 31 October. DRNSW received 32 applications requesting \$6.2 million in funding for projects which will activate, enhance and build community amenity in Port Kembla. An Evaluation Panel assessed applications on 23 November and successful projects will be announced following the assessment process.

Recovery and Resilience

Recovery and Resilience Sub-Committee

- The Sub-Committee met on 19 February to endorse the Recovery and Resilience Action Plan.
- The Action Plan comprehensively captures the work being led by agencies across the region in response to bushfires and COVID-19. Activities relevant to our partnerships with ISJO and local government include:
  - Delivery of Shoalhaven's Recovery and Resilience Project and the Recovery Hub;
  - Assisting councils to respond to planning and development matters following disasters;
  - Delivery of business support services to bushfire-affected businesses,
  - Delivery of the ISLP Local Government pilot across Wollongong; and Shellharbour City Councils.
- The focus of the meeting was to prioritise and draw out the strategic opportunities to work across the Illawarra Shoalhaven.

## Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund

- The Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund closed on 28 January 2021. The \$250 million BLER Fund will support communities to recover both economically and socially from the 2019-2020 bushfires.
- Over 650 applications were received with a total funding request of more than \$1.6 billion and a total project value of almost \$2.1 billion. Successful projects will be announced from June 2021.
- DRNSW has been involved in supporting the development of bushfire recovery projects in the Illawarra Shoalhaven such as:
  - Electric Vehicle fast charging network expansion,
  - Tourism and Hospitality Centre of Excellence; and
  - Caring for Country Traineeship Program.

## Nowra Riverfront Advisory Taskforce

- The Advisory Taskforce met in November, December and February to drive the revitalisation of the Nowra Riverfront precinct.
- The 25 February meeting focused on progress against the priority sub-precincts (Wharf Road and Pleasant Way/Graham Lodge and the central public open space) and feedback on alternative planning pathways to fast-track site development.

## EY Drop-In Centre

- Since May 2020, the Virtual Drop-In Centres have supported over 600 businesses across the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Bega Valley and Snowy Monaro to access more than \$1.3 million in financial incentives. Service delivery will cease in February 2021 and a transition plan is in place to ensure warm referrals across to alternative business support services.
- DRNSW has engaged the University of Technology Sydney's Institute for Public Policy and Governance to conduct an independent evaluation of the Drop-In Centre pilot program. The evaluation will assess and verify the success of the program and establish an evidence base for the design and delivery of future disaster response models.
- The consultant will reach out to Shoalhaven City Council in the coming weeks to line up a semi-structured interview to feed into this process.
- The final evaluation report is due at the end of March 2021.

## Aboriginal Partnerships

- DRNSW is developing a new program of work designed to build meaningful partnerships between the NSW Government and Aboriginal organisations and businesses that will support the economic and cultural aspirations of the Aboriginal community.
- For example, DRNSW is working with the three Local Aboriginal Land Councils in the Shoalhaven to develop the first Aboriginal-led conservation land management team that will deliver fee-for-service land management activity in the Shoalhaven.
- This program of work is supported by the Aboriginal Partnerships Governance Group, which includes representatives from all three levels of government and three Shoalhaven LALCs. The group meets monthly to develop local solutions to challenges facing Aboriginal organisations, with a particular focus on planning and land management issues. The next meeting will be held on 23 February.

## Illawarra Shoalhaven Leadership Executive

- The Illawarra Shoalhaven Leadership Executive (ISLE) is meeting on Friday 5 March. The meeting will include strategic discussions about:
  1. designing cross-agency projects to address the social impacts of COVID-19;
  2. capitalising on Government investment in events and tourism to rebuild the local industry; and
  3. the future of the mining industry in the Illawarra considering the Dendrobium decision.
- Melinda Liberato is the ISJO representative on the ISLE.

## Workforce Development

- DRNSW is partnering with Training Services NSW and the Commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment to deliver skills and employment initiatives that will support economic recovery from COVID-19. This collaborative partnership between governments is enabling new cross-regional projects to address immediate and long-term skilling and employment disadvantage in the Illawarra Shoalhaven.
- For example, the three agencies are scoping a new project that will seek to address the skills gap in the training and hospitality industry by linking job-seekers with small businesses on the South Coast.

## Local Government ISLP

- DRNSW is continuing to work with Training Services NSW on the Local Government Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program pilot. The pilot will implement interventions designed to support local contractors and bolster workforce diversity in local government infrastructure projects.

## Regional Youth

- The first Regional Youth Taskforce for 2021 will be held in Coffs Harbour on 28 March and will focus on the 'Work ready' pillar of the Regional Youth Framework. The refreshed Taskforce membership will be announced shortly.
- The Regional NSW Gap Year was launched on 16 December 2020 to promote opportunities for young people to travel, learn new skills and take up employment opportunities in key industries facing worker shortages.
- The Summer Break Program was launched on 22 December 2020. ORY offered 51 eligible Councils up to \$10,000 to cover the costs of running youth events or extending youth services in communities hardest hit by the impacts of drought, bushfire and COVID-19 border closures, over the summer break.
- Three case studies have been completed by Synergistic Solutions as part of a project to develop a framework for a Whole-of-Community approach for youth.

## Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

- Consultation on the draft [Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041](#) closed on 17 December 2020. Feedback received in the 81 submissions was generally positive. DPIE will review and analyse submissions by 30 March and amend the draft plan where required. The release of the finalised

Plan is expected in Quarter 2 of 2021.

- Councils indicated that they would like additional consultation prior to finalisation.

## Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan

- Consultation on [The Draft Illawarra - Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan](#) have now closed. The project team will review all feedback received and update the plan where required. Transport for NSW will then finalise and release the Transport Plan in 2021.
- The Transport Plan outlines the strategic framework for how Transport for NSW will respond to changes in land use, population and travel demand across the region over the next 20 years.
- It describes the long term transport vision for the region and outlines the transport policies, initiatives, and infrastructure that will be needed to support the growth and development of the region in the future.

## NSW Government Announcements

### Regional Job Creation Fund

- The Department of Regional NSW will deliver the NSW Government's \$100 million Regional Job Creation Fund (RJCF). The RJCF will support interstate and overseas businesses to establish or expand in regional NSW by providing grants of up to \$10 million. It will create jobs and support economic recovery in regional NSW.
- RJCF applications are now open and will close 14 May 2021 or when funding is fully allocated. As of January, 215 preliminary applications have been received with a total funding request of \$144 million matched by \$890 million of private sector funding. 123 applications are approved to go to the detailed assessment phase and 29 have been completed.

### NSW Public Sector Regional Workforce Principles

- The NSW Government announced the new NSW Public Sector Regional Workforce Principles, which commits every NSW government agency to create jobs and career opportunities in the regions, advertising roles as "regional location encouraged", and to increase the proportion of senior government roles in the regions by 2023.

### WHIN Nurses

- The NSW Government has announced funding for an additional 100 Wellbeing and Health In-Reach Coordinators to assist in the expansion of the successful Wellbeing and Health In-Reach Nurse program (WHIN) which enables young people to have a confidential chat with a nurse at school.
- It was agreed that 50 of the positions are to be assigned in regional NSW with the other 50 in metro. NSW Health and the Department of Education are working together to recruit the first 50 with three proposed positions for Illawarra Shoalhaven in the first wave.

### Stronger Country Communities Fund

- The NSW Government has announced up to \$50 million in funding for the delivery and enhancement of women's sporting facilities, including change rooms across regional NSW. The funding is part of Round 4 of the \$100 million Stronger Country Communities Fund that will have a regional sports focus.

- Round 4 opens in May 2021 and program guidelines will be released shortly.

## Greater Cities Sport Facilities

- The NSW Government has committed \$50 million to the Greater Cities Sport Facility Fund over two-years, helping create spaces and facilities that enable communities to enjoy and take part in sport.
- Wollongong City Council is eligible for this funding opportunity.
- The NSW Government is allocating \$25 million in Round 1 in 2020/21. Eligible organisations can apply for grants between \$100,000 and \$1 million.
- Key objectives of the Fund are to:
  1. increase the number and type of sporting facilities;
  2. improve the standard of existing sporting facilities;
  3. increase participation in sport.

## Dine and Discover for COVID-19 recovery

- The NSW Government has announced that eligible businesses can now register for the Dine & Discover NSW economic stimulus program. The program will create an economic boost for dining, arts and tourism businesses, which have been impacted by COVID-19.
- Service NSW is launching a specialised app for participating businesses, so they can scan and track voucher usage over the life of the program. Businesses will be automatically paid typically within 5 business days for the value of vouchers redeemed. All eligible businesses will receive an email from Service NSW with details on how to register.

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## 5.2 Office of Local Government Update

Referred by: Karen Purser, Manager Council Engagement Team

Attachments: Nil

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### Recommendation

That the Board accept and note the report.

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

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## 5.3 General Managers' Committee Report

Referred by:

Attachments: Nil

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### Recommendation

That the Board receive and note the report.

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A verbal update will be provided by the General Manager's and CEO's of the member Councils respectively.

## 5.4 Management Report of the acting Chief Executive

Referred by: Melinda Liberato, acting Chief Executive

Prepared by:

Attachments: Nil

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### Recommendation

That the Board receive and note the report.

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#### 5.4.1 Western Sydney Illawarra Shoalhaven Cross Regional Transport Advisory Group

One of the outcomes of the abovementioned Cross Regional Transport Forum was the support to form a Cross Regional Transport Advisory Group with membership drawn from both Western Sydney and the Illawarra Shoalhaven. This Group comprises membership from ISJO – Clr Gordon Bradbery and Melinda Liberato; RDA Illawarra – Debra Murphy; Illawarra Business Chamber – Adam Zarth; NSW Ports – Greg Walls; Wollondilly Shire Council – Clr Matthew Deeth and Ben Taylor; Campbelltown City Council – Lindy Deitz and Kate Stares; Member for Wollondilly – Nathaniel Smith MP; and Regional NSW’s Director – Anthony Body.

This Advisory Group met on 21 January to reflect upon our achievements to date and reassess the key priorities required to enable cross regional transport connectivity for both passenger and transport movements. These are:

1. Master planning to develop an integrated transport plan to enable access to the Aerotropolis from Wollondilly/Macarthur and the wider region for both passenger and freight;
2. Picton Road duplication to motorway standard;
3. Wilton Interchange;
4. Mt Ousley Interchange;
5. SWIRL (otherwise known as Maldon-Dombarton rail line) for both freight and passengers
6. Orbital extension; and
7. Fast rail.

#### 5.4.2 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.

The strategy is due for completion by the end of March 2021 and is being led by acting ISJO CEO Melinda Liberato.

#### 5.4.3 Planning for the Princes Highway to be the first e-highway in NSW

ISJO and the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) have partnered with the NSW Government’s Regional NSW and the NRMA to explore the potential for an additional 20 electric vehicle charging sites along the Princes Highway, making it the first e-highway in NSW. The NRMA have undertaken research on the uptake of electric vehicles over a 10 year timeline which shows compelling data and provides a strong foundation for this initiative.

Planning for stage 1 of the funding is underway between the CRJO and the NRMA which includes the Shoalhaven region initially.

#### 5.4.4 Water Sensitive Urban Design

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.

Consultation via several workshops with the four participating member Councils has now been completed successfully. Alluvium and Mosaic Insights are now finalising their report for distribution.

The funding provider is very pleased with the progress of the project, a presentation will be provided to the board within 2021.

#### 5.4.5 Parthenium Weed Outbreak

The Illawarra District Weeds Authority has been dealing with the outbreak of a State prohibited weed found in the Kiama Local Government area. A separate report (item 8.1) has been provided on this matter.

#### 5.4.6 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 a result of this work, over the coming weeks ISJO staff will be undertaking a first pass collection of kerbside items which have been 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 will be collected assessed for diversion, repaired and refreshed, and catalogued. Suitable items will be sold to the public with a Charity partner. Any remaining items will either be donated to local charities at on cost or recycled where possible.

#### 5.4.7 Recovery and Resilience

ISJO is represented on the Recovery and Resilience Sub-Committee facilitated by Regional NSW. The Sub-Committee met on 19 February to endorse the Recovery and Resilience Action Plan.

#### 5.4.8 Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund

ISJO Chair wrote a letter of support for Shoalhaven Council supporting the 18 grant submission requests. ISJO acting CEO wrote 18 individual letters of support for the same programs.

#### 5.4.9 Illawarra Shoalhaven Leadership Executive

ISJO is represented on the Illawarra Shoalhaven Leadership Executive (ISLE)

#### 5.4.10 Peak Customer and Stakeholder Committee – Endeavour Energy

ISJO is represented on the Peak Customer and Stakeholder Committee. Acting CEO Melinda Liberato attended and participated in a workshop concentrating on better engagement with

customers and stakeholders. The focus being on Storm and Bushfire response and Customer Journey mapping.

## 6. Matters for Strategic Decision Making

### 6.1

Nil

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## 7. Matters for Board Endorsement

### 7.1 Letter of Support for Building Better Regions – Shoalhaven Council

Referred by: Stephen Dunshea, CEO Shoalhaven Council

Prepared by: Stephen Dunshea

Attachments: Nil - Verbal

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#### Recommendation

That the Board:

1. Note and receive the report.
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### 7.2 Letter of Support for the Hydrogen Industry at Port Kembla – Wollongong City Council

Referred by: Greg Doyle, General Manager Wollongong City Council

Prepared by: Greg Doyle

Attachments: Nil - Verbal

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#### Recommendation

That the Board:

1. Receive and note the report.
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## 7.3 Financial Statements

Referred by: Melinda Liberato, acting Chief Executive

Attachments: A – ISJO Financial Statements FY 2019-20

B – Audit Office Report on Conduct of the Audit

C – Audit Office Report on Engagement Closing Report

D – Audit Office Report on Independent Auditor's Report

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### Recommendation

That the Board:

1. Endorse the Reports on the External Audited Financial Statements
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### Background

The NSW Government requires all Joint Organisation Boards in their capacity as governing a local government entity to have all financial statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements; and the Local Government Act 1993. Joint Organisation Boards are also required to ensure internal control systems to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or not.

ISJO's financial services were previously managed by Kiama Municipal Council's Finance Division in conjunction with ISJO Executive and transitioned to Essential Bookkeeping Solutions in April 2020. ISJO engaged independent consultant to prepare the Financial Statements.

After a presentation and report to the Board on 27 November 2020, approval was granted for ISJO's Financial Statements to be available for external audit. The NSW Audit Office engaged Deloitte to undertake the FY 18/19 external audit for a fee of \$6,000.

The timeframe for the external audit did take longer than initially expected which has resulted in ISJO requesting an additional extension to 01 February 2021.

ISJO's Financial Statements were lodged to the Office of Local Government with no adjustments made as previously reported.

### Current Situation

Attachment A sets out ISJO's Financial Statements for 2019/20; and Attachments B, C and D show the Audit Office Reports on: The Conduct of the Audit; Engagement Closing Report; and the Independent Auditor's Report. The Reports have not found any material issues.

The Audit Office have also raised the fact that new Accounting Standards are coming into effect this current financial year.

**The Auditor General's opinion is that:**

The Joint Organisation's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2

The financial statements:

Have been presented, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division;

Are consistent with the Joint Organisation's accounting records;

Present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of the Joint Organisation as at 30 June 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements;

All information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained; and

No material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

## 8. Matters for Noting

### Parthenium Weed Update

Referred by: Melinda Liberato, acting Chief Executive

Attachments: Nil

### Recommendation

That the Board:

Receive and note the report.

On 18th December 2020 Illawarra District Weeds Authority (IDWA) was notified of a suspected incursion of Parthenium Weed on his property. Parthenium weed (PW), a State listed Prohibited Matter plant considered a major biosecurity threat to NSW. This property was on our watch list and was inspected last August although nothing was found at this time. Upon inspection well over 1,000 plants at various stages of maturity found.

The Infestation is traceable to contaminated grain from Heritage Seeds in Qld . At least five separate locations were recorded in the inspected area of the chook enclosure aligning to feed lot sites.

IDWA received official confirmation and identification by the Royal Botanic Gardens of Parthenium weed. Specimens kept and archived as a New Incursion for the SE of NSW.

An Incident Management Team (IMT) was established comprising representatives from NSW DPI, LLS, Local control authorities (IDWA + SCC).

A delimitation survey was undertaken on 16th and 17th February 2021 within the Broughton Village catchment area to determine extent of spread from infested property. 27 staff from local councils throughout the SE of NSW, LLS, NSW DPI and ACT Government assisted in the survey program. Eight surveillance teams and one control team were organised to undertake designated activities in five inspection zones and one control site. 5 inspections were undertaken over the two days comprising multiple parcels within both the KMC and SCC areas. In addition 20 properties were letterboxed dropped in lower risk areas outside of inspection zones.

Sniffer detection dogs were utilised in an initial test run on 19th February in high risk sites/pathways in close proximity to the known infestations. Dogs will be utilised over a three day period in the next few months to determine presence/absence in all high-risk areas.

Control works on the infested property were also undertaken as part of the delimitation survey and involved the manual removal of plants. A total of 9 x 20kg bags were removed over the two days. No Parthenium weed was found outside of the known infested property.

Media coverage was reported on ABC Illawarra, ABC News, Kiama Independent, Illawarra Mercury and the Sth Coast Register - both print and electronic.

Funding application under the NSW Weeds Action Program – New Weed Incursion program has been approved for \$22,000.00 over the next 12 months. LLS have indicated in preliminary discussions that they could support this with an additional \$10,000.

Monthly visits to the site will need to be undertaken for at least the next 12-18 months with surveillance on neighbouring properties scheduled every 6 months. Ongoing management of the property could be up to 10 years.

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## 9. Late Business item

Nil

## 10. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting for 2021 will be held on Friday 30 April.

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