



“From the GM’s Desk”

14th December 2017



The Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro, MP and the Minister for Local Government the Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP in a joint press release announced that Councils the Far West of New South Wales will now have the opportunity to become members of a Joint Organisation (JO).

While the Far West was not initially included in the original JO consultation, the Far West Councils are now being provided with the opportunity to consider being part of a JO, and the State Government are keen to hear about the preferences of the Councils in this regard.

In addition to the design criteria set for other Councils, the Government proposes some further guidelines below in regards to the Far West Councils:

- Far West Councils will be given the option to be full voting members of JOs within their own or across different State Government Planning Boundaries.
- Seed funding will be provided to any newly created Joint Organisation in the Far West consistent with the funding being provided to establish other new JOs.

The NSW Government has committed \$3.3 million to support the establishment of JOs. The Office of Local Government (OLG) is providing a comprehensive program of support to help Councils facilitate discussions and design an effective JO.

Together with the General Managers of Walgett, Cobar, Brewarrina, Balranald and Broken Hill Councils I had the opportunity to meet with the Acting Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government, Tim Hurst and Penny Holloway who will be standing in for Tim for the next few weeks.

The meeting focussed on the recently announced changes that will see the Far West Councils being given a choice as to which JO they may wish to join, if they were to join a JO, bearing in mind the membership of a JO is voluntary and as detailed above it had initially been intended that membership would be restricted to within the various Department of Planning Regions

At the meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils held in Trangie on the 1st December 2017 the member Councils heard from the Member for Barwon, Kevin Humphries, MP on a number of issues including the establishment of JOs and Melissa Gibbs from the Office of Local Government was also in attendance to provided information in relation to the way in which JOs will work including functions, membership and delegates.

There was considerable discussion regarding the way forward for the members of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils with the following resolution being passed.

That OROC supports to form a Regional Joint Organisation with the current OROC membership and that each Council resolve their own position by way of a Council resolution prior to the next OROC meeting.

It is important to note that the membership of a JO is voluntary and it is up to each Council to resolve to be a member of a particular JO.

There are regulations being written in respect to the operation of JOs and the publication of these regulations will serve to provide a little more detail.

As we move into the traditional holiday period and Christmas closures, the time available for consideration of the format of the JOs is relatively tight with a JO having to be determined and individual Council resolutions made detailing the intention to join a particular JO having to be made by the 28th February 2018.

Information on JOs can be found on the OLG website www.olg.nsw.gov.au and accessing the document Joint Organisations "working together for Regional Communities"

Nomination forms for the 2018 Australia Day Awards are now available from Councils Offices and can also be downloaded from Council's website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

If you think there is someone, an organisation or an event that you feel is worthy of a nomination don't say **"someone should nominate them - be that someone."**

During her address to the 2017 Annual Conference of Local New South Wales the Minister for Local Government, the Hon, Gabrielle Upton, MP, made two (2) announcements which were of particular interest to all those in attendance.

The first was in relation to the release of the Consultation Guidelines on the proposed Councillor Induction and Professional Development Guidelines which have been released following the amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) under phase 1 of the amendments earlier this year which saw the inclusion in the prescribed role of Councillors under section 232 of the Act a responsibility *"to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a Councillor"*.

There will be amendments to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 to provide the detail associated with the introduction of the Councillor Induction and Professional Development Programs which includes the responsibility on the General Manager to ensure that an ongoing professional development program is delivered for the Mayor and each Councillor over the term of the Council, for the purpose of assisting them to acquire and maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their roles.

The second was the release of the Consultation Draft relating to the Model Code of Meeting Practice, the intent of which I feel is welcomed by Local Government as it provides a level of

consistency amongst Councils. Once the Model Code is finalised and prescribed by regulation, Councils will be required to adopt a Code of Meeting Practice that incorporates its mandatory provisions. Individual Council's Codes of Meeting Practice must not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the model meeting code.

Amongst the new provisions within the Model Code is the provision that all meetings of the Council and committees of the Council are to be webcast except those parts of the meeting that have been closed to the public under section 10A of the Local Government Act.

The Model Code as well as providing mandatory provisions also includes a number of optional provisions that Councils can consider including:-

1. Recording of meetings
2. Pre-meeting briefing sessions
3. Guidelines for the conducting of public forums prior to each ordinary meeting of Council

Further Information can be found on the OLG website www.olg.nsw.gov.au

Following the elections held in respect of the Officer Bearers for Local Government New South Wales the following persons have been elected to office for the ensuing two (2) years:-

Councillor Linda Scott	(President)	Sydney City Council
Councillor Marjorie Spooner O'Neill	(Treasurer)	
Councillor Angelo Tsirekas	(Vice President - Metro/Urban)	Canada Bay
Councillor Lindsay Brown	(Vice President - Rural/Regional)	Eurobodalla Shire
Councillor Keith Rhoades remains on the Board as Immediate Past President of LGNSW		

Directors (Metropolitan/Urban)

Councillor Karen McKeown	Penrith Council
Councillor Mazhar Hadid	Liverpool City Council
Councillor Julie Griffiths	Blacktown City Council
Councillor Khal Asfour	Canterbury Bankstown Council
Councillor George Greiss	Campbelltown City Council
Councillor Lesley Furneaux-Cook	Burwood Council
Councillor Michael Regan	Northern Beaches Council

Directors (Rural/Regional)

Councillor Darria Turley	Broken Hill City
Councillor Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire
Councillor Marianne Saliba	Shellharbour City
Councillor Ruth Fagan	Cowra Shire
Councillor Ben Shields	Dubbo Regional
Councillor Rod Kendall	Wagga City
Councillor Paul Harmon	Inverell Shire

A reminder that changes to the normal operational arrangements for Council over the Christmas periods have been extensively advertised in the local paper and the details are also on Council's website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Quote of the Week!

"Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground."

Theodore Roosevelt

Ross Earl
General Manager