



AGENDA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND CORPORATE COMMITTEE

8 OCTOBER 2018

MEMBERSHIP: Councillors B Shields, J Diffey, V Etheridge, D Grant, D Gumley, A Jones, S Lawrence, G Mohr, K Parker and J Ryan.

The meeting is scheduled to commence at .

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The Committee had before it the report of the Economic Development, Business and Corporate Committee meeting held 10 September 2018.	
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**DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL**

Report of the Economic Development Business and Corporate Committee - meeting 10 September 2018

AUTHOR: Administration Officer - Governance
REPORT DATE: 25 September 2018

The Committee had before it the report of the Economic Development, Business and Corporate Committee meeting held 10 September 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Economic Development, Business and Corporate Committee meeting held on 10 September 2018, be adopted.



**REPORT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND
CORPORATE COMMITTEE
10 SEPTEMBER 2018**

PRESENT: Councillors J Diffey, V Etheridge, D Grant, A Jones, G Mohr, K Parker, J Ryan and B Shields.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

The Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Manager Governance and Internal Control (S Wade), the Administrative Officer Governance, the Community Support Officer, the Director Corporate Services, the Director Economic Development and Business, the Communications Coordinator, the Director Infrastructure and Operations (S Carter), the Director Planning and Environment, the Strategic Planner, the Trainee Planner, the Director Community and Recreation, the Manager Social Services and the Social Justice Coordinator.

Councillor G Mohr assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 5.41pm.

**EDBC18/45 REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS AND CORPORATE
COMMITTEE - MEETING 13 AUGUST 2018 (ID18/1346)**

The Committee had before it the report of the Economic Development, Business and Corporate Committee meeting held 13 August 2018.

Moved by Councillor D Grant and seconded by Councillor V Etheridge

MOTION

That the report of the Economic Development, Business and Corporate Committee meeting held on 13 August 2018, be noted.

CARRIED

EDBC18/46 BOOTHENBA ROAD UPGRADE - APPLICATION TO THE GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES FUND (ID18/1394)

The Committee had before it the report dated 30 August 2018 from the Economic Project and Grants Officer regarding Bootherba Road Upgrade - Application to the Growing Local Economies Fund.

Moved by Councillor B Shields and seconded by Councillor D Grant

MOTION

That if Council's Expression of Interest to the NSW Government's Growing Local Economies Fund is successful, then Council progresses with a full business case funding application for the Bootherba Road upgrade project.

CARRIED

Councillor J Ryan declared a pecuniary, significant interest in the matter now before the Committee and left the room and was out of sight during the Committee's consideration of this matter. The reason for such interest is that Councillor J Ryan is the owner of another property that could be used as a future truck stop.

EDBC18/47 2017/2018 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS REPORT (ID18/1347)

The Committee had before it the report dated 28 August 2018 from the Chief Financial Officer regarding 2017/2018 Budget Highlights Report.

Moved by Councillor J Ryan and seconded by Councillor V Etheridge

MOTION

That the information contained within the report of the Chief Financial Officer dated 28 August 2018 be noted.

CARRIED

EDBC18/48 REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - MEETING 5 SEPTEMBER 2018 (ID18/1405)

The Committee had before it the report of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held 5 September 2018.

Moved by Councillor A Jones and seconded by Councillor V Etheridge

MOTION

That the report of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 5 September 2018, be adopted.

CARRIED

EDBC18/49 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Requests for leave of absence were received from Councillors D Gumley and S Lawrence who were absent from the meeting for personal reasons.

Moved by Councillor A Jones and seconded by Councillor D Grant

MOTION

That such requests for leave of absence be accepted and Councillors D Gumley and S Lawrence be granted leave of absence from this meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 5.51pm.

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CHAIRMAN



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

REPORT: Invitation to Join Regional Cities NSW

AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer
REPORT DATE: 25 September 2018
TRIM REFERENCE: ID18/1488

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following an invitation by the NSW Inland Forum to consider joining a new group called Regional Cities NSW (RCNSW) to replace the NSW Inland Forum, the Mayor and I attended a meeting in Sydney on Thursday 1 March 2018 to discuss the proposed new group with members of the NSW Inland Forum and other invited regional councils.

This meeting was followed up by a planning day held in Sydney on Thursday 2 August 2018, which I attended, along with other invited regional councils, where further discussion around the establishment of RCNSW was workshopped and agreed.

ORGANISATIONAL VALUES

Customer Focused: Exploring partnership with like-minded regional councils in NSW and creating a formidable group to represent the interest of Regional NSW

Integrity: Not Applicable.

One Team: Not Applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The annual contribution is included in the current Budget and reflects the current NSW Inland Forum Fees.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Join Regional Cities NSW (RCNSW) instead of NSW Inland Forum with a formal review of Council's membership to take place within the first 24 months of the formal commencement of RCNSW, to ensure it is meeting its stated objectives.
2. That it be noted that whilst sixteen councils have been invited to join RCNSW, a minimum of nine councils will be needed to establish RCNSW.
3. That Council allocate \$5,000 for membership of RCNSW from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019 to a maximum of \$10,000 per annum.
4. That any documentation for membership be signed by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

Michael McMahon
Chief Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

In early December 2017, Council received an invitation from the NSW Inland Forum to join a new group called Regional Cities NSW (RCNSW).

The Inland Forum is an existing group of seven Councils that have worked collaboratively for a number of years to achieve improved outcomes and opportunities for inland NSW. The current Inland Forum member Councils are Albury, Armidale, Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga Councils. The membership of the Inland Forum have agreed that there is huge potential in expanding the membership of the group to create a new body to be known as RCNSW, hence the invitation received by this Council.

According to the invitation, RCNSW is to be modelled on the successful model that has been implemented in Victoria, where the ten largest cities outside of Melbourne work cooperatively on issues and projects of mutual interest that affect regional cities in that State.

REPORT

In summary, the proposal received from the Inland Forum was as follows:

- RCNSW will be comprised of Mayors and CEOs/General Managers of 16 large cities in regional New South Wales. These cities reside outside of the expanded metropolitan areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, have distinct regional catchments, and share similar opportunities and challenges for growth and investment.
- RCNSW will be an alliance of regional cities dedicated to achieving real change in regional New South Wales through policy development and active implementation of those policies. Regional cities are the heart of regional New South Wales and by improving their infrastructure and liveability, regional cities can help to grow and support wider regional and rural communities.

For information, the Councils invited to participate in RCNSW are as follows:

Albury	Coffs Harbour	Maitland	Tamworth
Armidale	Dubbo	Orange	Bathurst
Griffith	Tweed	Cessnock	Lismore
Queanbeyan	Wagga Wagga	Mid-Coast	Port Macquarie-Hastings

At the planning day held on 2 August 2018, participants agreed on the following indicators of overall success for RCNSW:

- State government and community have recognised of the significance and benefits of regional cities.
- A seat at the policy table to advise state government on the formation and implementation of policies.

- The establishment of a population or settlement strategy that would prioritise population growth to regional cities.
- The alliance is known as having a clear point of difference from the other alliances in the regional developments space.
- A strong network that offers collaboration, networking and collective benefit to all members.

It was agreed at the planning day that the overall success of RCNSW would be the creation of connected, thriving and sustainable regional cities. To this end, discussion took place on the establishment of a short-term agenda for RCNSW, to ensure that this new alliance was more than simply a talk-fest on regional issues, but had real actions and goals to work towards. The most supported ideas around this to come from the planning day were:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with State Government:

Establishing, through a formal agreement, a mechanism for the alliance to have a seat at the table and provide strategic influence on the State's policy and investment agenda.

Snowy Hydro Funding:

Providing a set of recommendations on how the government should invest the \$4.2 billion released in the NSW budget from the sale of Snowy Hydro project. The government has indicated that all of these funds will go to the regions and they will need guidance on how this money should be allocated. The group also anticipated that there would be streamlined funding mechanisms to enable regional cities to access this funding.

Population Strategy:

Due to ongoing debate of metropolitan congestion and rapid population growth, the group saw a great opportunity to have influence in developing a framework for growing regional cities under the banner of a state population strategy, with the aim being to develop a settlement plan directing people, infrastructure and business to regional cities.

Regional Investment:

Identifying a framework to identify how regional investment can be streamlined to be better facilitated in the regions.

One of the other key purposes of the 2 August 2018 planning day was to discuss the proposed governance and structure arrangements for RCNSW.

- Formation: The alliance to be known as Regional Cities New South Wales (RCNSW) be formed.
- Membership: Councils representing regional cities that had a clear service centre role would be invited to be members.
- Board Members: The forum should be a Mayor and CEO/General Manager forum with alternates offered in the case of inability to attend.
- Board Structure: All member councils (Mayor and CEO/General Manager) will sit on the board. Voting will be by consensus.
- Meeting Schedule: Members agreed to meeting quarterly at a venue to be defined at a later date, noting that visits to each member city would be welcomed.

RCNSW membership is not geographically based, but will rather focus on commonality of interests between the sixteen regional cities, regardless of their location. This form of an alliance will be able to pursue issues such as population growth, congestion, access, investment etc. and perhaps more effectively than a Joint Organisation may be able to, simply considering the membership and make up of a Joint Organisation.

From a funding perspective, there have been initial discussions around the level of financial contribution required from each member Council in order to ensure the viability of RCNSW. It was agreed at the planning day that an investment of \$10,000 per annum by each member Council was considered to be a reasonable amount of funding to enable RCNSW to be established; to engage an appropriate secretariat and to establish a strategic plan. There may well be other initiatives that this pooled funding will be able to support in line with the objectives of RCNSW.

It should be noted that as per recommendation 3 as included in this report, the current funding request for this financial year is \$5,000, effectively being for membership of RCNSW from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019, noting that the Inland Forum has kindly offered to fund the secretariat and support staff during the coming months to ensure that RCNSW can be established in a timely and effective manner.

SUMMARY

In consideration of the changing landscape of NSW local councils and the opportunities for increased funding into regional councils through various NSW Government funding sources, I believe the opportunity to be part of a new expanded network of councils and work collaboratively with the largest regional cities in NSW will enhance Dubbo Regional Council's capacity to attract funding, investment, employment and influence future NSW Government Policy.