

ITEM A

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - RESPONSE TO REVIEW OF JOINT ORGANISATIONS IN NSW

The Minister for Local Government has written to all NSW Councils regarding a review of the framework that governs Joint Organisations (JOs) in NSW. The Minister has asked Councils to advise the Office of Local Government if they want to be a member of a JO, and which JO they would like to join, create, withdraw from or retain membership of.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) is comprised of Wollongong City Council, Shellharbour City Council, Kiama Municipal Council and Shoalhaven City Council as Members with Wollondilly Shire Council as an Associate Member.

Since it was established in 2018, ISJO has provided a mechanism for effective collaboration between Councils and strategic engagement with NSW Government. The cooperative programs and initiatives facilitated by the ISJO have produced significant benefits to Member and Associate Member Councils.

The Joint Organisation framework has enabled ISJO to successfully plan and advocate on behalf the Illawarra Shoalhaven region. Whilst the JO boundaries established in 2018 aligned well with communities of interest and regional economic activity, Wollongong City Council acknowledges the need to review regional collaboration arrangements to ensure they are current and reflect future growth and investment priorities.

Wollongong City Council is working constructively with Camden, Campbelltown, Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee, and Wollondilly Councils on the LG8 Strategic Partnership. This partnership brings together Councils from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region, Macarthur Region and Southern Highlands.

The LG8 Strategic Partnership will enable local government to work collaboratively with the State and Commonwealth to support nationally significant population, housing and job growth in the economic corridor between Western Sydney International Airport and the Port of Port Kembla.

The Councils in the LG8 Strategic Partnership are working together proactively to support our growing communities and there is significant merit in formalising this arrangement. Through the review of Joint Organisations, the NSW Government should consider opportunities to expand and enhance the existing operational and governance model for ISJO to include the Macarthur and Southern Highland Regions.

RECOMMENDATION

I therefore recommend that Wollongong City Council provide a response to the Office of Local Government review of Joint Organisation membership and boundaries that -

- a Notes that Wollongong City Council is working proactively with Camden, Campbelltown, Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly Councils on the 'LG8 Strategic Partnership'; and,
- b Requests the NSW Government consider opportunities to expand and enhance the operational and governance model of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation to include the Macarthur and Southern Highlands Regions.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.