

7 Wednesday February 2018

## JOINT ORGANISATIONS MEETING

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Mayors and General Managers from the Riverina region gathered together on Monday 5 February to discuss the Joint Organisations proposal passed by the NSW Parliament of legislation. The NSW Department Premier and Cabinet was represented by Kim Stone and the NSW Office of Local Government was represented by Melissa Gibbs, who facilitated the meeting, giving an overview of the differences between Regional Organisations of Councils and Joint Organisations, assisting with all concerns raised.

The proposal is set to replace the long established Regional Organisations of Councils and aims to provide more interaction between differing levels of government. While also facilitating effective regional planning and provision of services on a shared basis.

Narrandera Shire Council's Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka and General Manager, George Cowan, together with Leeton Shire Council's Mayor Cr Paul Maytom and General Manager, Jackie Kruger, hosted the meeting, extending an invitation to RAMROC and REROC Councils to attend. The meeting provided an opportunity for open discussion with government representatives on their concerns about the forthcoming changes to the Regional Organisations of Councils.

Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka said "We had an excellent attendance from Councils of RAMOC and REROC with 28 representatives from 14 councils. The opportunity was well received and the open discussion was beneficial to all who attended. Melissa Gibbs from the NSW Office of Local Government gave a detailed presentation on what is involved in forming a Joint Organisation."

The presentation focused on detailing the legal status and functions of a Joint Organisation. How the inter-government collaboration would function and impact on Councils, the boundaries of a Joint Organisation. What the membership involves, finance and assets, the planning of priorities and reporting, regional strategic priorities and the strengths and weaknesses of becoming a Joint Organisation.

Mayor Kschenka continued "Some councils are favouring a large combined RAMROC/REROC Joint Organisation which could increase lobbying potential on important issues that affect the whole region, including the Murray Darling Basin Plan, while other Councils want the status quo to prevail as an easier to manage smaller Joint Organisation."

"Narrandera is currently a long standing member of RAMROC but sharing many important services with Wagga Wagga which is in REROC. Being on the border of both regions and on the border of State and Federal electorates means that evaluating the positives and negatives for both options is imperative."

Councils are required to submit their decision to the Minister of Local Government by 28 February 2018 on which Joint Organisation they have endorsed to join.

# MEDIA RELEASE



*Joint organisations Meeting at the Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club.*

**END**

Precis or Summary: Joint Organisations Meeting			
Attachments	Nil	Embargoed: N/A	
<b>Authorised By:</b> General Manager; George Cowan		<b>Media Contact:</b> Communications Officer, Edwina Foley T (02) 6959 5502	
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