

## NOROC JOINT ORGANISATIONS BACKGROUND PAPER - FEEDBACK FORM

### PURPOSE (Section 2)

- 1. What benefits can you see from a Regional Strategic Planning Agreement signed jointly by the NSW Government and the Chair of the JO?**
  - A co-signed agreement would see NSW Planning formally committed to working alongside Local Government, rather than above it, to determine and achieve regional strategic planning priorities and goals.
  - Local Government would have a genuine and equal seat at the table.
  - Local Government input would have the same weight as State Government input.

#### Challenges

- The Regional Strategic Plan could result in a coastal/"green" bias which would be out of step with the priorities of inland councils.
- It will be a challenge to get some people to think about the best interests of the region rather than their LGA.

### CORE FUNCTIONS (Section 4)

#### Regional strategic planning and priority setting

- 2. Do you have any comments on the definition of regional strategic planning and priority setting for JOs?**
  - Is the definition about broader strategic planning such as transport, or only about land use planning?
- 3. What guidance and tools will be helpful for JOs when preparing strategic priorities and work plans?**
  - Flexible approach to suit each JO
  - Advice about the role of the RDA and relationship with the JO/Local Government with respect to the development of strategic regional priorities and funding.
  - The CENTROC Multi Criteria Analysis Tool may be useful.
  - Consideration for the cost to councils of resourcing the preparation of strategic priorities and work plans as specialist consultants may have to be hired.

#### Intergovernmental collaboration

- 4. Do you have any comments on the definition of intergovernmental collaboration?**
  - NO
- 5. Are there any additional tools which would help support intergovernmental collaboration?**
  - NO

#### Leadership and advocacy

6. Do you have any comments on the definition of leadership and advocacy?

- NO

7. Are there any additional tools which would help support leadership and advocacy?

- NO

## OPTIONAL FUNCTIONS (Section 5)

### Building capacity and supporting councils

8. Do you have any comments on the definition of capacity building in relation to optional functions?

- NO

9. What optional functions do you think should be undertaken by JOs?

- NOROC supports the implementation of a minimalist JO model focusing on the three core functions with optional functions to be considered at a later time.

10. What tools will be helpful to support JOs in building capacity and supporting councils to undertake optional functions?

- See response to question 9.

## A NEW ENTITY (Section 6)

11. How can sub committees and working groups be used to support the JO Board, including in delivering optional functions?

- See response to question 9.

## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (Section 7)

### Representation and operation of the Board

12. Are there any other tools which will help support good governance?

- NSW Government to be involved in the process to inform councillors about the JO, its roles and responsibilities.
- Early training for councillors as to the role of their Mayor in the JO, with a focus on understanding the need for the Mayor to make decisions for the benefit of a region rather than an LGA.

13. How should the governance tools be developed and who should participate in their development?

- Each JO should develop its own governance tools and structures.

### Planning and reporting

**14. What tools or guidance will be most helpful in supporting JOs to develop strategic priorities and work plans and annual performance reports?**

- Guidance materials would be useful as long as they are broad in principle.

## **RESOURCING (Section 8)**

### **Financial resourcing**

**15. What tools could support JOs to understand the costs and benefits to support resourcing decisions?**

- If councils are going to invest in a JO, councillors need to be convinced of the benefits.
- Tools should be developed to encourage people to think regionally.
- Tools should focus on and demonstrate how the JO will result in Local Government being an equal partner with the State Government.

### **Staffing**

**16. What are your views on the use of a standard contract for JO Executive Officers?**

- Flexibility needs to be built in to allow for the engagement of a full-time or part-time Executive Officer.

**17. Are there any additional or alternate skills which would be desirable for Executive Officers to have?**

- NO

## **REGIONAL FLEXIBILITY FOR CORPORATIONS & OTHER JO-FORMED**

### **ENTITIES (Section 9)**

**18. Do you have any comments on the emerging direction for JO-formed entities shown in Table 2 or issues you would like to raise?**

- NO

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (Section 10)**

### **Boundaries**

**19. Do you have any comments about the JO boundary criteria?**

- JO boundaries should align with regional growth planning boundaries.
- The JO boundaries should reflect communities of interest.

### **Regional service delivery and county councils**

**20. What role should JOs play in regional service delivery?**

- This should be for each JO to determine.

- 21. How could the service delivery functions provided by county councils link to the regional strategic planning and priority setting function of JOs?**
- Each JOs should be able to determine the relationship and opportunities between the JO and county councils.

### **Regulatory functions under other legislation**

- 22. Do you think JOs should be enabled to undertake regulatory functions for member councils?**
- The option should be available.
- 23. What legislation will need to be amended to enable this?**
- Whatever legislation is relevant.
- 24. Should there be any limits placed on the regulatory functions which JOs can undertake?**
- NO
- 25. What tools and guidance are needed to support JOs wishing to undertake regulatory functions?**
- No comment

### **Liability and oversight**

- 26. Do you have any comments on the liability and oversight frameworks proposed for JOs?**
- Depends on the activities of the JO.
  - The JO needs to be responsible for liability i.e. member councils should not individually be liable for work undertaken by the JO.

### **OTHER COMMENTS**

- 27. Do you have any other comments to make?**
- The comments in this submission do not necessarily reflect the views of individual NOROC member councils.
  - Will State Government agencies, not involved in pilot JOs, genuinely allow Local Government to be an equal partner?
  - Will there be guidelines, or a default position, for JOs unable to resolve issues regarding resourcing and a formula for the payment of membership fees?
  - There is a concern that once the JO is in place State Government agencies will not be keen to engage directly with individual councils on local issues.