

Councils that are interested in becoming a member of a Joint Organisation have been invited to submit their nomination to the Minister for Local Government.

To nominate each council should:

- Write to the Minister for Local Government stating that they have resolved to be a member of a Joint Organisation
- Attach the council resolution in relation to joining a Joint Organisation
- Complete the *Forming a Joint Organisation - checklist* below

## Forming a Joint Organisation - Checklist

Please complete the checklist below.

An optional text box is provided if you wish to provide further information to support the Joint Organisation nomination:

**1.** Please list each council that is nominating to be a member of the Joint Organisation.

**2.** Please confirm that your proposal aligns with, or ‘nests’ within one of the NSW planning regions.

Yes      No

**3.** Do you have a preferred name for the Joint Organisation for the Government’s consideration?

**4.** Please confirm that the Joint Organisation membership proposed demonstrates a community of interest between councils.

Yes      No

**5.** If your proposal results in a small number of councils in your planning region not being included in a Joint Organisation, have you discussed options with them and what are the views of those councils?

Yes      No

# Joint Organisation nomination



**6.** Please confirm that your nomination is based around a strong regional centre or centres.

Yes      No

**7.** Please confirm that the proposed Joint Organisation will be an appropriate size and have capacity to partner with the NSW Government, the Commonwealth Government and other organisations.

Yes      No

**8.** Please specify any non-financial support required to ensure your Joint Organisation proposal is implemented successfully.

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Nominations should be submitted to [jointorganisations@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jointorganisations@olg.nsw.gov.au) and marked 'Nomination for Joint Organisation'. Councils are required to submit their nomination by **28 February 2018**.

**The Joint Organisation Network will be finalised in March 2018. Joint Organisations will be proclaimed to enable commencement in July 2018.**

# Proposed JO resolution for councils



**The council resolutions are a critical input in the process of getting Joint Organisation areas recommended to the Governor by the Minister. It is important these resolutions align for groups of councils that wish to form a Joint Organisation.**

Once the resolutions have been made by councils the Minister must wait at least 28 days before recommending the Joint Organisation to the Governor.

The resolutions must be worded in a way that will allow for any changes in proposed membership that could potentially occur within the 28 days (e.g. a council rescinds the decision to join the Joint Organisation) without compromising the ability of the remaining councils to still form the Joint Organisation.

Below is a suggested Joint Organisation Resolution for councils. It is advisable any resolution is made following commencement of the legislation (to be advised by the Office of Local Government).

*In accordance with Part 7 of Chapter 12 of the Local Government Act 1993 (**Act**), the [NAME OF COUNCIL] (**Council**) resolves:*

**1.** *That the council inform the Minister for Local Government (**Minister**) of the Council's endorsement of the Minister recommending to the Governor the establishment of a Joint Organisation (**Joint Organisation**) in accordance with this resolution.*

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**2.** *To approve the inclusion of the Council's area in the Joint Organisation's area.*

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**3.** *That the Joint Organisation be established to cover the Council's area and any one or more of the following council areas:*

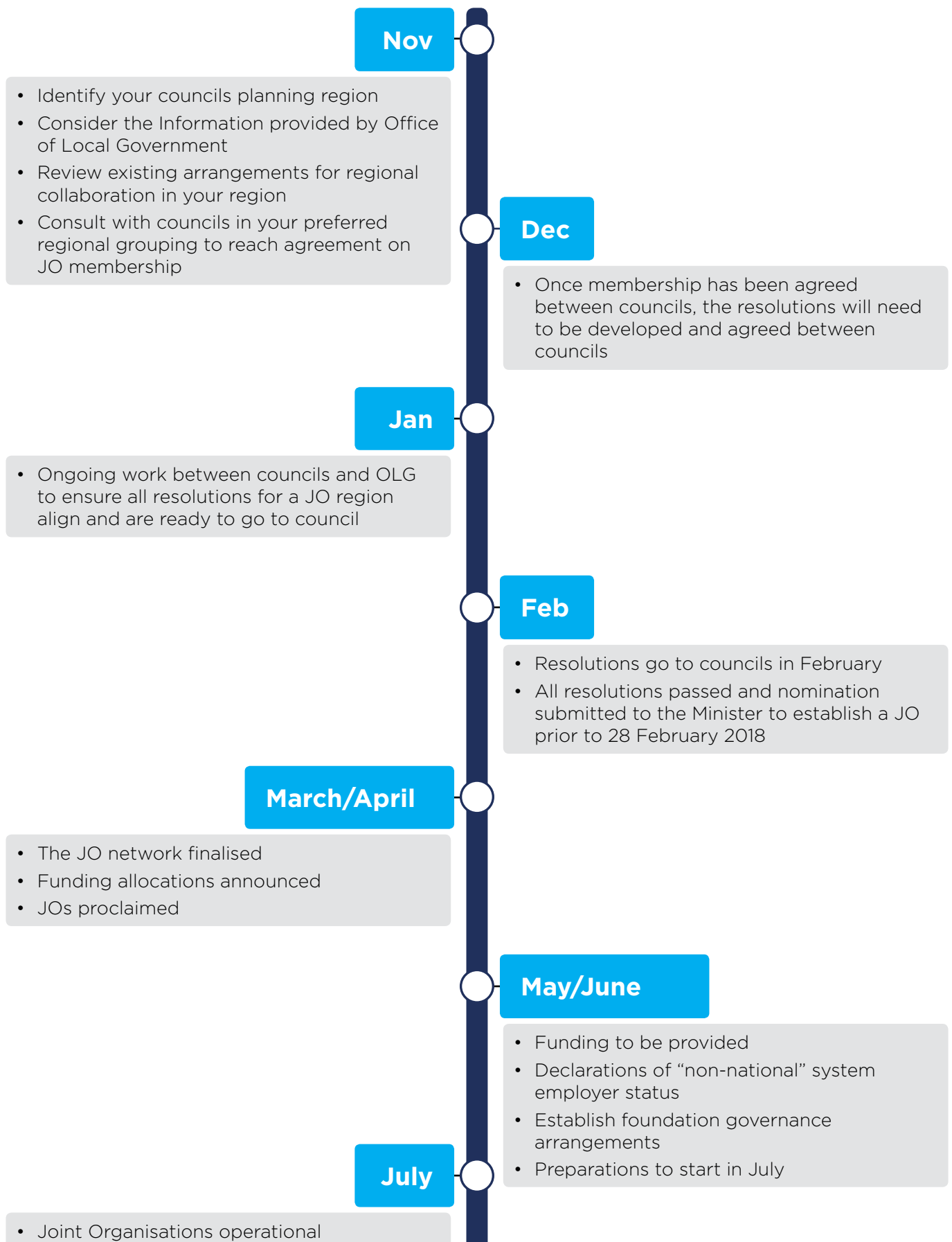
*a) [INSERT A LIST OF ALL RELEVANT COUNCIL AREAS WITHIN THE RELEVANT STATE PLANNING REGIONS]*

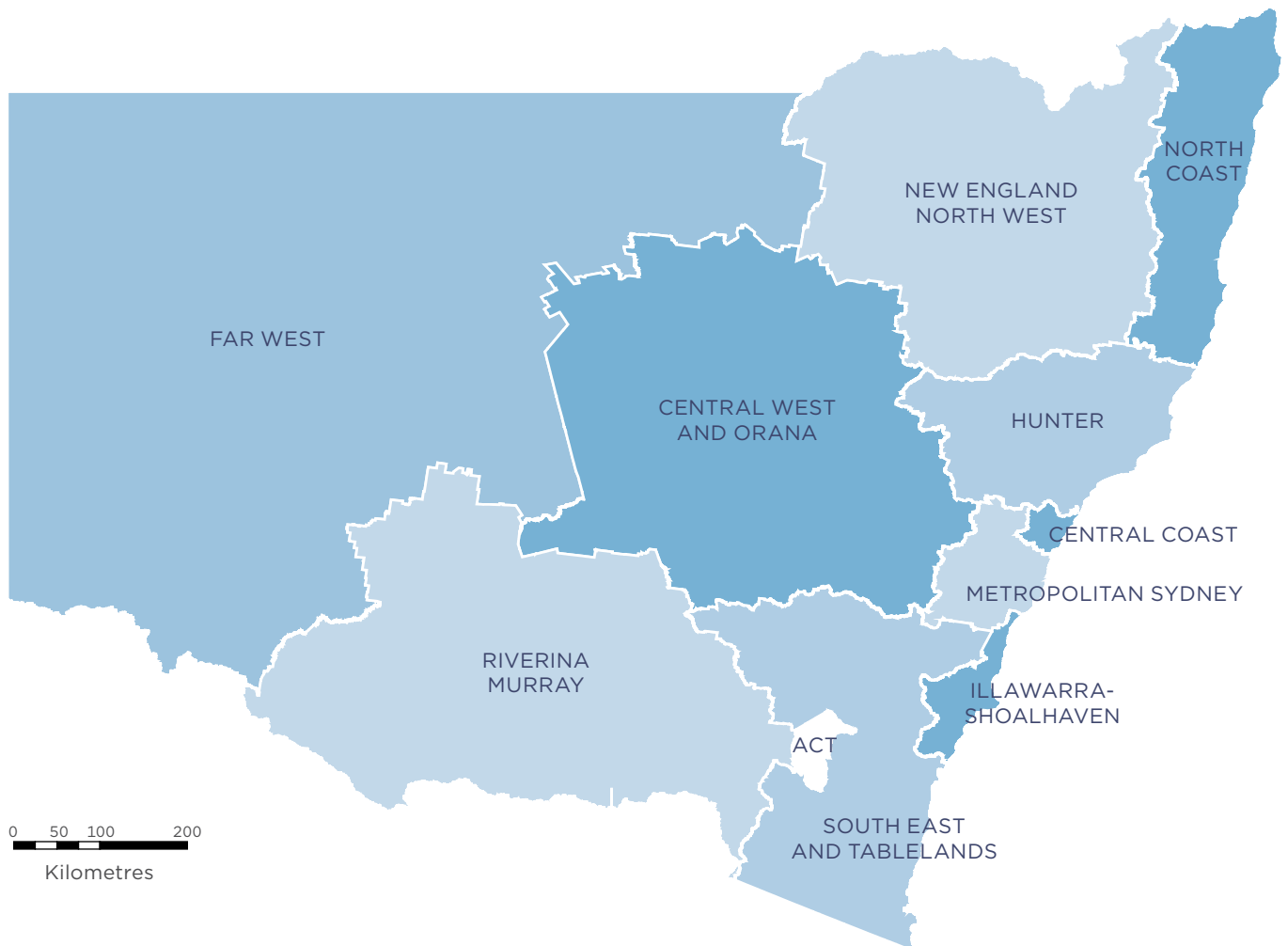
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**4.** *That before 28 February 2018, the General Manager provide the Minister with a copy of this resolution including the date on which Council made this resolution.*

**5.** *That, on the expiry of a period of 28 days from the making of this resolution, the General Manager inform the Minister that this resolution has not been rescinded.*

# Joint Organisation formation and implementation timeline for councils





# Distribution of councils in NSW planning regions

## Central West and Orana

Bogan Shire Council	Lachlan Shire Council	Warren Shire Council	Narromine Shire Council
Parkes Shire Council	Forbes Shire Council	Weddin Shire Council	Coonamble Shire Council
Gilgandra Shire Council	Dubbo Regional Council	Cabonne Shire Council	Cowra Shire Council
Orange Shire Council	Blayney Shire Council	Warrumbungle Shire Council	Mid-Western Regional Council
Bathurst Regional Council	Lithgow City Council	Oberon Council	

## Hunter

Upper Hunter Shire Council	Muswellbrook Shire Council	Singleton Shire Council	Mid-Coast Council
Dungog Shire Council	Maitland City Council	Cessnock City Council	Port Stephens Council
Newcastle City Council	Lake Macquarie City Council		

## New England North West

Moree Plains Shire Council	Narrabri Shire Council	Gunnedah Shire Council	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Gwydir Shire Council	Tamworth Regional Council	Inverell Shire Council	Uralla Shire Council
Tenterfield Shire Council	Glen Innes Severn Shire Council	Armidale Regional Council	Walcha Council

## North Coast

Tweed Shire Council	Kyogle Council	Lismore City Council	Byron Shire Council
Ballina Shire Council	Richmond Valley Council	Clarence Valley Council	Coffs Harbour City Council
Bellingen Shire Council	Nambucca Shire Council	Kempsey Shire Council	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

## Riverina Murray

Hay Shire Council	Edward River Council	Murray River Council	Carrathool Shire Council
Griffith City Council	Murrumbidgee Council	Berrigan Shire Council	Bland Shire Council
Leeton Shire Council	Narrandera Shire Council	Federation Council	Temora Shire Council
Coolamon Shire Council	Junee Shire Council	Wagga Wagga City Council	Lockhart Shire Council
Greater Hume Shire Council	Albury City Council	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	Snowy Valleys Council

## South East and Tablelands

Hilltops Council	Yass Valley Council	Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council	Snowy Monaro Regional Council	Wingecarribee Shire Council	Eurobodalla Shire Council
Bega Valley Shire Council			

## Illawarra Shoalhaven

Shoalhaven City Council	Kiama Municipal Council	Shellharbour City Council	Wollongong City Council
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## Q1: What is a Joint Organisation?

**A:** A Joint Organisation is a new entity under the Local Government Act comprising member councils in regional NSW to provide a stronger voice for the communities they represent.

Each Joint Organisation will comprise at least three member councils and align with one of the State's strategic growth planning regions. One of the member council's mayors will be elected chairperson and an Executive Officer may be appointed.

## Q2: How will Joint Organisations benefit councils and communities in regional NSW?

**A:** Joint Organisations will transform the way that the NSW Government and local councils collaborate, plan, set priorities and deliver important projects on a regional scale. These new partnerships will benefit local communities across regional NSW by working across traditional council boundaries.

## Q3: How do we know Joint Organisations will work?

**A:** The Joint Organisation model has been developed in close consultation with councils and the NSW Government has listened to regional councils to get the model right. This included a pilot program for five groups of councils to test a range of options, which involved the participation of 43 councils and delivered a range of initiatives and projects to those regions.

An independent evaluation of the pilot program found Joint Organisations bring benefits to regional communities in delivering on-the-ground projects and attracting more investment to regional communities.

## Q4: Why should councils choose to form a Joint Organisation?

**A:** Joint Organisations will provide a forum for councils, agencies and others to come together and focus on their regional priorities – the things that matter for that region. Joint Organisations will help drive the delivery of important regional projects – the infrastructure and services that local communities need and deserve.

Joint Organisations will also provide councils with a more efficient way to deliver shared services for members and the region. Where member councils agree, they can choose to share a common approach to services such as information technology, water management services and community strategic planning. The NSW Government will provide \$3.3 million to support councils to establish Joint Organisations

## Q5: Can councils determine their own regional boundaries?

**A:** While the choice to join, and composition of a Joint Organisation is voluntary, the NSW Government will only support the creation of Joint Organisations within existing State planning regions and in regional NSW. Councils have told us that effective collaboration will only be realised when State and local government boundaries are aligned.

To aid this process the NSW Government has consulted the sector on boundary criteria which they can take into account when determining the membership of their Joint Organisation.

Joint Organisation boundaries should:

- align with, or 'nest' within one of the State's planning regions
- demonstrate a clear community of interest between member councils and regions
- not adversely impact on other councils or JOs, for example, leaving too few councils to form a JO
- be based around a strong regional centre or centres
- be of an appropriate size to partner with State, Commonwealth and other partners.
- Consistent with previous Government decisions, Joint Organisations will not be considered for metropolitan Sydney and the Central Coast at this time.

**Q6: Are Far West Councils able to form a JO?**

**A:** The Government will be writing to Far West councils to advise them of their opportunity to form or join a JO. This will include specific guidance applicable to Far West councils only.

**Q7: What are the next steps for interested councils?**

**A:** Councils are invited to nominate to form a Joint Organisation in their region. Councils are encouraged to open discussions with their neighbours as soon as possible.

The Office of Local Government is available to facilitate these discussions and provide support to councils through the nomination process. Specific requirements to form a Joint Organisation will be provided to councils shortly.

Each Joint Organisation will be created by a proclamation and the NSW Government will then ask the Commonwealth to endorse each Joint Organisation as a non-national system employer to ensure that any staff of a Joint Organisation, with the exception of the Executive Officer, are employed under the State local government award.

**Q8: What support will be provided to councils and Joint Organisations once established?**

**A:** The Office of Local Government will work with Joint Organisations to support their establishment and ensure they have the necessary systems and governance in place for the Joint Organisations to deliver results for regional communities.

The Office of Local Government and the Department of Premier and Cabinet will foster collaboration between Joint Organisations and State agencies to identify and act on opportunities to benefit regional communities.

**Q9: Can councils choose not to participate?**

**A:** Councils can choose not to become a member of a Joint Organisation. The Government strongly encourages all councils in regional NSW to consider the benefits and opportunities offered by Joint Organisations.

Councils that are members of Joint Organisations will be able to take advantage of investment opportunities that are delivered through the Joint Organisation.

**Q10: What funding is available to Joint Organisations?**

**A:** The Government will provide up to \$3.3 million in seed funding to Joint Organisations to support their establishment. The Government will identify opportunities for additional investment through Joint Organisations in regional economies.

Funding for each Joint Organisation will be based on the number of councils that choose to form a Joint Organisations, with maximum funding provided to regions where all councils in a region choose to be members of the new regional body.

All Joint Organisations, whether they were pilot regions or not, will be provided with seed funding.

Further details on funding arrangements will be provided to councils.

**Q11: Will this funding be enough to help councils establish a JO?**

**A:** The NSW Government is providing significant funding and support to help those councils that choose to establish a Joint Organisation. The pilot program demonstrated that groups of councils can achieve substantial benefits for their communities and significant cost savings by working together through a Joint Organisation.

**Q12: How are Joint Organisations different to Regional Organisations of Councils?**

**A:** The Joint Organisation model provides for greater certainty and continuity as well as recognising the unique differences in the many regions of NSW. While some ROCs have been effective, they have varied functions, membership, and governance structures which often makes collaboration more difficult.



## Website

[www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au)

## OLG key contacts

Chris Presland, Director of Reform Implementation	0413 274 882
Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development	0491 225 904
Office of Local Government, Development Team	02 4428 4100

## Secure Stronger Councils Portal

A secure portal is available for councils to access information and share resources on Joint Organisations. To access the portal go to <https://portal.strongercouncils.nsw.gov.au>

You will need to login and register with your council email address.

OLG will use the portal to provide up to date information and share best practice between councils and Joint Organisations during the formation and implementation phase.

## Department of Premier and Cabinet Regional contacts

Hunter 0418406733   02 49212603	Aaron Spadaro, Senior Coordination Officer
Northern NSW (Tamworth) 0477316 189   0267602671	Alison McGaffin, Director, Northern NSW
Northern NSW (Coffs Harbour) 0481 919 697   02 66598651	Andrew Hegedus, Director North Coast
Southern NSW (Wollongong) 0477 320 822   0242536301	Anthony Body, Director Southern Region
Southern NSW (Queanbeyan) 0427 454 375   02 92283296	Heidi Stratford, Director South East and Tablelands
Western NSW (Dubbo) 0400 364 960   02 68267801	Ashley Albury, Director, Western NSW
Western NSW (Wagga) 0417947976	Trudi McDonald, Director Riverina Murray