

16 October 2015

Office of Local Government
Joint Organisations Emerging Directions
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Fit for the Future – Joint Organisations – Emerging Directions Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to review the *Joint Organisations – Emerging Directions Paper*. The Urban Taskforce provides the following high-level comments for your consideration.

The Urban Taskforce supports the general approach to Joint Organisations outlined in this Paper. We believe that this approach to Joint Organisations could be successfully applied to local government within the Sydney Metropolitan Area, should the proposed amalgamation of local councils currently under consideration by the state government not proceed.

The 'Core Functions' for the joint organisations outlined in the Paper should include the planning assessment role currently undertaken by the Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPPs). This is particularly relevant for the Hunter Joint Organisation, as the geographic area for both the JO and the JRPP are consistent. The JO should have a single 'planning centre of excellence' to service the JRPP and undertake strategic planning on behalf of the councils within that area.

We are always willing to provide a development industry perspective on planning and property development issues and we would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss these issues in more detail. Please feel free to contact me on telephone number 9238 3927 to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Urban Taskforce Australia



Chris Johnson AM
Chief Executive Officer