

ISJO Matters

May 2022

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Region comprises the local government areas of Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and the Shoalhaven.

Our region is renowned for its scenic beauty, diversity and its innovative industrial, service, creative and knowledge economy. The Illawarra Shoalhaven has a population in excess of 400,000 and a gross regional product (GRP) of \$25.091 billion.

It is one of Australia's most significant regional contributors to national prosperity.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) is an authority operating within the framework of the NSW Local Government Act.

ISJO's role is to:

- (a) Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and to establish strategies and plans for delivering those strategic regional priorities
- (b) Provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities, and
- (c) Identify and take up opportunities for inter-governmental co-operation on matters relating to the joint organisation area.

ISJO works in partnership with our Member Councils, State Agencies and peak organisations in helping achieve the best possible outcomes for our region's communities.

ISJO Matters is our Joint Organisation Newsletter and provides information on recent programs and projects undertaken under the ISJO Banner.

Inside this May 2022 Edition:

- Joint Organisations Update
- Implementing the Modern Slavery Amendment Act
- Environment and Waste Programs Update
- Weeds Management Program Update
- Meeting Schedule



Our Logo

ISJO's logo was adopted in 2019 and is a graphic representation of the geographic placement of our four Member Council areas (Wollongong to the north, then Shellharbour, Kiama and the Shoalhaven to the south) and the strategic linkages and shared (overlapping) operational, economic, community and infrastructure interests that drive our collective endeavours.

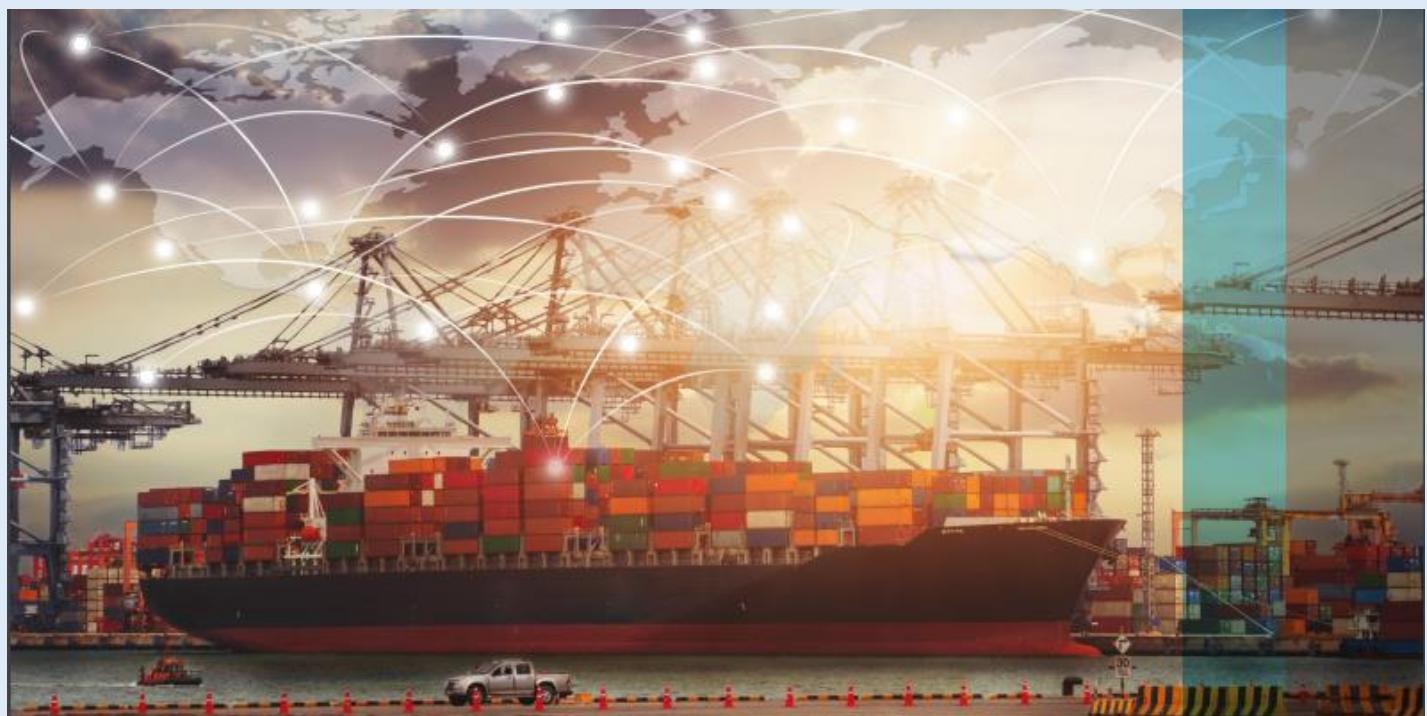
Joint Organisations Update

The Joint Organisation Chairs Forum met in Sydney on 26 May to discuss a range of items including progress on implementation of the 2021 Joint Organisations Review, Forum governance arrangements and a number of issues impacting on Councils including and especially the resourcing and cost consequences of integrating the NSW Department of Planning and Environment Planning Portal into Council operations.

Significant progress was made on all items. The Office of Local Government (OLG) has distributed the key messages from the 28 March 2022 Parliament House workshop and the State Government interagency group – chaired by the Executive Director of the OLG and now with representation from eighteen key agencies – is working hard on mechanisms to promote strategic partnerships and communication between the agencies, Joint Organisations and Councils. Exploration of funding for Joint Organisations, boundary changes to better reflect communities of interest and measures to reduce the administrative burden on Joint Organisations are clear priorities for the Office and its staff.

Revised Terms of Reference of the Joint Organisation Chairs Forum have also been prepared.

Implementing the Modern Slavery Amendment Act



The NSW [Modern Slavery Amendment Act 2021](#) commenced on 1 January 2022 and as a result the NSW Local Government Act 1993 has been amended.

From 1 July 2022 all NSW councils will be required to:

- take reasonable steps to ensure that the goods and services they procure are not the product of modern slavery, and
- include a statement in their annual report of steps taken during the year to address the requirements of the Modern Slavery Amendment Act.

Also in force is the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018. This Act requires entities based or operating in Australia, and that have an annual consolidated revenue of more than \$100 million, to report annually on the risks of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains, and actions undertaken to address those risks. Local government is not required to publish a Modern Slavery Statement under the Commonwealth Act but larger councils with revenues above the \$100 million threshold may choose to do so voluntarily.

Regardless of legislative requirements – as spenders of public monies – councils have an ethical obligation to consider, identify and manage modern slavery risks within their supply chains.

The ISJO in partnership with Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven Councils has engaged [Sustainable Choice](#) to undertake a modern slavery risk assessment of suppliers to our organisations. This assessment will identify those suppliers that present a low, moderate or high compliance risk and will enable ISJO and the Councils to have confidence that our procurement practices accord with the requirements of the Amendment Act.

The ISJO has also obtained a toolkit from Sustainable Choice that includes a wide range of resources to enable ongoing adherence to the Act. The toolkit includes:

- An educational factsheet targeted to council executives and procurement staff that contains key information on legislative requirements, what modern slavery is, how to identify it and steps to reduce modern slavery risks in Council's supply chain.
- An educational factsheet that can be distributed to employees that contains key information on what modern slavery is, how to identify it, why action is needed and tips to reduce risk.
- A Modern Slavery Prevention Policy template
- A Supplier Code of Conduct template – also incorporates environmental and social value expectations
- Modern slavery tender criteria and a Modern slavery contract clause
- A Pre-purchase Modern Slavery Risk Checklist, and
- Modern slavery awareness training resources.

Strategic Program Updates

Environment and Waste

Home to Recycling Collection Service (Wollongong City Council)

The ISJO has developed a proposal to trial the collection, separation and transport of hard to recycle items in the Wollongong LGA. The intention of the trial is to develop for Council a chain of custody assurance from point of collection at local households to recycling facilities.

An advertising campaign will offer householders a free service that will collect household recyclable items and transport them to a Community Recycling Centre, a commercial recycling facility or a social enterprise.

The campaign will target householders with an appetite to recycle items that cannot be accepted through the kerbside yellow bin service.

 15 March · 

Our Community Recycling Centre (CRC) is a free and easy way to recycle problem waste such as used batteries, old lightbulbs and unwanted paint and oil from your household. These items and many more are handled by our CRC so they don't harm the environment and end up in landfill.

Visit <https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/.../community-recycling-centre> for more information on problem waste and how our CRC can help.

**The right place for your problem waste.
Free service.**



cleanout.com.au



Regional Commercial Glass Capture (Shoalhaven City Council)

The ISJO team has commenced a regional assessment of waste glass sources across a range of industries and we are continuing conversations to determine viable destinations and uses for the materials sourced.

Waste glass is created through an incredibly wide range of activities including but not limited to windscreen repair, building construction and repair and hospitality.

Because of the sheer volume of waste glass generated and its weight and complexity of handling there are potentially considerable savings to be had for businesses in our region. The glass collected is in itself a potentially valuable resource with a multitude of uses including use in road base.

Community Recycling Centre Videos

The ISJO recently partnered with six other regional waste groups to develop a series of Community Recycling Centre videos. These videos explain what happens to items that are dropped off for recycling and have been locally branded to facilitate their use on Council websites, e-newsletters and social media platforms.

Partnering with the other regional groups in the development of the campaign was cost effective and delivered a high quality platform for common messaging to a broad audience.

Each video focuses on a different item. Topics include old lightbulbs, unwanted paint, used batteries, unwanted X-Rays and used oil.



Council Support

The ISJO has undertaken a review of minor contracts that could be delivered regionally to achieve enhanced environmental outcomes, economies of scale and increased competitive advantage through the attraction of new suppliers.

Discussions will continue with relevant teams over the coming months prior to reporting to a steering committee for regional contracts.

With the both the State and Federal Governments strong policy and budgetary focus on the circular economy, the ISJO has identified an opportunity to support our Councils in their sustainable procurement practices. We have recently applied for support for two projects:

1. Development of a regional framework to benchmark sustainable procurement – this project will assist Councils in the identification and planning for leading practice
2. Development of a regional single use plastics policy framework.

With the ban on certain single use plastics coming into effect from 1 November 2022, this project will support Council procurement of alternatives and role modelling of responsible environmental practice.



Regional Illegal Dumping Program

Despite challenges presented by the weather, our illegal dumping awareness campaign has continued with ISJO casual staff being out and about on our e-bikes and with our trailer billboards engaging with the community.

We are raising awareness on a number of key messages for residents and visitors:

1. Information on the how, what and why of reporting illegal dumping
2. Checklists for landowners on required approvals, source credentials and contamination issues associated with landfill
3. Information for home renovators and building on safe handling, transport and disposal of asbestos
4. Information on Green Waste and the risks of spreading weeds, nutrient pollution of waterways, blocked drainage lines and bushfire threats.

Presentation at Waste 2022 Conference



Our Regional Illegal Dumping Program Coordinator, James Vincent, presented on our outstandingly successful Free Asbestos Removal Program at the Waste 2022 Conference held recently in Coffs Harbour.

The program, funded by the NSW Environment Protection Authority under the Waste Less Recycle More initiative, provided a free and legal means for households to deal with legacy asbestos on their properties.

To access a copy of James' presentation to the conference please click [HERE](#).

Such was the demand for the service we are currently investigating options for its continuation and expansion throughout our region.

Weeds Officer, our Biosecurity Weeds Inspector and Weeds Officer.

The theme of the Conference was "Discover through Recovery" reflecting the ever increasing occurrence of natural disasters that have affected both the natural and manmade landscapes over the last few years and the recovery process required following such disasters. From drought to fires to relentless downpours the Conference highlighted that the recovery process requires partnerships between government agencies, landholders and community groups to mitigate the impact of invasive weed species following disturbance.



One of the main insights into weed management highlighted at the Conference was the emphasis now being afforded to alternate methods of weed management particularly remote detection opportunities.

The changing world of technology and research is now at the forefront of weed management with the fields of spatial mapping, GIS and the use of Drones holding great potential, particularly as tightening budgets mean finding the most cost effective way of controlling weeds is imperative to ensure sustainability.

Weed Profile: Water Hyacinth

The Illawarra District Weeds Authority has recently been battling an infestation of water hyacinth at Coomaditchie Lagoon.

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is a popular backyard pond plant but in the natural environment it can overwhelm the ecosystem outcompeting native plants and any aquatic life underneath it. It can also restrict navigation and pose a drowning hazard for livestock and recreational swimmers.

According to Chief Weeds Officer, David Pomery, the water hyacinth could have been introduced into the lagoon accidentally or may have been intentionally dumped.

Whatever its origin, the water hyacinth – accelerated by our long term rain environment – has overtaken much of



In a first for weeds management professionals, the NSW and Victorian Weed Societies joined forces with Albury City Council to host the 2022 Weeds Conference.

The Conference was attended by approximately 250 delegates from throughout NSW, Victoria and other states with the ISJO being represented by our Chief

the lagoon. The IDWA is working hard to address the situation and is being assisted by the improvement in the rain situation over the last month.



An infestation of water hyacinth: [NSW WeedWise](#)

Board Meeting Schedule 2022

Friday 10 June 2022 General Meeting	Friday 22 July 2022 General Meeting	Thursday 22 September 2022 General Meeting at Parliament House	Friday 25 November 2022 General Meeting
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Business papers for each meeting will be available in the “Governance” section of our website – <http://www.isjo.org.au/>.

We will be launching our new website and address – www.isjo.nsw.gov.au – in the coming weeks. Our June edition of **ISJO Matters** will preview its appearance and content.

Previous editions of **ISJO Matters** can be found on our website under the “Newsletters” drop down menu.



Our Core Advocacy and Environment Member Councils:

Wollongong City Council, Shellharbour City Council, Kiama Municipal Council, Shoalhaven City Council

Our Special Program Partners (RID Program):

Our Member Councils plus Eurobodalla Shire Council, Bega Valley Shire Council, Wingecarribee Shire Council and Wollondilly Shire Council

Our Weeds Management Program Councils:

Wollongong City Council, Kiama Municipal Council and Shellharbour City Council