# MEDIA RELEASE

## Local Government Joint Organisations including the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation honoured at Local Government Week Awards

**Tuesday 6 August 2024**

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (the ISJO) and seven other Joint Organisations (JOs) representing 65 local councils across NSW were recognised at this year's prestigious Local Government Week awards for their innovative contributions to embedding disaster resilience. The accolade celebrated the pivotal role of the Joint Organisations in advancing resilience planning for local communities with the support of the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund, a joint Australian and New South Wales Government funded initiative.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven has endured a series of natural disasters and our communities and their Councils have struggled to recover from the continual and cumulative impacts of these events on infrastructure, the environment and well-being. The collaborative statewide initiative we have been leading has fostered a unified approach to resilience planning across regional New South Wales and to the embedding of planning for resilience as a "business as usual" activity in local government.

Key achievements of the project include its innovative, coordinated approach towards sharing learnings and information, streamlining collaboration between councils, JOs and with state agencies such as NSW Reconstruction Authority, Transport for NSW and Regional NSW. Partnering with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, the ISJO has delivered an innovative approach to adaptive land use planning which ensures place-based solutions with enabling policy and infrastructure. The project has also focused on building disaster resilience capacity and capability in the region by enabling collaborative support and providing tools and resources to the Illawarra Shoalhaven Councils with a focus on access to data for informed decision-making and regional investment, ensuring solutions are embedded throughout the region.

***State of the art Disaster Risk Reduction Multisensor installation***

An initiative in the program unique to our region is the ongoing installation of a series of state of the art "Multi-hazard sensors" across the Illawarra Shoalhaven.

In consultation with Member Council staff as a region we identified business requirements including the types of hazards to be monitored (e.g. flood, fire, landslide), notification and visualisation needs and the technical system and interoperability that was required to work with existing technology platforms.

Following a governed procurement process a partnership between Telstra and Attentis Technologies was selected which enables the installation of a network of multi-hazard sensors across the Illawarra Shoalhaven for three year period at no cost to the Councils within our region or their communities.

The first "Dalek" sensor was installed at Shoalhaven City Councils Milton Water Treatment Plant.

This location had some significance given that it was a critical physical observation point during the 2019/2020 bushfire emergency period when all major forms of communication were down. The sophisticated technologies within the multi'-hazard sensor will help ensure that vital information is available to plan for disaster risk reduction activities and provide critical information to support response efforts in spite of fire, flood or land slippage damage to telecommunications infrastructure.

Further locations have been identified in conjunction with Council technical staff and critical emergency service providers.

The ISJO expresses its gratitude to all partners and stakeholders who have contributed to the success of the statewide Disaster Risk Reduction initiative and we look forward to continuing work with our Member Councils, Joint Organisation and Agency partners on further resilience initiatives.

The Regional Resilience Program was a collaboration between the ISJO, the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Canberra Region JO, Central NSW JO, Hunter JO, Mid-North Coast JO, Northern Rivers JO, Riverina and Murray JO and Riverina Eastern ROC - a consortium in all of 65 councils across New South Wales.

**Contact details:**

For further information on our Resilience Programs please contact Nicole Parsons, Regional Resilience Programs Manager at nparsons@isjo.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 0491 051 730

**About the ISJO:**

The ISJO is a collaborative body that brings together the four councils in our region to provide a united and local voice for our communities. As the hub for local intergovernmental collaboration our roles include identifying key regional strategic priorities, advocating for these priorities and building collaborations around these priorities with other levels of government, business and community.

Find out more at www.isjo.nsw.gov.au or by clicking on the following links to our newsletter ISJO Matters. ISJO Matters provides information on key initiatives such as the State Government funded Illawarra Shoalhaven Economic Development Blueprint launched recently by Minister Park.

**For further information on the ISJO please contact:**

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**Partner Information / Logos / Acknowledgements**

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Australian Government

NSW GOVERNMENT

Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation

CRJO CANBERRA REGION JOINT ORGANISATION

CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

HUNTER JOINT ORG.

Mid North Coast Joint Organisation mncjo

NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION

REROC RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

RAMJO Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation