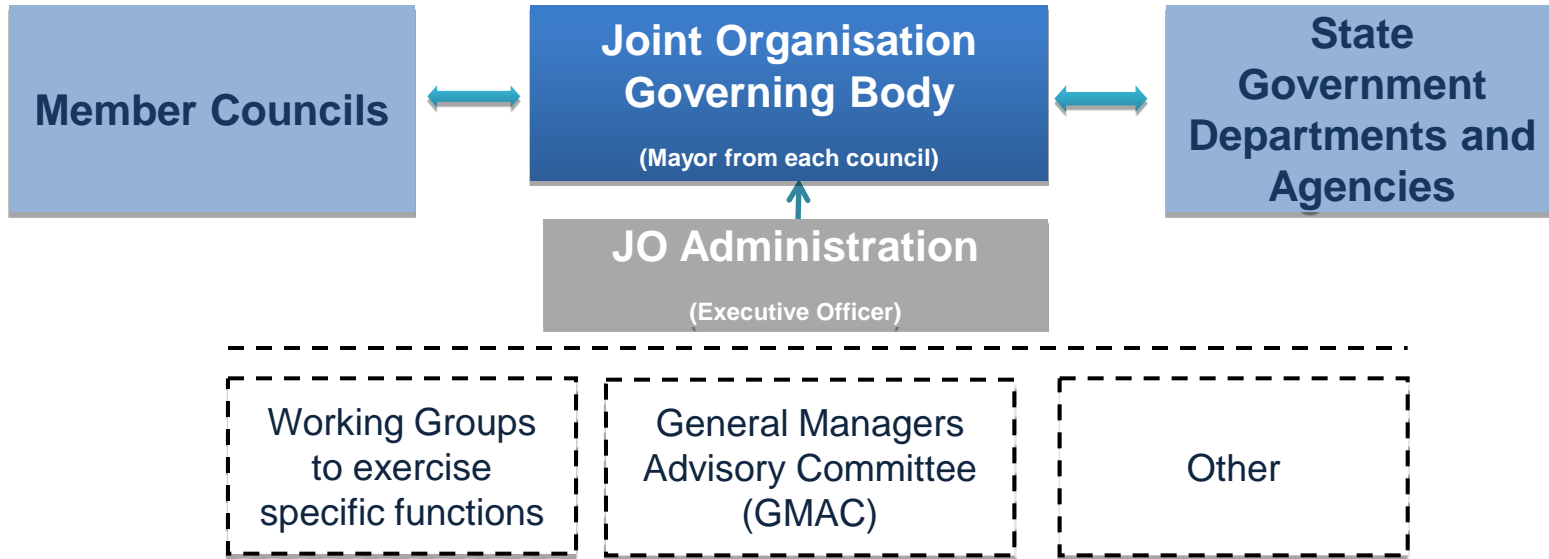


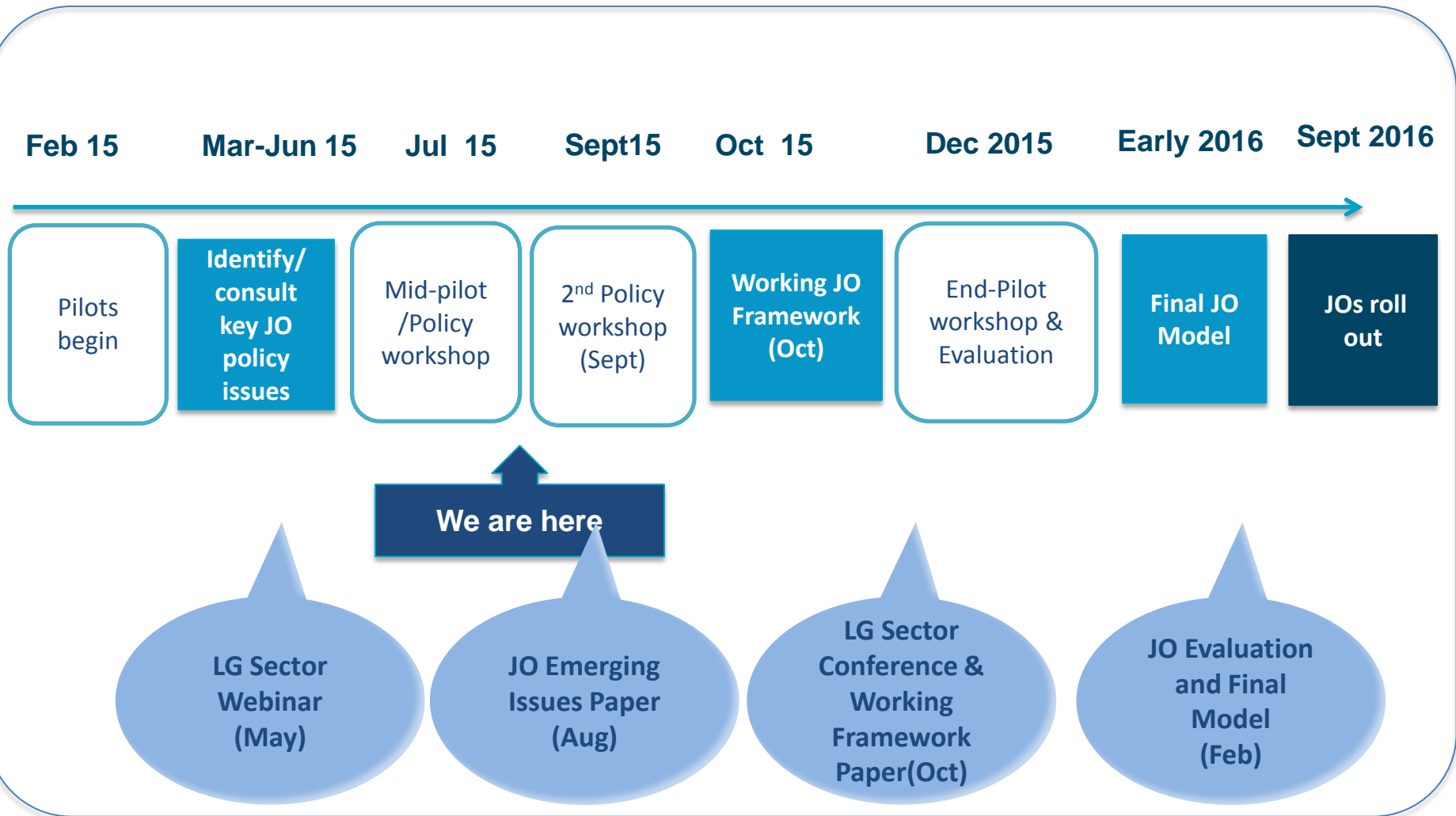
Proposed Local Government Joint Organisation Model

Entity and Governing Body



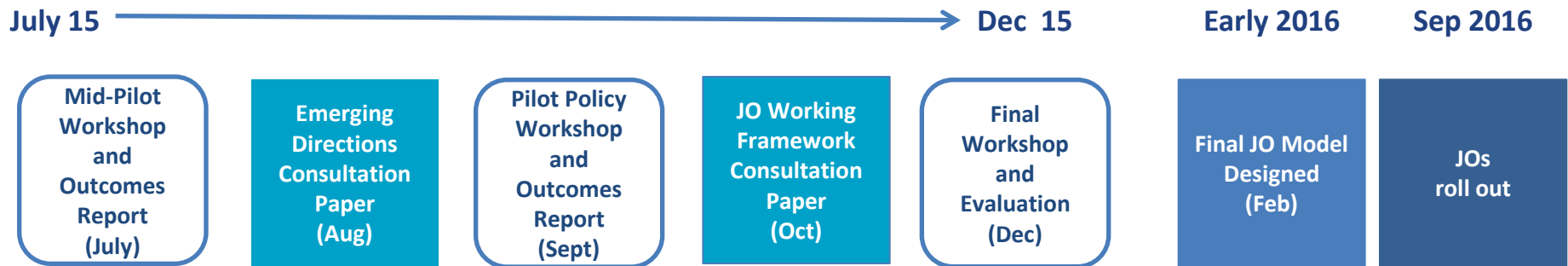
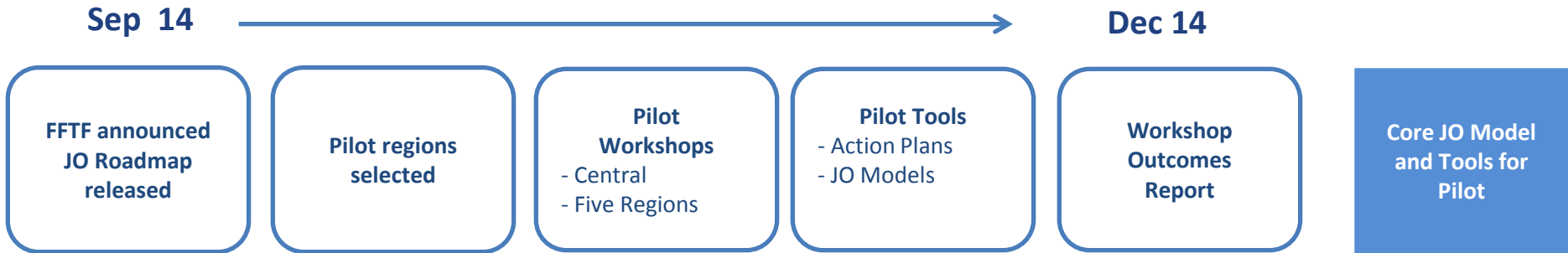
JO Governing Body Key Features	JO Governance Key Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Council Membership • JO Core Functions • JO non-core functions (discretionary) • Role of GMs • Decisions on core functions binding • Decisions on non-core functions (shared services) based on “buy-in” of participating member Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JO enabled through Local Government Act • JO Corporate Body under LG Act • Mandated minimum governance standards • Equality of Voting • Mayor to represent member Council • Meeting attendance fees • Member obligations consistent with councillors • Suitably skilled/qualified Executive Officer • Not a 4th tier of Government

Building the Joint Organisation Model



State and Local Government work together to build JOs

Where are we up to in the Joint Organisation Pilot Process?



We are here

State and Local Government work together to Pilot JOs



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The Namoi Councils Journey So Far

- **Namoi Councils has operated as a voluntary regional organisation of councils (ROC) in north western NSW for many years**
- **Namoi Councils was selected in November 2014 by the Minister for Local Government to become a Pilot Joint Organisation to help co-design and pilot a robust yet flexible model for Joint Organisation under the “Fit for the Future” Local Government Reform Program**
- **Namoi Councils commenced as Pilot Joint Organisation on 5 January 2015**
- **Council Members:** **Gwydir, Gunnedah, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth and Walcha**
- **Associate Member:** **Uralla**



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- **Charter adopted March 2015**
- **Proposed Core Functions:** *regional strategic planning and prioritisation, intergovernmental engagement and relations, regional leadership & advocacy*
- **Non-Core Functions:** *member shared services and building strategic capacity*
- **The Joint Organisation Board consists of the Mayor of member Councils**
- **One vote per Council exercised by Mayor or Mayor's delegate**
- **Decisions in respect of core functions binding on Member Councils**



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- **General Manager of each member Council has an advisory role but no voting power**
- **General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) provides professional advice and recommendations to the Joint Organisation Board**
- **Participation in non-core discretionary (shared services) not compulsory**
- **Participation in shared services based on sound business case identifying costs, value and benefits to member Councils**
- **Councils may opt in or opt out of shared services**



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- **Joint Organisation Membership Fees**
- **Sitting fees paid to Joint Organisation Board (Mayors) Members**
- **Executive Officer contract employee**
- **NOT another level of bureaucracy OR a 4th Tier of Government**
- **Lean JO organisation using resources of members Councils.**



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Joint Organisation Challenges

- **JO Enabling legislation**
- **JO a Corporate Body**
- **JO State Government policy framework**
- **Legislation to embed a direct nexus between the State Plan and Regional Strategic Plans**
- **JO legitimacy for key partnership role played in regional strategic planning and prioritisation**
- **Coordination of State Government Agency collaboration with Joint Organisations**
- **JO collaboration and support to assist member Councils remain sustainable and “Fit for the Future”**



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Joint Organisation Opportunities

- **A partner of equal standing with State Government in regional growth and state development**
- **A broker for building regional strategic capacity**
- **The “Voice of the Region” recognised as the peak regional body and regional advocate**
- **A regional governance framework working in partnership with the State Government to deliver services and infrastructure that matter most to the community**
- **A regional body for elevating key community aspirations and priorities into a regional vision and a regional strategic plan**
- **A capacity to market the competitive advantages of the region and drive a prosperous future for the region**
- **A regional organisation serving the best interests of member Councils and their communities**



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JO Next Steps

- **Up until appointment as a Pilot JO, Namoi Councils has been a good example of an effectively operating voluntary ROC with a high level of mutual trust, respect and collaboration among member Councils**
- **As a Pilot JO, Namoi Councils has the capacity and commitment to pick up and run with the “*Fit for the Future*” reforms and in conjunction with member Councils deliver better local governance within the Namoi Region**
- **Innovative leadership from the 7 member Council Mayors and a professional skills base has positioned Namoi Councils to co-design and pilot a robust yet flexible and practical JO Model which is NOT a 4th tier of government and NOT another level of bureaucracy BUT an organisation which serves the best interests of member Councils and their respective communities.**



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JO Next Steps

Namoi Councils will always act in the best interests of member Councils and continue to refine and enhance existing collaborative arrangements and structures to integrate real capacity for:

- **strategic regional and sub-regional planning;**
- **inter-government relationships;**
- **regional leadership and advocacy; and**
- **information and resource sharing and technical/professional exchange between member Councils.**



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If I can leave you with a wise quote on collaboration attributed to Charles Darwin:

**It is the long history of humankind
that those who learned to
collaborate and improvise, most
effectively have prevailed**



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Your Feedback and Questions Welcomed





THANK YOU