



Meeting of Riverina Water County Council

The meeting will be held at Riverina Water in the Pat Brassil
AM Meeting Room, 91 Hammond Ave, Wagga at 9:30am on
Wednesday 2 February 2022

Meeting Agenda

Live Streaming of Council Meetings

Riverina Water advises that Council meetings are live streamed on Council's website www.riverinawater.nsw.gov.au. Visitors in the public gallery are advised that their voice and/or image may form part of the webcast. By remaining in the public gallery it is assumed your consent is given in the event your image or voice is broadcast.

Statement of Ethical Reminders

Board members are reminded of the Oath or Affirmation of Office that they made under Section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993. Board members and staff are also reminded of their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

Acknowledgement of Country

Livestreaming of Meeting

Apologies

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Open Reports

| | | |
|----|--|----|
| R1 | Oath or Affirmation of Office | 3 |
| R2 | Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson | 5 |
| R3 | Delegation of Authority to Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer | 12 |
| R4 | Minutes of Board Meeting 26 October 2021 | 22 |
| R5 | Council Meeting Schedule 2022 | 34 |
| R6 | Appointment of Council Representatives | 36 |
| R7 | Local Government NSW Special Conference | 38 |
| R8 | Local Government New South Wales - 2022 Water Management Conference | 40 |

Questions and Statements

R1 Oath or Affirmation of Office

Organisational Area Chief Executive Officer

Author Andrew Crakanthorp, Chief Executive Officer

Summary Board members were recently elected by Wagga Wagga City Council, Lockhart Council, Greater Hume Council and Federation Council to be Members of the Board of Riverina Water County Council. All Board Members are required to take an oath of office or make an affirmation of office.

RECOMMENDATION that it be noted that Board Members have taken an oath of office or made an affirmation of office.

Report

It is advised that the Local Government Act, 1993 states:

1. A councillor must take an oath of office or make an affirmation of office at or before the first meeting of the council after the councillor is elected
2. The oath or affirmation may be taken or made before the Chief Executive Officer of the Council, an Australian legal practitioner or a Justice of the Peace and is to be in the following form:

Oath

I, [Councillors name], swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Riverina Water County Council and Riverina Water and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993, or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Affirmation

I, [Councillors name], solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Riverina Water County Council and Riverina Water and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

3. A councillor who fails, without a reasonable excuse, to take the oath of office or make an affirmation of office in accordance with this section is not entitled to attend a meeting as councillor (other than the first meeting of the council after the councillor is

elected to the office or a meeting at which the councillor takes the oath or makes the affirmation) until the Councillor has taken the oath or made the affirmation.

4. Any absence of a councillor from an ordinary meeting for the council that the councillor is not entitled to attend because of this section is taken to be an absence without prior leave of the council.
5. Failure to take an oath of office or make an affirmation of office does not affect the validity of anything done by a councillor in the exercise of the councillor's functions
6. The Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a record is kept of the taking of an oath or the making of an affirmation (whether in the minutes of the council meeting or otherwise)

Board Members will be provided with both the Oath and Affirmation at the meeting on the 2 February 2022 and be asked to undertake the same process they undertook as part of making an Oath or Affirmation at their constituent Council. Each Board Member will do so, individually.

Financial Implications

The allowance payable to Councillors is provided for in the Delivery Plan and Operational Plan

Risk Considerations

| Corporate Governance And Compliance | |
|--|--|
| Avoid | Council will avoid risks relating to corporate governance and compliance including ethical, responsible and transparent decision making and procedural/policy, legal and legislative compliance. |

R2 Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Organisational Area Chief Executive Officer

Author Andrew Crakanthorp, Chief Executive Officer

Summary The purpose of this report is to facilitate the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. In the case of Riverina Water County Council, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are elected by the members from among the members.

RECOMMENDATION that the Board conduct the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson by the voting method determined by the Board for the period from February 2022 to October 2023

Report

The purpose of this report is to facilitate the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. In the case of the Riverina Water, the Chairperson is elected by the members from among the members.

Section 391 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) requires Riverina Water to have a Chairperson who is elected in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The Councillor elected as Chairperson at this meeting will hold that office for a period up to October 2023. In October 2023, an election for Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will be held for a one year period concluding in September 2024.

Election of the Chairperson – February 2022 to October 2023

The procedure to be followed for the election of Chairperson is outlined in Schedule 8 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, and is reproduced here under:

Part 1 – Preliminary

1. Returning Officer

Councillors are advised that in accordance with Schedule 8 Part 1(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Andrew Crakanthorp is the returning officer for the election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

2. Nomination

(1) A member of a county council may be nominated without notice for election as chairperson of the county council.

(2) The nomination is to be made in writing by 2 or more members of the county council (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.

(3) The nomination is to be delivered or sent to the returning officer.

(4) The returning officer is to announce the names of the nominees at the county council meeting at which the election is to be held.

3. Election

(1) If only one member of the county council is nominated, that member is elected.

(2) If more than one member is nominated, the county council is to resolve whether the election is to proceed by preferential ballot, by ordinary ballot or by open voting.

(3) the election is to be held at the county council meeting at which the county council resolves on the method of voting.

(4) In this clause:

ballot has its normal meaning of secret ballot.

open voting means voting by a show of hands or similar means

Part 2 – Ordinary ballot or open voting

4. Application of Part

This part applies if the election proceeds by ordinary ballot or by open voting.

5. Marking of ballot-papers

(1) If the election proceeds by ordinary ballot, the returning officer is to decide the manner in which votes are to be marked on the ballot-papers.

(2) The formality of a ballot-paper under this Part must be determined in accordance with clause 345 (1) (b) and (c) and (5) of this Regulation as if it were a ballot-paper referred to in that clause.

(3) An informal ballot-paper must be rejected at the count.

6. Count – 2 Candidates

(1) At such a ballot, if there are only 2 candidates, the candidate with the higher number of votes is to be declared elected.

(2) If there are only 2 candidates and they are tied, the one to be declared elected is to be chosen by lot.

7. Count – 3 or more Candidates

(1) At such a ballot, if there are 3 or more candidates, the one with the lowest number of votes is to be excluded.

(2) If 3 or more candidates then remain, a further vote is to be taken of those candidates and the one with the lowest number of votes from that further vote is to be excluded.

(3) If, after that, 3 or more candidates still remain, the procedure set out in sub clause (ii) is to be repeated until only 2 candidates remain.

(4) Clauses d) and f) of this Schedule, then apply to the determination of the election as if the 2 remaining candidates had been the only candidates.

(5) If at any stage during a count under this clause, 2 or more candidates are tied on the lowest number of votes, the one to be excluded is to be chosen by lot.

Part 3 – Preferential ballot

8. Application of Part

This part is required if the election proceeds by preferential ballot.

9. Ballot-papers and voting

(1) The ballot-papers are to contain the names of all the candidates. The members of the county council are to mark their votes by placing the numbers '1', '2' and so on against the various names so as to indicate the order of their preference for all the candidates.

(2) The formality of the ballot-paper under this Part is to be determined in accordance with clause 345(1) (b) and (c) and (5) of this Regulation as if it were a ballot-paper referred to in that clause.

(3) An informal ballot-paper must be rejected at the count.

10. Count

(1) If a candidate has an absolute majority of first preference votes, that candidate is elected.

(2) If not, the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes is excluded and the votes on the unexhausted ballot-papers counted to him or her are transferred to the candidates with second preferences on those ballot-papers.

(3) A candidate who then has an absolute majority of votes is elected, but, if no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes, the process of excluding the candidate who has the lowest number of votes and counting each of his or her unexhausted ballot-papers to the candidates remaining in the election next in order of the voter's preference is repeated until one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes. That candidate is elected.

(4) In this clause, absolute majority, in relation to votes, means a number that is more than one-half of the number of unexhausted formal ballot-papers.

11. Tied candidates

(1) If, on any count of votes, there are 2 candidates in, or remaining in, the election and the numbers of votes cast for the 2 candidates are equal— the candidate whose name is first chosen by lot is taken to have received an absolute majority of votes and is therefore taken to be elected.

(2) If, on any count of votes, there are 3 or more candidates in, or remaining in, the election and the numbers of votes cast for 2 or more candidates are equal and those candidates are the ones with the lowest number of votes on the count of the votes— the candidate whose name is first chosen by lot is taken to have the lowest number of votes and is therefore excluded.

Part 4 – General

12. Choosing by Lot

To choose a candidate by lot, the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes are written on similar slips of paper by the returning officer, the slips are folded by the returning officer so as to prevent the names being seen, the slips are mixed and one is drawn at random by the returning officer and the candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is chosen.

13. Result

The result of the election (including the name of the candidate elected as chairperson of the county council) is:

- a) to be declared to the members of the county council at the county council meeting at which the election is held by the returning officer, and
- b) to be delivered or sent to the Director-General and to the Secretary of the Local Government and Shires Associations of New South Wales.

Election of the Deputy Chairperson – February 2022 to October 2023

It has been Riverina Water's normal practice to elect a Deputy Chairperson for the same term, immediately following the election of the Chairperson. The same procedure as for the election of Chairperson is to be followed.

Nomination papers for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are attached and have previously been distributed to Councillors. Nomination papers are to be delivered or sent to the Returning Officer (Chief Executive Officer) prior to the commencement of the Council Meeting to be held Wednesday 2 February 2022 at 9.30am.

› R2.1 **Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson Nomination Forms**

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the actual election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. The fees payable to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are contained within the 2021/22 Operational Plan.

Risk Considerations

| Corporate Governance And Compliance | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Avoid | Council will avoid risks relating to corporate governance and compliance including ethical, responsible and transparent decision making and procedural/policy, legal and legislative compliance. |



RIVERINA WATER COUNTY COUNCIL

NOMINATION FOR CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, we the undersigned, hereby nominate Councillor _____ for the office of **Chairperson**.

Name of Proposer: Councillor _____

Signature of Proposer: _____

Date: ____/____/2022

Name of Proposer: Councillor _____

Signature of Proposer: _____

Date: ____/____/2022

CONSENT

I, Councillor _____, hereby consent to my Nomination to the office of Chairperson.

Signature of Nominee: _____

Date: ____/____/2022



RIVERINA WATER COUNTY COUNCIL

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, we the undersigned, hereby nominate Councillor _____ for the office of **Deputy Chairperson**.

Name of Propose: Councillor _____

Signature of Proposer: _____

Date: ____/____/2022

Name of Proposer: Councillor _____

Signature of Proposer: _____

Date: ____/_ ____/2022

CONSENT

I, Councillor _____, hereby consent to my Nomination to the office of Deputy Chairperson.

Signature of Nominee: _____

Date: ____/____/2022

R3 Delegation of Authority to Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer

Organisational Area Chief Executive Officer

Author Andrew Crakanthorp, Chief Executive Officer

Summary This report formalises the delegations for the Chairperson elected earlier in this meeting and ratifies the delegations to the CEO.

RECOMMENDATION that in accordance with Section 377 Local Government Act 1992, Council ratify and grant the delegations as set out in the Delegations of Authority Register to the Chairperson and CEO.

Report

Following the election of a new Council it is appropriate for the Council delegations to be reviewed. The delegations for the Chairperson and CEO are submitted for Council's consideration. There has been no change to the delegations since the 2019 election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and the appointment of the incumbent CEO, Mr Crakanthorp, since his appointment in January 2018.

› **R3.1 Delegations for Chairman and CEO** [↓](#) 

Financial Implications

Nil

Risk Considerations

| Corporate Governance And Compliance | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Avoid | Council will avoid risks relating to corporate governance and compliance including ethical, responsible and transparent decision making and procedural/policy, legal and legislative compliance. |

Delegations of Authority

Riverina Water County Council

Adoption date:

Resolution:

Introduction

In accordance with Section 377 Local Government Act 1993 the Riverina Water County Council at a Meeting held on 2 February 2022 ratified and granted the delegations as set out in this Delegations of Authority Register to the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

THE CHAIRPERSON

1. General

That the Chairperson (being Cr _____) , or Deputy Chairperson (being Cr _____) when acting for the Chairperson , be delegated authority under section 377 of the Act to exercise and/perform on behalf of the Council the powers , authorities ,duties and functions as prescribed for the position of Chairperson under the Act , Schedules, Regulations , cognate Legislation , related Legislation , Councils own adopted Policies , Codes and Resolutions , provided that such delegations are not to be sub-delegated without specific approval by Council or as prescribed under the Act.

If, under any other Act, a function is conferred or imposed on the Chairperson of a County Council, the function is taken to be conferred or imposed on the Council and the Chairperson of the County Council will exercise and/or perform on behalf of the Council the powers, authorities, duties and functions as prescribed under that other Act.

2. Specific Delegations-Chairman

(a) Conferring Powers or Duties

To give effect to the provisions of the Act, including but not limited to Sections 225-231 of the Act and any other Act conferring powers or duties upon the Chairperson and to any resolution of direction given to the Chairperson by Council.

(b) Preside at Meetings of Council

To preside at all meetings of the Council , Committees , Community Committees and Public Meetings convened by the Council at which the Chairperson is present unless the Chairperson otherwise appoints another Councillor or person to perform this function.

(c) Negotiations on behalf of Council

The Chairperson in conjunction with the CEO, to participate in negotiations on behalf of the Council with third parties in relation with any significant matter associated with the operations of Riverina Water County Council.

(d) Code of Conduct

To give direction to the Council, following consultation with the CEO, in the application of the Code of Conduct as adopted by Council.

(e) Represent Council-Government and Other Forums

To represent the Council, in conjunction with the CEO in deputations to government enquiries and other forums where it is appropriate that the Chairperson should present the Councils position.

(f) Sign and Execute Documents

To sign and execute documents under the Seal of Council in conjunction with the CEO.

(g) Media Releases

To make Media Statements and issue Press Releases in respect of Councils Resolutions/Recommendations and decisions.

(h) Approval of Urgent Works

To authorise expenditure outside the Council approved budget and in consultation with the CEO, to undertake urgent works in order to reduce or eliminate a significant safety hazard or critical matter affecting the operation of the water supply system up to an amount of \$100,000 subject to the action being reported to the next meeting of Council.

End of Delegation

DELEGATIONS – THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

That the CEO of Riverina Water County Council (being Andrew Crakanthorp) be delegated authority under section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993 (“Act”) to exercise and /or perform on behalf of Council the powers , authorities , duties and functions of Council as prescribed under the Act , Schedules Regulations , Cognate Legislation , and related legislation and including those powers , authorities , duties and functions as listed in the addendum to this delegation excepting those powers, authorities , duties and functions of the Council that are expressly prohibited from delegation as listed under Section 377 of the Act.

1. If, under any other Act a function is conferred or imposed on the General Manager of Council, the function is taken to be conferred or imposed on the Council and the General Manager of the Council will exercise and /or perform on behalf of the Council, powers, authorities duties and functions as prescribed under the other Act pursuant to Section 381 of the Act.
2. For the purposes of Section 381 of the Act , the General Manager’s delegated authority to act on behalf of Council includes all functions and powers conferred or imposed by any legislation set out from time to time in Section 22 of the Act, including but not limited to the following:

| | |
|--|---|
| Conveyancing Act 1919 | placing covenants on council land |
| Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957 | fluoridation of water supply by council |
| Public Health Act 1991 | inspection of systems for purposes of microbial control |
| Roads Act 1993 | roads |

The exercise by a council of its functions under this Act may also be modified by the provisions of another Act. Some of those Acts and some of the modifications they affect include:

| | |
|--|---|
| Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 | council required to publish certain information and to grant access to certain documents |
| Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 | council required to amend certain records that are shown to be incomplete, incorrect, out of date or misleading |
| Unclaimed Money Act 1995 | unclaimed money to be paid to the Chief Commissioner of Unclaimed Money |

3. That in the absence of the CEO that his nominee as Acting CEO assume all power and delegations of the CEO for the period only of his absence.
4. In addition to the delegated authority conferred or imposed upon the CEO by legislation , the CEO is empowered to carry out his functions in reliance upon Section 335 of the Act and in accordance , with the following delegated authorities , subject to any express limitations contained within this Register or restrictions imposed by Section 377 of the Act:

CEO-Delegated Authorities

In accordance with section 5 of this delegation of authority the CEO is also delegated the following functions and powers:

Part A Operational

1. To establish, review and authorise operational and management policies and procedures in line with strategic directions set by Council.
2. To implement any work , service or action provided for in the adopted budget without further reference to Council except for ;
 - (a) The acceptance of tenders which are required under the Local Government Act 1993 to be invited by the Council , and
 - (b) The determination of priorities where lump sum funding only has been provided.
3. To authorise destruction or disposal of any records of Riverina Water County Council, after the expiration of six (6) years from the last transaction thereon, other than those defined in the Regulation and Local Government Records Disposal schedule.
4. To negotiate arrangements for agencies and financial institution to collect payments relating to the operation of Riverina Water County Council.
5. To write proposals or submissions to other levels of government on behalf of Riverina Water County Council.
6. To deal with and determine applications for access to information under the Government Information (Public Access) Act and Regulation 2009.
7. To execute any form of instrument necessary for the creation of easements that will benefit Riverina Water County Council for access services , pipelines , structures and/or any other form of assistance essential in the performance of its objectives.
8. To sign all correspondence relating to Riverina Water County Council.
9. To approve the loan of Riverina Water County Council equipment to community groups in accordance with Council's Policy.
10. To impose water restrictions on fixed hoses and sprinklers and lift such restrictions when appropriate.
11. To restrict or cut off supply of water to a property due to non payment of water charges as provided under Clause 144 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

12. To sign certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of Sections 603 (Certificate as to Rates and Charges) & 735A (Certificate as to Notices) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Part B Finance

1. Obtain quotations and to authorise the purchase of and issue official orders for goods, works and services requiring the functioning of Council and to incur expenditure for such goods, works and services up to \$250,000 provided that provision has been made in the approved Budget for incurring of such expenditure. The delegation is limited in accordance with Section 377(1)(i) of the Act.
2. To certify that the prices and computations on vouchers have been checked and are correct in as far as he has been able to ascertain , are fair and reasonable and are in accordance with any quotation /contract under which the goods /services were supplied.
3. Authorise the payment of Councils Salaries and Wages
4. Approve final payment to contractors and/or direct creditors
5. To sign or countersign cheques drawn on Council's Bank accounts
6. Approve changes in Plant Hire Rate Charges for all council plant.
7. To authorise expenditure outside the approved Council budget to enable urgent works to be undertaken to reduce or eliminate a significant safety hazard or critical matter affecting the operation of the water supply system up to an amount of \$50,000 subject to the action being reported to the next meeting of Council.
8. The authority to require the lodgement of a cash bond or bank guarantee for work outstanding.
9. To negotiate Council overdraft limit.
10. To sell old materials, spoilt or obsolete equipment.
11. To authorise the writing off of uncollectible debts up to a maximum amount for a single debtor of \$2,000.
12. To arrange the investment of money that is not, for the time being, required by Council for any other purpose. Funds may only be invested in the following :
 - (a) In any security authorised by the Trustee Act ;
 - (b) In the form of investment notified by order of the Minister published in the Gazette.
 - (c) Investments shall also be managed in accordance with Councils Policy (Number 1.23)

Part C Legal

1. To approve and settle statements of claim and insurance matters up to the level of Riverina Water's excess amounts payable under the respective insurance policies.
2. To determine a response to approvals sought under Part 1, Division 3-making and determination of applications for approval-generally, under the Local Government Act 1993.
3. To issue Orders under Chapter 7, Part 2 (Orders) of the Local Government Act 1993.
4. To affix the Common Seal of the Council and execute any documents requiring the signature of the CEO in the company of the Chairperson ,Deputy Chairperson , or other Councillor where Council has approved the documents intent
5. To authorise the institution of legal proceedings for the recovery of outstanding charges and other debts due to Riverina Water County Council and to take all necessary action to recover such charges and debts.
6. Under Section 687 (Appearance in Local Court) of the Local Government Act 1993, as amended, be authorised to represent Riverina Water County Council in all proceedings in any Local Court or before any justice in all respects as though he were the party concerned and to institute and carry on proceedings which Riverina Water is authorised to institute and carry out under the said Act and shall extend to any proceedings under all other Acts.
7. To accept service of legal documents on behalf of Riverina Water County Council.
8. Contracts;
 - (a) To terminate a contract where the conditions of the contract have been breached and provide for such action.
 - (b) To approve extensions of time to contractor schedules except contracts subject to a tendering arrangement.
 - (c) To issue Site instructions to the contractor and/or their staff.
 - (d) To call for an audit of a contract using either internal or external audit staff.
 - (e) To issue a Practical Completion Certificate for works or part thereof under a contract.
 - (f) To sign contracts that have been approved by Council.
9. To approve Power of Entry under the provisions of Sections 191-201 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the purpose of inspections, works, and other functions permitted under these sections. The power of entry is also granted for the purposes of inspecting premises under the Public Health Act 1991.
10. To approve closure of roads or parts thereof, temporarily for repairs or construction and to approve applications to install pipelines within road reserves.
11. To authorise action in regard to any complaints or requests received under Councils Internal Reporting Policy.

Part D Environmental / Planning Matters

1. To authorise all functions pursuant to Riverina Water County Council powers under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 as amended in relation to development proposals including subdivisions.
2. In relation to subdivision proposals;
 - (a) To approve designs, plans and specifications for water supply works in subdivisions, subject to those designs, specifications and plans being in accordance with Council subdivision policies.
 - (b) To certify that bonded works have been completed to Riverina Water County Council's satisfaction and then release the relevant bond.
 - (c) To authorise the release of Certificates of Compliance for a subdivision when all conditions of relevant approvals relating to water supply have been met.
 - (d) To authorise signing of linen plans of subdivisions when all water supply conditions have been met.

Part E Staff

1. To authorise the appointment of new staff within the adopted organisation's staff structure.
2. To negotiate with staff and Unions in relation to all staffing matters.
3. Reclassify staff and adjust salaries in accordance with Riverina Water County Council Enterprise Award.
4. To determine all leave applications for all staff having regard to the proper functioning of the Council and maintenance of appropriate levels of service to customers.

End of Delegation

R4 Minutes of Board Meeting 26 October 2021

Organisational Area Chief Executive Officer

Author Andrew Crakanthorp, Chief Executive Officer

Summary This report attaches the minutes of the Board Meeting held on 26 October 2021 and recommends that Council endorse such minutes.

RECOMMENDATION that Council accept the minutes of Board Meeting held on 26 October 2021.

Report

The last meeting of the previous Board was held on 26 October 2021. As Board Members are aware the minutes of previous meetings are usually accepted by resolution at the next available meeting (early in the agenda of that meeting).

Given the election of a new Board, the agenda for the meeting on 2 February 2022 requires the election of a Chairperson as the first item of business, to allow the Chairperson to then chair the meeting and conduct the business on the agenda.

The adoption of the minutes is normally a “procedural matter” that occurs early in the agenda (and before the consideration of reports). To allow the minutes to be considered and endorsed by the Board, the attached minutes have been placed in the agenda after the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson in order that the motion to accept the minutes can be considered and debated appropriately.

In other words, the meeting will be opened by the CEO, who will conduct the election of the Chairperson and then hand the “control” of the meeting to the Chairperson in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

› **R4.1** **2021-10-26 Board Meeting Minutes 26 October 2021.PDF** [↓](#) 

Financial Implications

Nil

Risk Considerations

| Corporate Governance And Compliance | |
|--|--|
| Avoid | Council will avoid risks relating to corporate governance and compliance including ethical, responsible and transparent decision making and procedural/policy, legal and legislative compliance. |

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Tuesday 26 October 2021

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 3:00pm.

Present

Councillor Greg Verdon (Chairperson)
Councillor Tim Koschel
Councillor Pat Bourke
Councillor Yvonne Braid OAM
Councillor Vanessa Keenan (via zoom)
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM
Councillor Dan Hayes

In Attendance

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Chief Executive Officer | (Andrew Crakanthorp) |
| Director Engineering | (Bede Spannagle) |
| Director Corporate Services | (Emily Tonacia) |
| Community Engagement Officer | (Joshua Lang) |
| Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer | (Melissa Vincent) |
| Manager Operations | (Jason Ip) |
| ICT Officer | (Dylan Comerford) |

Acknowledgment of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. I would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to other Community members present.

Livestreaming of Meeting

Board meetings, including public address speeches, are recorded and webcast live on Council's website. If you are addressing a meeting, your image, voice and name, will form part of the webcast.

Apologies

21/108 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and T Koschel

That an apology for non-attendance be received from Councillor Tony Quinn and Councillor Greg Conkey OAM.

CARRIED

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R2 List of Investments the reason being his employment with a financial institution and he remained in the meeting during the discussion

Confirmation of Minutes

21/109 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

That the minutes of the meeting of 24 August 2021, having been circulated and read by Members, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

Correspondence

Local Government: NSW Weekly Circulars: previously forwarded to Councillors by Constituent Councils

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2021

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2021

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021

Letter from The Hon. Shelley Hancock – Ability for county councils to meet remotely dated 7 October 2021

21/110 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and Y Braid OAM

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Open Reports

| | | |
|---------------|--|----------------|
| 21/111 | RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke That R3 Financial Statements 2020/2021 be moved to be the first item discussed | CARRIED |
|---------------|--|----------------|

R3 Financial Statements 2020/2021

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| 21/112 | RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel That the 2020/21 Audited Financial Statements be received and noted. | CARRIED |
|---------------|---|----------------|

Councillor Pat Bourke left the meeting at 3:08pm

Mr Joshua Lang left the meeting at 3:08pm

Mr Joshua Lang returned to the meeting at 3:09pm

Councillor Dan Hayes joined the meeting at 3:12pm

R1 September 2021 Quarterly Budget Review

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| 21/113 | RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM That the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 30 September 2021 be received and adopted. | CARRIED |
|---------------|---|----------------|

R2 List of Investments

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| 21/114 | RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillors Y Braid OAM and T Koschel That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of August and September 2021. | CARRIED |
|---------------|---|----------------|

Mr Dylan Comerford left the meeting at 3:17pm

Mr Dylan Comerford returned to the meeting at 3:18pm

R4 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Returns**21/115 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and D Meyer OAM

That Council:

- a) Note the pecuniary interest returns of Board members and designated persons for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 tabled in accordance with Clause 4.21 of the Riverina Water Code of Conduct; and
- b) Note that these pecuniary interest returns will be published to the Riverina Water website with personal addresses redacted.

CARRIED**R5 New Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework final consultation****21/116 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors Y Braid OAM and T Koschel

That Council:

- a) Note the latest draft of the Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework for local councils in NSW; and
- b) Authorise the Chair of the ARIC (supported by input from the CEO) to make a submission on behalf of Riverina Water should that be deemed appropriate prior to 26 November 2021.

CARRIED**R6 Social Media and Media Quarterly Report July-September 2021****21/117 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council receives and notes the report.

CARRIED

R7 Willans Hill Land Matters**21/118 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

That Council:**1. Proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the land described as:**

- 1. Lot 1 in unregistered plan of acquisition of Lot 22 in Deposited Plan 835331 (plan attached);**
- 2. Proposed easement for Pipeline 6 wide marked T in the unregistered plan (plan attached).**

for the purpose of the construction of water supply infrastructure and associated access in accordance with the requirements of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991; and

2. Council make an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire:

- 1. Lot 1 in unregistered plan of acquisition of Lot 22 in Deposited Plan 835331;**
- 2. Proposed easement for Pipeline 6 wide marked T in the unregistered plan.**

by compulsory process under Section 186(1) of the Local Government Act.

3. That the land upon acquisition be classified as operational land in accordance with the Local Government Act.**4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to purchase the land and establish the pipeline easements under compulsory acquisition process.**

CARRIED

R8 Net Zero Emissions Policy Adoption**21/119 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and Y Braid OAM

That Council note:

- a) The Net Zero Emissions Policy;**
- b) That the policy will be placed on public exhibition; and**
- c) That a further report will be provided to the February 2022 Board meeting regarding any feedback provided during the exhibition period and including a recommendation to adopt**

CARRIED

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp left the meeting at 3:30pm

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp returned to the meeting at 3:30pm

R9 County Councils in the Development Assessment Process**21/120 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council:

- 1) Receives and notes the report.**
- 2) Support the collective approach of County Councils to advocate for mandated legal mechanism(s) requiring development applications to be referred to County Councils for consultation and/or concurrence, under a new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP).**
- 3) In the meantime, continue to pursue and establish a range of formal and informal mechanisms with its constituent councils to include Riverina Water in their development assessment and approval processes that impact its operations, for example Memorandums of Understanding and pre-development approval consultation with developers.**
- 4) That Riverina Water submit a motion to the Local Government New South Wales Annual Conference regarding the level of consultation of County Councils by the NSW Government and in particular expressing frustration that often County Councils are overlooked when legislation is being changed..**

CARRIED

Councillor Pat Bourke returned to the meeting at 3:33pm

R10 Groundwater Purchase - 133 megalitres of water from the Lower Billabong water source**21/121 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

That Council receive and note the report.**CARRIED****R11 Works Report covering August 2021****21/122 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That the Works Report covering August 2021 be received and noted**CARRIED**

R12 Works Report covering September 2021**21/123 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That the Works Report covering September 2021 be received and noted

CARRIED

R13 Lost Time Injury Statistics 2021/22 - July-September Period**21/124 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries for the period July 2021 to September 2021.

CARRIED

R14 Council Resolution Sheet**21/125 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

That the report detailing the status of the active resolutions of Council be received.

CARRIED

Committee Minutes**M1 Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 15 September 2021****21/126 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 15 September 2021.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Cllr D Meyer advised he has received an email from Henty Public School regarding one of their students winning a school based poster competition (conducted by Riverina Water) held as part of National Water Week. Cllr Meyer advised his nomination for re-election has been accepted, and expressed how he has enjoyed being a part of the Riverina Water Board.

2. Cllr P Bourke enquired as to what numbers are needed to make a new water service line "viable". Mr Spannagle advised it is dependent on the cost of the line and the number of connections, and such matters are not always a straight economic answer. Cllr Bourke congratulated the Chair and Riverina Water for how well the organisation has been performing. Cllr Bourke thanked Ms Tonacia for her ongoing auditing and financial management, well done to everyone.
3. Cllr Y Braid thanked everyone for their support.
4. Cllr T Koschel thanked everyone for their work in the past five years. He also thanked the Chairman for his leadership and then thanked Andrew and Directors for their support.
5. Mr Bede Spannagle expressed his thanks to the Board for being knowledgeable, respectful and capable in assisting management run the organisation. He also thanked the Chairman for his leadership.
6. Mr Andrew Crakanthorp echoed Mr Spannagle's comments. He thanked the Chairman for support and guidance and mentorship. Wish all members well in upcoming elections and what the future may bring.
7. Cllr G Verdon thanked fellow board members. He noted the collegial approach and everyone has been free to speak their minds. He further stated that Council was blessed to have professional staff that has guided the organisation through difficult tasks when needed, and that the organisation is in good hands. Cllr Verdon thanked Mr Crakanthorp, Mr Spannagle, Ms Tonacia and Mr Lang for their support.

Closed Council

Pursuant to section 10A(4), the public were invited to make representations to the Council meeting before any part of the meeting is closed, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

No members of the public were present or made representations.

21/127 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 3:59pm.

CARRIED

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Confidential Reports

CONF-1 Tender for Specification W280 Cleaning of Council Facilities at Riverina Water

21/128 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

That Council:

- 1. Accepts the Tender Submission from Charles Sturt Campus Services Limited under a schedule of rates contract, with an estimated annual cost of \$128,000, in accordance with Specification W280 and the terms of the contract of engagement.**
- 2. Authorise the CEO to execute the documents relating to the contract.**

CARRIED

Clr Vanessa Keenan joined the meeting at 3:59pm

CONF-2 The Rock Reservoir Land Acquisition Update

21/129 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

That Council receive and notes the report.

CARRIED

CONF-3 Small Site Electricity and Metering Contracts**21/130 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and Y Braid OAM

That Council authorises:

- a) The Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and accept the Tender for provision of electricity to Small Sites and electricity metering services.**
- b) The Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson to execute the electricity supply contract for small sites and electricity metering services, for a contract period ending 31st December 2022**

CARRIED

CONF-4 Riverina Water Cyber Incident**21/131 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

That Council;

- a) receive and note the report; and**
- b) approve the additional budget in the 2021/22 Operational Plan for the costs in relation to the incident and implementation of recommendations.**

CARRIED

Reversion to Open Council**21/132 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 4:15pm.

CARRIED

Decisions Read Aloud

The Chief Executive Officer read aloud the decisions of the Council made whilst the meeting was closed to the public.

Clr V Keenan thanked everyone for their time, been a pleasure to be a part of the board. Today has been a milestone day, quite an achievement. Great to see the room was also named today. Thanked the Chair.

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 4:18pm

R5 Council Meeting Schedule 2022

Organisational Area Chief Executive Officer

Author Andrew Crakanthorp, Chief Executive Officer

Summary This report proposes dates and locations for meetings of the Board of Riverina Water County Council during 2022

RECOMMENDATION that Council endorse the schedule of Council meeting dates for 2022 as follows:

- Wednesday 23 February
- Wednesday 27 April in Lockhart
- Wednesday 22 June
- Wednesday 24 August
- Wednesday 26 October
- Wednesday 14 December

Report

Council's Code of Meeting Practice provides that Council shall meet at least six times each year, on a bi-monthly basis. Council meeting dates have traditionally been held on the fourth Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October and December each calendar year and commence at 9:30am.

In accordance with the above schedule, the requisite dates for 2022 are:

- Wednesday 23 February
- Wednesday 27 April in Lockhart
- Wednesday 22 June
- Wednesday 24 August
- Wednesday 26 October
- Wednesday 14 December

The recommendation reflects the traditional meeting schedule, and it may well be appropriate for the new Board to consider its options in this regard.

The October meeting is usually also subject of a report to Council suggesting a change of date that is normally in response to the timing of the LGNSW Annual Conference. However, the dates for the 2022 conference have been announced as the 23 to 25 October 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley. Traditionally the Chairperson and CEO travel to the LGNSW Annual Conference. At this stage, both would travel back on the afternoon of the 25 October and be able to attend the Board meeting on the 26 October.

The scheduled meeting for December 2022 falls on 28 December. This report proposes that the December Council meeting be held on Wednesday 14 December, followed by lunch at a venue to be arranged.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with setting the dates for the Council meetings in 2022. The costs of convening the meetings are funded via budget allocations in the 2021/22 Operational Plan

Risk Considerations

| Corporate Governance And Compliance | |
|--|--|
| Avoid | Council will avoid risks relating to corporate governance and compliance including ethical, responsible and transparent decision making and procedural/policy, legal and legislative compliance. |

R6 Appointment of Council Representatives

Organisational Area Chief Executive Officer

Author Andrew Crakanthorp, Chief Executive Officer

Summary At the commencement of the term of each Board consideration is given to appointing Board Members to various Committees and organisations. This report facilitates that process.

RECOMMENDATION that Council appoint representatives to the following Committees:

- a) Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review Committee
- b) Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)
- c) Murray Darling Association – Murrumbidgee Region
- d) Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO) – Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer

Report

With the election of a new Council, it is appropriate that the Council appoint representatives to the following Committees:

- a) The Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review Committee comprises of four Board Members. These Board Members are the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and two others. *(The previous Board Members were Greg Verdon, Tim Koschel, Doug Meyer and Paul Funnell).*
- b) The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) was formed in 2011. The constitution of the ARIC specifies that one Board Member is to be appointed to the Committee, together with two independent persons (Mr David Maxwell and Mr Bryce McNair). It was further stated in the constitution that the Board Member appointed should not be the Council Chairperson. *(The previous Board representative was Tim Koschel with Tony Quinn as an alternate).*
- c) Council is a member of the Murray Darling Association – Murrumbidgee Region. The association meets four times per year to discuss water issues associated with the Murrumbidgee Catchment. *(The previous Board representative was Greg Verdon and in addition Council's Director Engineering – Bede Spannagle sits on the Board of the Region 9 Group).* Council has the option of nominating a second delegate to the MDA.
- d) Council is a member of the Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO). Council's representatives have been the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer.

Financial Implications

Council has funds available which facilitate the attendance of Board Members at the above meetings which are part of the adopted 2021/22 Operational Plan

Risk Considerations

| Corporate Governance And Compliance | |
|--|--|
| Avoid | Council will avoid risks relating to corporate governance and compliance including ethical, responsible and transparent decision making and procedural/policy, legal and legislative compliance. |

R7 Local Government NSW Special Conference

Organisational Area Chief Executive Officer

Author Andrew Crakanthorp, Chief Executive Officer

Summary The Local Government NSW Special Conference is being held in person at the Hyatt Regency Sydney from Monday 28 February to Wednesday 2 March 2022. The purpose of this Report is to elect delegates to attend the conference.

RECOMMENDATION that Council:

- a) endorse that the Chairperson, the CEO and another Board member attend the 2022 LGNSW Special Conference to be held in Sydney from 28 February to 2 March 2022
- b) elect one (1) Councillor delegate referred to in (a) above to attend the Conference

Report

The Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Special Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Sydney from Monday 28 February to Wednesday 2 March 2022. The Special Conference includes the debate and resolution of motions setting the LGNSW advocacy agenda for 2022. The Special Conference is a separate event to the previous November 2021 one-hour online Annual Conference, which could not previously be held in-person due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motions for the Conference will close on 30 January 2022 which precludes Council from lodging any motions.

The 2021 Conference did not proceed, and Council was represented at the 2020 Conference by the Chairperson, Councillor Greg Verdon (delegate), together with the CEO (observer).

Provided in this [link](#) is the 2022 LGNSW Special Conference Program

As is past practice, Council will invite councillors and senior staff from the four constituent Councils to a dinner on the night that the conference dinner is not held.

Reservations for three representatives to attend (together with accommodation at the venue) were made in late 2021. In accordance with the rules of the Association, Council can nominate one voting delegate to the conference.

The Business Paper for the Conference, including motions, will be forwarded to members at least one week prior to the Conference

As previously reported in this business paper, the 2022 LGNSW Annual Conference will be held in the Hunter Valley from Sunday 23 October to Tuesday 25 October

Financial Implications

The costs of being represented at the conference will be funded from the travelling expenses budget for 2021/22 and are expected to be \$1500 per attendee.

Risk Considerations

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Reputation | |
| Averse | Council is averse to taking risks that may adversely impact its reputation. |

R8 Local Government New South Wales - 2022 Water Management Conference

Organisational Area Chief Executive Officer

Author Andrew Crakanthorp, Chief Executive Officer

Summary The Local Government New South Wales Water Management has again been rescheduled and will be held in Narrabri on 9-11 February 2022.

RECOMMENDATION that

- a) Riverina Water be represented at the Local Government New South Wales 2022 Water Management Conference
- b) The Chairman or his nominee attend as a voting delegate
- c) Nominations of other Board Members to attend be called
- d) The Chief Executive Officer and Manager Operations or their nominees attend as observers

Report

The Local Government New South Wales Water Management Committee has advised that the 2021 Conference will be held in Narrabri on 9-11 February 2022, hosted by Narrabri Shire Council.

Council at its meeting in August last year resolved:

- a) *Council be represented at the Local Government New South Wales 2022 Water Management Conference*
- b) *Nominations of Board Members to attend be called by the CEO at the first meeting of the incoming Board in with one Board Member to be appointed as Council's delegate*
- c) *The CEO and Manager Operations or their nominees attend as observers*

Councillors Koschel, Quinn and Conkey previously expressed interest in attending the conference

The Program has been finalised and is attached to this report. Areas of focus for this year's conference include:

- Applying lessons learned from drought, fire, flood and COVID
- Water security in a changing climate – understanding the options
- Water quality and supply for rural, remote and aboriginal communities
- Town water risk reduction

- Governance and risk management
- A water workforce for the future

The conference is of benefit to Riverina Water as a way of keeping abreast of challenges and initiatives in the management of water, as well as an opportunity to network with other councils.

The 2020 conference was held as a virtual conference with Cr Verdon and the Director Engineering attending as Council's delegate.

Accommodation has been secured for five registered delegates to attend. Cr Koschel is attending as a delegate for Wagga Wagga City Council. The purpose of this report is to lock names for up to three elected representatives to attend. Representatives will drive to Narrabri on Wednesday 9 February 2022 and begin the return journey on Friday afternoon.

› R8.1 LGNSW Water Conference Program [↓](#)

Financial Implications

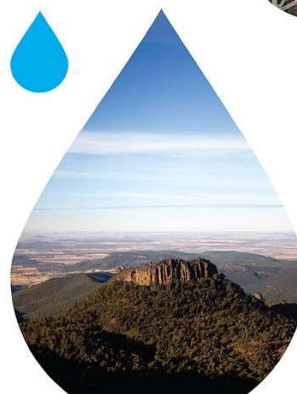
Attendance at the annual Water Management Conference is accounted for in the current Operational Plan

Risk Considerations

| Environmental Influences | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Avoid | Council will avoid risks that negatively impact the environment. Council will ensure that successful delivery is achievable without negative environmental impacts. |

2022 LGNSW

**WATER MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE**
Building Resilience and
Capability



The Crossing Theatre, 117 Tibbereena Street, Narrabri, 9-11 February 2022

DRAFT PROGRAM @ 12 January 2022

| Conference MC Geoff Brailey | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Wednesday, 9 February 2022 | | |
| 3.00pm - 5.00pm | Registration opens, The Crossing Theatre foyer | |
| 6.00pm - 8.00pm | Welcome reception and registration The Tourist Hotel, Narrabri Sponsor Message GHD – Lee-Anne Sylva, Manager Water, Newcastle, GHD | Gary O’Riordan Executive Manager, Member Central Local Government NSW Mayor Narrabri Shire Council |
| Thursday, 10 February 2022 | | |
| 8.00am | Conference registration opens, The Crossing Theatre foyer Trade exhibition opens, Riverside Room and foyer with arrival Tea and Coffee | |
| 9.00am - 9.05am | Conference opens Introduction and overview of the day | Geoff Brailey, MC |
| 9.05am - 9.10am | Welcome to Country | Krista Zarka representing the Gamilaraay People of Narrabri |
| 9.10am - 9.20am | Welcome to Narrabri Shire | Stewart Todd General Manager Narrabri Council |
| 9.20am - 9.30am | Opening Address | Cr Darriea Turley AM President Local Government NSW |
| 9.30am - 9.50am | NSW Minister’s address | The Hon Melinda Pavey MP NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing |
| 9.50am - 9.55am | Federal Minister’s address | The Hon Keith Pitt MP Federal Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia (Pre-recorded message) |
| 9.55am - 10.25am | Presentation Mr Bentley will provide an update on policy priorities and initiatives for water in NSW, discuss plans to lift the performance of the water sector and how DPIE plans to work in closer partnership with councils and local water utilities. | Jim Bentley Chief Executive Officer Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) |
| 10.25am - 10.30am | Overview message by Hunter H2O | |



| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 10.30am – 11.00am | Morning Tea sponsored by Hunter H2O <i>With Recycled Water Tasting – Facilitated by Danielle Francis, Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA)</i> | |
| 11.00am - 12.30pm | CONCURRENT conference streams (Select one out of three to attend) | |
| STREAM 1 – Resilience, facilitated by Steven Cato – Taggle Systems Location – Auditorium | | |
| 11.00am – 11.05am 5 mins | Overview Message by Taggle Systems and Introduction to the Stream | Steven Cato Business Development Executive Taggle Systems |
| 11.05am - 11.35am 30 mins | Infrastructure and Community Resilience – Early observations on transferring Army infrastructure experience to the Local Government context James will discuss delivering critical infrastructure in Iraq, schools and roads in Afghanistan and post-cyclone relief as an engineer in the Australian Army | James Dugdell Director Infrastructure and Assets Yass Valley Council |
| 11.35am – 12.05pm 30 mins | Managing the Risk Posed by Mega Drought The latest research shows that Australia has experienced worse droughts in the historical record. This session will highlight research in paleo-hydrology in Australia, outline the potential social and economic consequences of “mega-droughts” and a planning framework to mitigate these consequences. | Russell Beatty Principal Water Resources Engineer and Economist Hydrology and Risk Consulting (HARC) |
| 12.05pm – 12.30pm 25 mins | Establishing the NSW Sewage Surveillance Program to Support the COVID-19 Response The NSW Sewage Surveillance Program tests untreated sewage for fragments of the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) virus at sewage treatment plants across NSW. Testing sewage supports NSW Health’s response to COVID-19 and helps track community infections and provide early warning of an increase in infections. | Dr Zenah Bradford-Hartke Senior Policy Analyst NSW Health |
| STREAM 2 – Capability, facilitated Michael Legend – Royce Water Technologies Location – Exhibition Room | | |
| 11.00am – 11.05am 5 mins | Overview Message by Royce Water Technologies and Introduction to the Stream | Michael Legend Royce Water Technologies |
| 11.05am - 11.30am 25 mins | Water, Make it Your Business – Understanding governance to reduce risks in water service provision What would you have liked to know about your role and responsibilities in water services as a newly elected councillor? Join this interactive session to contribute to a draft information package for new councillors being developed in conjunction with councils and the broader the industry. | Josh Tickell Principal Project Officer Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Co-presenter Dr Nanda Altavilla |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 11.30am – 12.00pm 30 mins | Using Technology to Help Bridge the Workforce Gap The NSW Natural Resources Regulator (NRAR) is responsible for monitoring 800,000 square kilometres of the state. This session examines real-life examples of how NRAR uses satellites to search for needles of potential non-compliance in haystacks of legitimate water take. | Ivars Reinfelds Spatial Information and Modelling Specialist Margaret Sexton Director Regulatory Innovation Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) |
| 12.00pm – 12.30pm 30 mins | Town Water Risk Reduction Program The Town Water Risk Reduction Program is a new two-year NSW Government initiative designed to identify long-term solutions to the challenges providing water supply and sewerage services in regional towns. This session will provide an overview of the program, new partnership between DPIE and local water utilities, progress so far and opportunities to get involved. | Erin Cini Director Town Water Risk Reduction Program Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) |
| STREAM 3 – Council Case Studies in Resilience and Capability: Facilitated by Geoff Brailey MC Location – Cinema 2 | | |
| 11.00am – 11.30am 30 mins | Council Case Study 1 – Enabling Water Sensitive Communities Program The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) presents its <i>Enabling Water Sensitive Communities Program</i> . ISJO will discuss the approach to benchmarking member council progress, developing consistent regional policies and strengthening collaboration with water utilities and other stakeholders. | Natalia McGregor Manager Environment Shellharbour City Council |
| 11.30am – 12.00pm 30 mins | Council Case Study 2 – Using Recycled Water on Gravel Roads The presentation will cover research on use of recycled water and application of recycled water in construction and maintenance of regional gravel roads during droughts. Discuss regulatory barriers to use of wastewater on gravel roads, and lessons learned in seeking approval for Section 60, Local Government Act application. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebel Thomson Executive Officer Namoi Joint Organisation • Cr Eric Noakes Walcha Council • Duncan Thomson Environmental Engineer Geolink • Bruce Logan Director of Water Tamworth Regional Council |
| 12.00pm – 12.30pm 30 mins | Council Case Study 3 – Narromine Potable Water Treatment Plant With water security a growing concern in NSW, Narromine Shire Council drilled several new bores to help supplement the local water supply during drought. This session explores how, with limited funding, the council set up a temporary package plant capable of treating 2.5ML/day of water in a cost-effective way. | Doug Moorby Manager Utilities Narromine Shire Council Jake Reardon Technical Director Haldon Industries |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch | |
| 1.30pm – 2.00pm | Tools to understand water and climate – past, present and future The Bureau of Meteorology is supporting Australian communities and industries build resilience to climate variability and change. It is developing tools that allow us to monitor water resources in our rivers, dams, soils and underground; understand historical changes; forecast for the season ahead and project plausible long-term futures. This session will provide an overview of these tools and over the opportunity to participate in their design. | Matt Coulton Water Sector Engagement Lead Bureau of Meteorology |
| 2.00pm – 2.05pm | Overview message by TRILITY – Site Visit Sponsor | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 2.05pm – 2.20pm | Case Study of Water Augmentation Project Site Visit | Darren Raeck Principal Engineer – Water and Wastewater Treatment Operations Whitsunday Regional Council (formerly of Narrabri Council) |
| 2.20pm - 3.20pm | Site Visit (all) – Water storage treatment site, Water Augmentation Project The Narrabri Water Augmentation Project will secure the township’s water supply for the next 25 years. This \$14.18 million project will centralise storage, enabling more efficient processing and distribution and bringing water treatment one step closer. Construction was completed in 2021. | |
| From 3.20pm | Following the Water Augmentation site visit, delegates will continue either to Wee Waa or the Water Directorate Forum. | |
| 3.20pm - 5.45pm | Site visit details – Wee Waa Sewage Treatment Plant WeeWaaSewageTreatmentPlant(STP)Upgradeis part of a larger project including Boggabri STP, and Narrabri, Boggabri and Wee Waa sewage pump stations. The Wee Waa portion of the project is valued at \$5.29 Million of a \$12.16 Million contract which is co-funded by Restart NSW, CIVIO, and Narrabri Shire Council. The project includes the replacement of all mechanical parts, piping, electrical panels, telemetry and control. | 3.20pm – 5.20pm Water Directorate Forum The forum, organised and facilitated by the NSW Water Directorate, provides opportunity for members to discuss issues on the operations of local water utilities. Chair Brendan Guiney, Executive Officer, NSW Water Directorate Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on NSW Water Directorate Activities• How can State-owned Corporations help Local Water Utilities?• Data & Technology – Digital Water Utilities Opportunities• Open Forum – Over to You! |
| 7.00pm - 10.30pm | Conference Dinner The Crossing Theatre Ballroom sponsored by NSW Water Directorate Presentation of the Sam Samra Award for 2021 | |
| Friday, 11 February 2022 | | |
| 8.15am | Registration and trade exhibition opens with arrival Tea and Coffee | |
| 9.00am - 9.10am | Overview of the day, including a summary of concurrent streams and site visits | Geoff Brailey, MC |
| 9.10am - 9.20am | NSW Shadow Minister’s address | Rose Jackson MP Shadow Minister for Water, Housing and Homelessness |
| 9.20am - 9.30am | Federal Shadow Minister’s address | Terri Butler MP Federal Shadow Minister for the Environment and Water (Pre-recorded message) |
| 9.30am - 9.35am | Overview by Leading Edge Innovations | |
| 9.35am - 10.25am | Panel Discussion <i>The Future of Local Water Utilities</i> Only NSW and Qld have councils operating local water utilities and these have become a hallmark of how water is supplied to regional and rural communities. Our highly experienced panellists will provide thought-provoking insights into the future of local water utilities in NSW. Facilitated by Geoff Brailey MC | Brendan Guiney, Executive Officer NSW Water Directorate Adam Lovell, Executive Director Water Services Association of Australia Graham Kennett, General Manager, Kyogle Council Dr Rob Fearon, Director Innovation Partnerships, Queensland Water Directorate |
| 10.25am - 10.55am | Morning Tea sponsored by Leading Edge Innovations | |



| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 10.55am - 11.05am | GHD-Sponsored Presentation – Wastewater Overflow: Design Thinking in Practice | Lee-Anne Sylva Manager Water, Newcastle GHD |
| 11.05am - 11.35am | Water Quality and Supply for Rural, Remote and Aboriginal Communities What are the best ways for communities with limited infrastructure capability to cope in the future? This session will explore latest research and findings related to improving water quality and supply to rural, remote and Aboriginal communities | Professor Stuart Khan School of Civil & Environmental Engineering University of New South Wales (UNSW) |
| 11.35am - 12.05pm | National Water Reform: A Refreshed Agreement for a Changing World The National Water Initiative (NWI), a 2004 agreement that guides Australia's water management, is outdated. The Productivity Commission's review of the NWI identified areas where renewing the agreement could support communities, industries and environment to adapt to a drier future. | Matthew Hyde Senior Research Economist Australian Government Productivity Commission |
| 12.05pm - 12.35pm | Commissioner Resilience NSW Presentation | Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM Commissioner of Resilience NSW |
| 12.35pm - 12.40pm | Smart Approved WaterMark (An NFP) A water efficiency program for councils and local communities | Chris Philpot Chief Executive Officer Smart Approved WaterMark |
| 12.40pm - 12.50pm | Learnings Summation and Wrap-up by MC Geoff Brailey | |
| 12.50pm - 1.50pm | Lunch | |
| 1.35pm - 1.45pm | Travel by Bus to Site Visit | |
| 1.45pm - 3.25pm | Site Visit Details: The Plant Breeding Institute Introductory on-Site Presentation: An Irrigator's Perspective on Drought Associate Professor Guy Roth, Faculty of Science, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Plant Breeding Institute, Sydney Institute of Agriculture The University of Sydney's agricultural research centre has been operating for 60 years. It has produced crop varieties that enabled the wheat industry to grow and expand in northern NSW. It is also home to its "DigiFarm" project which is a demonstration of digital technologies, farm robotics and remote sensing of plants, biodiversity, soil and water. The field visit will show some of these technologies that could be applicable to local government. | |
| 3.35pm | Return to The Crossing Theatre for drop-off – Close | |

This program is correct at the time of printing. Speakers and program details may have changed due to unforeseen circumstances.