

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 31 October 2024

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:00 AM.

Present

Chairperson Tim Koschel
Councillor Gail Driscoll
Councillor Patrick Bourke
Councillor Allana Condron
Councillor Georgie Davies
Councillor Brian Liston
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Lea Parker
Councillor Dallas Tout

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Manager Finance & Sourcing	(Natasha Harris)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Governance & Corporate Planning Officer	(Wendy Reichelt)
Customer & Communication Team Leader	(Josh Lang)
Customer & Communication Officer	(Mikala Todd)
ICT Officer	(Riley Campton)

The CEO, Andrew Crakanthorp chaired the meeting up to and including all items concluding with the election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Welcome to Country – Aunty Cheryl Penrith

Aunty Cheryl Penrith provided a warm welcome to country including a poem she had created for the occasion.

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.

Procedural Motion – Change Standing Orders

24/108 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and A Condron

That Council move forward R1 Oaths and Affirmations of Office to follow the Livestreaming of meeting notice.

CARRIED

R1 Oath or Affirmation of Office

RECOMMENDATION that it be noted that Board Members have taken an oath of office or made an affirmation of office in the presence of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in accordance with the provisions of the Section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Board Members Oath of Office

Councillors Patrick Bourke, Brian Liston and Dallas Tout took the Oath of Office in accordance with the provisions of Section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* individually reading out aloud the prescribed wording below in the presence of the Chief Executive Officer, fellow Board Members, staff and the gallery.

I, _____, swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of board member 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 of Office

Councillors Allana Condron, Georgie Davies, Gail Driscoll, Tim Koschel, Jenny McKinnon and Lea Parker took the Affirmation of Office in accordance with the provisions of Section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* individually reading out aloud the prescribed wording below in the presence of the Chief Executive Officer, fellow Board Members, staff and the gallery.

I, _____, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of board member 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.

Apologies

There were no apologies.

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R10 List of Investments the reason being he works for a financial institution and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R13 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report – October the reason being he is the Chair of the Board of Ronald McDonald House Charities and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Allana Condron declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R13 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - October the reason being she is a member of the Board of Ronald McDonald House Charities and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

24/109 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Tout

That the minutes of the meeting of 7 August 2024 and the extraordinary meeting of 29 August 2024, 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 15 August 2024

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2024

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2024

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2024

24/110

RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Driscoll

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R2

Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

That the Returning Officer conduct the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for the period from October 2024 to October 2026.

The Returning Officer, Mr. Crakanthorp proceeded to conduct the election.

There was one nomination for the office of Chairperson that being Clr Koschel.

Mr. Crakanthorp declared Clr Koschel duly elected to the position of Chairperson for the ensuing 2 year period.

There was one nomination for the office of Deputy Chairperson that being Clr Driscoll.

Mr. Crakanthorp declared Clr Driscoll duly elected to the position of Deputy Chairperson for the ensuing 2 year period.

Councillor Koschel assumed the role of Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.

Procedural Motion – En Globo

24/111

RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That the standing orders be varied for the meeting as set out hereunder:

- **Items where the Board Members intended to vote against the recommendation;**
- **Items where the Board Members wish to speak on**

CARRIED

24/112

RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That R3, R4, R10, R13, R15, R16, R17, Conf 1, Conf 2 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

R3 Delegation of Authority to Chairperson

24/113 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That in accordance with Section 381(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council ratify and grant the delegations as set out in the Delegations of Authority Register to the Chairperson.

CARRIED

R4 Delegation of Authority to Chief Executive Officer

24/114 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That in accordance with Section 381(1) Local Government Act 1993, Council ratify and grant the delegations as set out in the Delegations of Authority Register to the CEO.

CARRIED

R5 Appointment of Council Representatives

24/115 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and D Tout

That Council appoint representatives to the following Committees:

- a) Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review Committee** – Tim Koschel, Gail Driscoll, Patrick Bourke, Jenny McKinnon
- b) Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)** – Lea Parker, alternate Georgie Davies
- c) Murray Darling Association – Murrumbidgee Region** – Gail Driscoll, Patrick Bourke
- d) Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO)** – Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer

CARRIED

R6 Council Meeting Schedule 2024-2025

24/116 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the Board endorse the schedule of Riverina Water meeting dates for December 2024 and all of 2025 as follows:

- **Thursday 12 December 2024**
- **Thursday 27 February 2025**
- **Thursday 24 April 2025 (in Greater Hume Shire)**
- **Thursday 26 June 2025**
- **Thursday 28 August 2025 (in Lockhart)**
- **Thursday 23 October 2025**

• **Thursday 11 December 2025**

CARRIED

R7 2024 Local Government NSW Annual Conference - Election of Delegate

24/117 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and G Davies

That Council:

- a) Approve the attendance of the Chairperson and the CEO at the 2024 LGNSW Annual Conference to be held in the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre from Sunday 17 November to Tuesday 19 November 2024**
- b) elect the Chairperson as Council's voting at the Conference**
- c) Nominations be called for other Board Members to attend in late October 2024.**
- d) Note that no motions have been received for the conference**

CARRIED

Cr Pat Bourke self-nominated to attend the 2024 Local Government NSW Annual Conference in accordance with item (c) above

R8 Membership Renewal for Committee4Wagga

A motion was moved by Councillors J McKinnon and P Bourke

That Council continue its membership as a Business Member of Committee4Wagga at an annual membership of \$5,000 commencing July 2024.

LOST

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr G Davies

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr T Koschel

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condon

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R9 OLG Discussion Paper on Councillor conduct and meeting practices

24/118 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and G Davies

RECOMMENDATION: that the Board note the Discussion Paper prepared by the NSW Office of Local Government regarding a proposed new framework for councillor conduct and meeting practices and delegate authority to the Chairperson and CEO to prepare and submit the submission.

CARRIED

R10 List of Investments

24/119 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of August 2024 and September 2024.

CARRIED

R11 September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statement

24/120 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

That the

- a) Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 30 September 2024 be received and adopted.**
- b) Implications on the 2024/25 Operational Plan be noted.**

CARRIED

R12 Financial Statements 2023/24

Mr Jason Gilbert from Crowe and Mr Min Li from the NSW Audit Office addressed the meeting via the Teams.

24/121 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That the 2023/24 audited Financial Statements be received and noted.

CARRIED

R13 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - October

24/122 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R14 2024/25 Enriching Communities program - assessment panels

24/123 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That Council:

- a) **Receive and note the report**
- b) **Nominate one Board member and an alternate per Local Government Area, as required, to the Enriching Communities grants assessment panels**
- c) **Delegate authority to the CEO (in conjunction with the Chairperson) to make changes to the assessment panel members due to unavailability or conflict of interest to be made at his discretion, should it be required.**

CARRIED

Panel nominations endorsed by the Board are:

- Greater Hume Council – Clr Liston, alternate Clr Parker
- Wagga Wagga City Council – Clr McKinnon, alternate Clr Condron
- Federation Council – Clr Bourke
- Lockhart Shire Council – Clr Driscoll

R15 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2024 - October 2024

24/124 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period July 2024 to October 2024.

CARRIED

R16 Works Report covering August 2024

24/125 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That the Works Report covering August 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED

R17 Works Report covering September 2024

24/126 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That the Works Report covering September 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED

R18 Council Resolution Sheet

24/127 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That the report detailing the status of the active resolutions of Riverina Water be received.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr Bourke advised he had received an enquiry regarding whether the works being done on Bidgeemia Road could be extended to Federation Way? Director Engineering to follow up with Clr Bourke to discuss further.
2. Clr Davies enquired whether the graph comparing quarters on customer billing can be dated? Looking to launch new customer portal and part of this is to review the billing and to make any changes.
3. Clr Driscoll asked if Riverina Water had been in contact with The Rock Bowling Club to discuss the water pressure issues that are holding up their abilities to expand? Director Engineering and Manager Works & Service Delivery confirmed a meeting had been held and The Rock Bowling Club were going to discuss further options with their contractor.
4. Clr Liston enquired if there was any development on the pipeline at the Henty Showground. Reprioritisation of projects is underway and awaiting the hydraulic modelling from Public Works to be received to further determine project priorities of which this pipeline is part of to ensure it fits any long term growth strategy.
5. Clr Parker thanked everyone for making the new Board Members feel welcome and for being proactive on the Walla Walla matter.

6. Mr Crakanthorp advised he had recently written to the General Manager of the four Constituent Councils regarding the lack of forward notice provided to Riverina Water to assist in the future planning of works that may be needed to supply new areas of development. The NSW Planning Portal has been problematic as County Councils have not been included. Cllr Tout sought clarification on the trigger point for notification. Cllr Parker advised there is a subdivision on eastern side of Holbrook that Riverina Water may not be aware of.
7. Mr van Berkel advised the growth data we are waiting on from Public Works will help Riverina Water plan and get ahead on future works that may be needed to meet the growth requirements of the four local government areas based on the modelling that is being done. He advised that the sooner Riverina Water is informed of development, the better.
8. Cllr Bourke agreed there needs to be a definite trigger point for advising Riverina Water especially when the Council has another water source within their council area.

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.

24/128 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 12:09pm.

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 Confidential Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 14 August 2024

24/129 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 14 August 2024 and receives the Chairperson report in respect of the same meeting.

CARRIED

CONF-2 Customer account matter

24/130 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and P Bourke

That Council provide the financial relief as set out in the report.

CARRIED

CONF-3 Write Off of Bad Debts

24/131 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

Reversion to Open Council

24/132 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and B Liston

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 12:29pm.

CARRIED

Decisions Read Aloud

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

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 12:31pm