

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 23 October 2025

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 9:05am.

Present

Chairperson Tim Koschel
Councillor Gail Driscoll
Councillor Patrick Bourke (via teams)
Councillor Georgie Davies (via teams)
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Dallas Tout (via teams)
Councillor Allana Condon (via teams)
Councillor Brian Liston
Councillor Lea Parker

In Attendance

Acting Chief Executive Officer	(Emily Tonacia)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Governance & Corporate Planning Officer	(Wendy Reichelt)
Customer & Communication Team Leader	(Josh Lang)
IT Officer	(Alex Corneliusen)
IT Server, Network and Security Specialist	(Andrew Littlewood)

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.

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.

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.

Apologies

25/139 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That an apology for non-attendance be received from the Chief Executive Officer Andrew Crakanthorp.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Against the Motion

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Allana Condon declared a non-pecuniary interest in R6 Donations and Sponsorships 2025-26 progress report the reason being she is a member of the Board of Ronald McDonald House Charities and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Chairperson Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R6 Donations and Sponsorships 2025-26 progress report the reason being he sits on the Boards of Ronald McDonald House Charities and Ronald McDonald House Australia and left the meeting during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

25/140 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors B Liston and J McKinnon

That the minutes of the meeting of 28 August 2025 and the extraordinary meeting of 11 September 2025, having been circulated and read by Members, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Against the Motion

Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

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 25 September 2025

Work Health and Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2025

25/141 **RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and L Parker

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Procedural Motion – En Globo

25/142 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and B Liston

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

- **Items where the Board Members intend to vote against the recommendation;**
- **Items where the Board Members wished to speak on**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Against the Motion

25/143 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That R2, R3, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R11, R13, R14, R15 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Against the Motion

Open Reports

R1 Recission motion - Proposed REROC membership

25/144 **RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

That Council consider, debate and rescind the following motion;

That Riverina Water decline the offer by the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Council's (REROC) to rejoin REROC, for the reasons which informed the decision in August 2020 by Riverina Water to withdraw its membership of REROC.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Against the Motion

Procedural Motion

25/145 **RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That the Board move debate of R12 Membership of Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) forward in the meeting.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston

Against the Motion

Cr L Parker

R12 Membership of Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)

25/146 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and L Parker

RECOMMENDATION that Riverina Water join REROC for a twelve-month period with valuation of membership to be presented back to the Board within twelve months.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R2 Riverina Water Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Report 1 July 2024 - 31 August 2025

25/147 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That Council receive the report from the Riverina Water Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2025, as prepared by the ARIC Chair, Mr David Kortum.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condon

Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R3 List of Investments

25/148 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of August 2025 and September 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R4 September 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement

25/149 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

That Council receive and adopt the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 30 September 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout

Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R5 Acknowledgement of Country Policy

25/150 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That Council:

- a) Note there were no submissions received during the public exhibition period**
- b) Adopt the Acknowledgement of Country Policy**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R6 Donations and Sponsorships 2025-26 progress report

25/151 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That the Board receive and note the report.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón

Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R7 Code of Meeting Practice - revised policy based on the new model code

25/152 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That Council:

- a) Review the draft *Code of Meeting Practice Policy 1.02***
- b) Note that the draft policy will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days following the October meeting; and**
- c) Note that the *Code of Meeting Practice Policy 1.02* will be presented to the Board at its meeting in December 2025 for final review and adoption**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R8 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Returns for 2024-25

25/153 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That Council:

- a) Note the tabling of the pecuniary interest returns of designated persons for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025; and**
- b) Note that the pecuniary interest returns for Board members, ARIC members and senior staff will be published to the Riverina Water website, and made available for public inspection with personal addresses redacted**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R9 Adoption of Riverina Water Code of Conduct Policy 1.01

25/154 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That Council

- a) Note that there were no submissions made during the public exhibition period for the revised Code of Conduct Policy 1.01; and**
- b) Adopt the Code of Conduct Policy 1.01**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R10 Code of Conduct Statistical Report

25/155 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and L Parker

That Council note that the Riverina Water Code of Conduct statistical report from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 has been lodged with the Office of Local Government with zero notifications or determinations for that period.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R11 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2025 to September 2025

25/156 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period June 2025 to September 2025, noting that the data is accurate as of 9 October 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R13 Council Resolution Sheet

25/157 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

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

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R14 Works Report covering August 2025

25/158 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That the Works Report covering August 2025 be received and noted

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R15 Works Report covering September 2025

25/159 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That the Works Report covering September 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R16 Donation towards Sindhuli Nepal Project - partnering with South Wagga Wagga Rotary

A motion was moved by Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Note the report and support the Executive team's decision to not participate in the 2026 Nepal program based on current DFAT travel advice;
- b) Approve a \$1,000 donation to Rotary Australia World Community Services (through South Wagga Rotary) to support the 2026 Nepal program;
- c) Note that participation in the program will be reconsidered for 2027 based on travel advice available at that time.

CARRIED/LOST

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillors D Tout and G Davies

That Council:

- a) Note the report and support the Executive team's decision to not participate in the 2026 Nepal program based on current DFAT travel advice;
- b) Approve a \$5,000 donation to Rotary Australia World Community Services (through South Wagga Rotary) to support the 2026 Nepal program;
- c) Note that participation in the program will be reconsidered for 2027 based on travel advice available at that time.

The AMENDMENT being put to the meeting was CARRIED and became the Motion.

25/160 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Davies

That Council:

- a) Note the report and support the Executive team's decision to not participate in the 2026 Nepal program based on current DFAT travel advice;**
- b) Approve a \$5,000 donation to Rotary Australia World Community Services (through South Wagga Rotary) to support the 2026 Nepal program;**
- c) Note that participation in the program will be reconsidered for 2027 based on travel advice available at that time.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Cr Driscoll attended the Meals on Wheels event in Holbrook on Friday 17 October. There were many people in attendance, the bridges have Riverina Water identified as a donor for the project and during the speeches, Riverina Water was highly spoken of.
2. Ms Tonacia recognised this would be Wendy Reichelt's final meeting at Riverina Water and noted her lasting impact to the organisation through her work on strategy and governance. Wished her all the best in her retirement. Mr van Berkel echoed Ms Tonacia's comments and thanked Wendy for her work and direction on the BASP/DP/OP.
3. Cr Koschel thanked Wendy Reichelt on behalf of the Board for her support over the years and wished her well in her retirement.

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.

25/161 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 10:02am.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

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 the Extraordinary Meeting of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 18 September 2025

25/162 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Extraordinary Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 18 September 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

CONF-2 Plumpton Road Design and Construct Project

25/163 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Supports the finalisation of negotiations with WWCC's selected contractor to confirm scope, design methodology and pricing, noting that working through WWCC's contract reduces direct contractual influence but is expected to provide the most economical outcome.**

- b) Delegates authority to the CEO or his delegate to finalise and enter into an agreement with WWCC for the Plumpton Road watermain upgrade, including incorporation of the finalised pipeline upgrade scope of works into WWCC's contract, provided the net cost to Riverina Water is within the allocated 2025/26 budget amount of \$3.39 million and demonstrates satisfactory value for money and appropriate risk mitigation.
- c) Notes that an initial budget of \$3.39 million is already included in the 2025/26 Capital Works Program, and that this amount will be adjusted through the Quarterly Budget Review following finalisation of detailed design, cost sharing arrangements and negotiated pricing.
- d) Delegates authority to the CEO to report back to the Board should the net cost exceed the allocated budget, with alternative options and recommendations.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
 Cr T Koschel
 Cr G Davies
 Cr G Driscoll
 Cr J McKinnon
 Cr D Tout
 Cr A Condrón
 Cr B Liston
 Cr L Parker

Reversion to Open Council

25/164 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 10:17am.

CARRIED

Decisions Read Aloud

The Acting 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 10:19am.