

# Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 14 December 2023

---

**The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:01am.**

## **Present**

Chairperson Tim Koschel  
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM  
Councillor Pat Bourke  
Councillor Tony Quinn  
Councillor Georgie Davies  
Councillor Michael Henderson  
Councillor Jenny McKinnon  
Councillor Dallas Tout

## **In Attendance**

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Acting Director Corporate Services	(Natasha Harris)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Governance & Corporate Planning Officer	(Wendy Reichelt)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Customer & Communications Team Leader	(Joshua Lang)
ICT Officer	(Riley Campton)
Communications & Engagement Officer	(Derek Motion)

## **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

**23/141 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and P Bourke

**That an apology be received from Councillor Gail Driscoll for non-attendance at the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

## Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Chairperson Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R1 List of Investments the reason being he works for a financial institution and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Pat Bourke declared a pecuniary interest in R5 2023/24 Enriching Communities Program the reason being he has a relative who will be undertaking work as a result of one of the grants and left the meeting during the discussion.

## Confirmation of Minutes

**23/142 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

**That the minutes of the meeting of 26 October 2023, 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 28 September 2023

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2023

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2023

**23/143**

**RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and D Tout

**That the correspondence be received.**

**CARRIED**

## **Procedural Motion – En Globo**

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 wish to speak on.

**23/144**

**RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That R3, R4, R9, R10, R11, R12, CONF 1, CONF 2 and CONF 4 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.**

**CARRIED**

## **Open Reports**

**R1**

**List of Investments**

**23/145**

**RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

**That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of October 2023 and November 2023.**

**CARRIED**

**R2**

**Investment Advisor - Novation of agreement to Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd**

**23/146**

**RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Davies

**That Council confirms the ongoing engagement of Arlo Advisory Pty Ltd through the novation of agreement with Imperium Markets Pty Ltd.**

**CARRIED**

**R3 Code of Conduct Statistical Report to 31 August 2023**

**23/147 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That Council note that the Riverina Water Code of Conduct statistical report from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has been lodged with the Office of Local Government with zero notifications or determinations for that period.**

**CARRIED**

**R4 Riverina Water ARIC Terms of Reference**

**23/148 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That Council adopts the Riverina Water Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Terms of Reference as attached to this report.**

**CARRIED**

*Clr Pat Bourke left the meeting at 10:09am*

**R5 2023/24 Enriching Communities program**

**23/149 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and D Meyer OAM

**That Council approve the successful applications for the 2023/24 Enriching Communities program as detailed in the report totalling \$100,000.**

**CARRIED**

*Clr Pat Bourke returned to the meeting at 10:11am*

**R6 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2023 - November 2023**

**23/150 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Davies

**That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries for the period July 2023 to November 2023.**

**CARRIED**

**R7 Inquiry into protecting local water utilities from privatisation**

**23/151 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That the Board:**

- a) notes the report and authorises the Chairperson and CEO to represent Riverina Water at the upcoming hearing for the Inquiry;**
- b) Direct the CEO to write a letter to each constituent council requesting that they add their support to the Riverina Water submission as a matter of urgency.**

**CARRIED**

**R8 Council Resolution Sheet**

**23/152 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

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

**CARRIED**

**R9 Update on PFAS**

**23/153 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That the Board continue to supply water in accordance with the NSW Health Act, the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, Riverina Water Drinking Water Policy and the Riverina Water Drinking Water Management System.**

**CARRIED**

**R10 Partnerships for Improved Water Safety and Water Supply Resilience Program**

**23/154 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That the Board continue to support Riverina Water's involvement in the Australian Water Association (AWA) program in assisting the Government of Vietnam in implementing practical measures in response to climate change.**

**CARRIED**

**R11 Works Report covering October 2023**

**23/155 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That the Works Report covering October 2023 be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

**R12 Works Report covering November 2023**

**23/156 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That the Works Report covering November 2023 be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

## **Questions and statements**

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Councillor Quinn enquired about the updating of Riverina Water's strategic plans due to new developments proposed in member council areas. Has the information from Greater Hume been forthcoming? Concern expressed regarding Walla Walla capacity. The CEO and Director Engineering explained the updated modelling was being done as the proposed developments from constituent councils developments were not available at the time the original modelling was completed.
2. Councillor Meyer wished members of the Board and staff a Merry Christmas and happy new year
3. Councillor Tout asked if Riverina Water is required to be notified of any significant developments by member councils? Are there any informal channels that should be created between member councils and Riverina Water to ensure Riverina Water is aware of new residential, commercial and industrial development? The Chair and CEO advised that we are not a "notifiable authority" and that through regular meetings between themselves and the constituent councils, we are able to learn of any significant developments, Riverina Water is relying on Planning Managers advising Riverina Water staff of any major developments.
4. Councillor Bourke enquired whether consideration should be made to the southern area of the supply area for future water sources (i.e. the Murray River). He wished members of the Board and staff a Merry Christmas and happy new year.
5. Mr Crakanthorp advised he would be on leave from 22 December 2023 - 12 January 2024 and that Director Engineering would be acting CEO during this time. He wished all a Merry Christmas.
6. Councillor Koschel thanked members of the Board and staff for their input and work during the year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

## 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.

**23/157      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Tout

**That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 10:37 am.**

**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      GIS Cloud Migration and Managed Service Contract - ESRI**

**23/158      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That Council:**

- a) In accordance with Riverina Water's Procurement Policy exercise the exemption provisions to allow an amended contract to be entered into with ESRI for the supply of a Geographic Information System (GIS).
- b) In accordance with Section 55 3 (a) and (g) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to further negotiate and enter into a contract with ESRI Australia Pty Ltd for the supply of a GIS Managed Service solution as outlined in the body of this report and not exceeding \$913,143.90 (excluding GST).
- c) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to extend the contract for 3x12 month periods, as set out in the contract documents, at the sole discretion of Council.
- d) Authorise the affixing of Council's Common Seal to all relevant documents as required.
- e) Authorise an increase to the 2023/24 capital budget of \$266,081.03.

**CARRIED**

**CONF-2 Bulk Chemicals**

**23/159 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That Council:**

- a) Council accepts the quotations from Ixom Operations Pty Ltd; Nowchem; Omega Chemicals; and Redox Pty Ltd
- b) That the CEO be authorised to enter into individual twelve month contracts with Ixom Operations Pty Ltd; Nowchem; Omega Chemicals; and Redox Pty Ltd for the supply of chemicals as outlined in the report.

**CARRIED**

**CONF-3 Update on UGL Cost to Complete Claim**

**23/160 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and J McKinnon

**That the Board**

- a) Receive and note the report.
- b) endorse the counter offer in the letter dated 6 December 2023,
- c) endorse that the amount not be disclosed due to the sensitive nature of the matter.

**CARRIED**

**CONF-4 Confidential Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 9 November 2023**

**23/161 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 9 November 2023.**

**CARRIED**

**Reversion to Open Council**

**23/162 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and P Bourke

**That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 11:04 am.**

**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 11:08am**