

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 27 February 2025

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:06 AM.

Present

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

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	(Alex Corneliusen)

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

No apologies were received.

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.

Chairperson Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R5 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - December the reason being he is the Chair of the Ronald McDonald House Charity Wagga Board and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Chairperson Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R11 Update on growth area – Collingullie, Walla Walla and the Southern Growth Area the reason being he has family living in the area and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Chairperson Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary significant interest in R17 Award Negotiation Update the reason being has a family member that works for Riverina Water and left the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Jenny McKinnon declared a non-pecuniary significant interest in R17 Award Negotiation Update the reason being has a family member that works for Riverina Water and left the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Allana Condron declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R5 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - December the reason being she is a Board Member of Ronald McDonald House Charity Wagga and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Allana Condron declared a non-pecuniary significant interest in R17 Award Negotiation Update the reason being a friend's partner works for Riverina Water and left the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Lea Parker declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R5 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report – February and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Gail Driscoll declared a non-pecuniary interest in R5 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report – February and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Gail Driscoll declared a non-pecuniary significant interest in R17 Award Negotiation Update, the reason being she has a family member that works for Riverina Water and left the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Patrick Bourke declared a non-pecuniary, non-significant interest in R5 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report – February and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

25/001 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the minutes of the meeting of 12 December 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

Work Health and Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2024

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2025

Work Health and Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2025

25/002 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Procedural Motion – En Globo

25/003 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

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 wished to speak on.**

CARRIED

25/004 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That R1, R3, R5, R6, R7, R9, R12, R13, R14, R15, CONF-6 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R1 List of Investments

25/005 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That the Board receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of December 2024 and January 2025.

CARRIED

R2 December 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statement

25/006 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

That the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 31 December 2024 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

R3 Enriching Communities Program: Federation Council

25/007 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That Council endorse the remaining Enriching Communities Grants funding allocation for Federation Council be awarded to the project set out in the body of the report.

CARRIED

R4 Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group - Terms of Reference

25/008 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

That Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group

CARRIED

R5 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - February

25/009 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That the Board receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R6 Board member access to information and premises Policy 1.9

25/010 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That Council adopt the revised *Board member access to information and premises Policy 1.9*.

CARRIED

R7 Board member expenses and facilities Policy 1.10

25/011 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That Council review and adopt the *Board member expenses and facilities Policy 1.10* as attached to this report.

CARRIED

R8 Yr 3 Operational Plan Progress Report 1 - Delivery Program 2022-2025

25/012 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

That Council note the progress report from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 for the 2024-25 Operational Plan which is Year 3 of the Delivery Program.

CARRIED

R9 Board member disclosures of interest

25/013 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and G Davies

That Council:

- a) note the disclosures of interest declarations for board members as tabled at the meeting; and**
- b) note that these disclosures will be available on Riverina Water's website with personal information redacted where applicable.**

CARRIED

R10 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2024 - February 2025

25/014 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and G Davies

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period July 2024 to February 2025, noting that the data is accurate as at 14th February 2025.

CARRIED

R11 Update on growth areas - Collingullie, Walla Walla and the Southern Growth Area

25/015 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and B Liston

That the Board:

- a) Note the report**
- b) Acknowledge the ongoing planning to progress future growth and development in Collingullie, Walla Walla and Southern Growth Area (SGA)**

CARRIED

R12 Donation towards Sindhuli Nepal Project - partnering with South Wagga Wagga Rotary

25/016 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That the Board:

- a) Note the report;**
- b) Acknowledge the ongoing partnership with South Wagga Rotary Club (SWRC) and the mutual benefits with our employee leadership program participating in suitable overseas aid projects;**
- c) Support the 2025 donation to help fund new power tools required as part of the Nepal project.**

CARRIED

R13 Works Report covering December 2024

25/017 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

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

CARRIED

R14 Works Report covering January 2025

25/018 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

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

CARRIED

R15 Office of Local Government Model Code of Meeting Practice Submission to Consultation Paper

25/019 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That the Board note the Consultation Draft prepared by the NSW Office of Local Government regarding a new model code of meeting practice and endorse the contents of the submission attached to this report (and as amended during the meeting)

CARRIED

R16 Membership of Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)

25/020 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and G Driscoll

That Riverina Water defer consideration of the request by the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) to rejoin REROC, pending any decision by Wagga Wagga City Council to join or not rejoin REROC.

CARRIED

25/021 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and A Condron

That the Board vote on a temporary Chair of the meeting for R17 Award Negotiation Update as both Chair and Deputy Chair will be leaving chamber due to Declaration of Interest.

CARRIED

Councillor Bourke accepted nomination by Councillor Parker to Chair R17 Award Negotiation Update.

Councillors Koschel, Driscoll and Condron left the chamber at 11.21am.

R17 Award Negotiation Update

25/022 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and D Tout

That the Board receive and note the report.

CARRIED

Clr Koschel resumed as chair at 11.23am and Councillors Driscoll and Condron returned to the Chamber

R18 Council Resolution Sheet

25/023 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll 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 Driscoll enquired where the works at The Rock depot were up to. The Director Engineering advised works are scheduled to commence next financial year with the

- tender to be released around April and final recommendation on tender outcome to come to the June Board Meeting for ratification.
2. Clr Driscoll expressed her disappointment at the lack of beautification to the Hammond Avenue site when arriving at the facility. She enquired whether as part of the bridge work if there could be consideration given to some form of beautification works undertaken to improve the appearance of the depot when entering whether through landscaping, signage, more welcoming entrance etc. The CEO advised the concrete blocks at the front of the driveway formed part of the levy bank in case of flooding. Clr Driscoll felt it was not attractive to enter the site and asked for consideration to be made to look at making it a welcoming place to come.
 3. Clr Tout asked if it was part of the Marshall's Creek Bridge work to put a concrete median down the middle of the Sturt Highway to prevent vehicles travelling west from crossing the road to turn into the site. The CEO advised that he does not remember that being part of the plans. Several Board members expressed their concern regarding turning into the depot coming from the city and whether vehicles following would notice your blinker indicating you were turning into the driveway. Board Members concurred regarding entry and signage into Riverina Water needing to be clearer. The Director Engineering advised he could provide an update on Hammond Ave site. Contractor has been engaged to look at the Master Plan. Focus has been on maintaining safety to our sites.
 4. Clr Davies enquired regarding an update on PFAS. Currently finalising an investigation into the Tarcutta PFAS cause. Looking at potential funding and options going forward. Project Governance Group is still meeting and is tasked with ongoing monitoring of PFAS risk. The CEO advised we will have standing reports on PFAS to the Board. NSW Health is now aware of the costs involved in investigating the cause of the Tarcutta results and are researching and seeking to reimburse Riverina Water for the cost. The CEO advised he is about to write to Defence regarding costs for East Wagga borefield.
 5. Clr Davies tabled a letter from residents at San Isidore regarding high water pressure that is causing burst pipes and a request from those residents to have staff attend and assess their concerns.
 6. Clr Bourke enquired if it would be possible to set up a process whereby a form is completed for requests at meetings to be passed to relevant staff for actioning. The CEO advised this is something that can be looked at.
 7. Clr Bourke made further enquiries regarding the entrance to site. The CEO advised that it is not possible to change entrance to site. Current emergency plans can operate on this site with a different location for a depot to be set up in case of emergency.
 8. Clr Parker advised that as part of their community consultation they have been undertaking this week, Woomargama Fire Brigade advised they only have one standpipe for 3 fire trucks and asked if this could be reviewed. The Director Engineering agreed to undertake a review.
 9. Ms Tonacia advised the Board that Riverina Water is about to commence working on its first Disability Inclusion Action Plan and will present to the June Board Meeting.

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.

25/024 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 11:50am.

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

Mikala Todd left the meeting at 11:51 am.

CONF-1 Customer account matter

25/025 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and P Bourke

That Council provide the water account adjustments as set out in the body of the report.

CARRIED

CONF-2 Leak Rebate - Lake Albert Road

25/026 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

That Council approve the leak rebate as set out within the body of the report.

CARRIED

CONF-3 Lease of Land for Marshalls Creek Bridge Compound Site

25/027 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That the Board;

- a) enter a lease with Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) (ABN 18 804 239 602) of land in Folio Identifier 2/1276166 being 4,400m² area shown in attached draft lease.
 - a. First lease being for 6 months from 17 March 2025.**
 - b. Two further options each of 1 year and thereafter from quarter to quarter.****
- b) delegate authority to the CEO to execute such lease.**
- c) endorse the recommended budget adjustments to the 2024/25 Operational Plan as outlined in the report.**

CARRIED

CONF-4 Short term Lease of Land for Road Reconstruction Works

25/028 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and B Liston

That the Board;

- a) enter into a lease with Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) (ABN 18 804 239 602) for the land in Folio Identifier 2/1276166 being 9,000m² area shown in attached draft lease for 3 months from 12 February 2025 at the amount per square metre as referenced in the report;**
- b) delegate authority to the CEO to execute the lease; and**
- c) endorse the recommended budget adjustments to the 2024/25 Operational Plan as outlined in the report.**

CARRIED

CONF-5 RFQ2025/6 - Bulk Chemicals

25/029 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and G Davies

That Council:

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

CARRIED

CONF-6 RFQ2024/7 - Bulk Fuel

25/030 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and G Davies

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the report for the supply of bulk fuel to Riverina Water.
- b) Accept the quotation received from Maxi-Tankers Pty Ltd; and
- c) Delegate to the CEO the signing of a 12-month bulk fuel supply contract.

CARRIED

Reversion to Open Council

25/031 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Driscoll

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 12:14pm.

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 12:17pm.