

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 22 June 2023

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 9:30am.

Present

Chairperson Tim Koschel (via teams)
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM
Councillor Pat Bourke (via teams)
Councillor Tony Quinn
Councillor Dan Hayes
Councillor Georgie Davies
Councillor Gail Driscoll
Councillor Michael Henderson
Councillor Jenny McKinnon

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Customer & Communications Team Leader	(Joshua Lang)
Governance Officer	(Wendy Reichelt)
ICT Officer	(Riley Campton)
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

The Chairperson provided the following 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 R8 Donations and Sponsorships 2022-2023 the reason being he is a member of the Ronald McDonald House board and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared a pecuniary and significant interest in CONF 4 Performance Review – Chief Executive Officer the reason being he is the subject of the report and left the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Jenny McKinnon declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R15 Freeroam Theatre Sponsorship Request the reason being she is friends with members of the Board and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Michael Henderson declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in CONF 3 Supply of one Truck 6x4 with Vacuum Excavation Unit Contract W296 the reason being he is a Director of a company that owns a Vac Truck that assists Council when theirs is not functional and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

23/058 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

That the minutes of the meeting of 27 April 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 Board Members by Constituent Councils

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

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2023

Forwarding letter received from The Hon Ron Hoenig MP – dated 19 May 2023

23/059 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

23/060 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Davies

That standing orders be suspended.

CARRIED

The Chairperson thanked Mr David Maxwell for his significant work as a member and Chair of the Riverina Water ARIC over the past eight years. Councillor Meyer OAM presented Mr Maxwell with an appreciation gift on behalf of the Board.

23/061 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Davies

That Council resume standing orders.

CARRIED

Procedural Motion – En Globo

23/062 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Hayes

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.**

CARRIED

23/063 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

That R2, R3, R4, R7, R9, R13, R15, R16, CONF 1 and CONF 2 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R1 List of Investments

23/064 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and D Hayes

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of April 2023 and May 2023.

CARRIED

R2 Unreasonable Complainant Conduct Policy

23/065 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

That Council adopt the Unreasonable Complainant Conduct Policy noting there were no submissions received from the public during the exhibition period.

CARRIED

R3 Complaints Management Policy

23/066 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

That Council adopt the Complaints Management Policy noting there were no submissions received from the public during the exhibition period.

CARRIED

R4 Customer Service Charter

23/067 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

RECOMMENDATION : that Council adopt the Customer Service Charter noting there were no submissions received from the public during the exhibition period.

CARRIED

R5 Customer & Community Engagement Strategy 2023/24-2025/26

23/068 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and G Davies

That Council adopt the Customer & Community Engagement Strategy 2023/24-2025/26 noting there were no submissions received from the public during the exhibition period.

CARRIED

R6 2023 Customer Satisfaction Survey

23/069 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the report; and**
- b) Acknowledge and thank staff for their ongoing good work as reflected in the consistent results of the community satisfaction survey results year-on-year.**

CARRIED

R7 Assistance for Undetected Water Leaks Provided 2022-23

23/070 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R8 Donations and Sponsorships 2022-23

23/071 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R9 Determination of fees for Board Members, Chairperson and ARIC members

23/072 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

That Council;

- a) Approve a 3.0% increase in board member and chairperson fees for the 2023/24 financial year in line with the determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.**
- b) Approve a 3.0% increase in ARIC member and chairperson fees for the 2023/24 financial year.**

CARRIED

R10 Operational Plan 2023/24 and revised Delivery Program 2022/23 - 2025/26

23/073 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Hayes

That the:

- a) The 2023/24 Operational Plan and revised Delivery Program 2022/23 – 2025/26, as exhibited and following close of public comments, be adopted, subject to the proposed changes listed in the body of this report; and**
- b) Fees and Charges be made for the 2023/24 financial year, as outlined in the Operational Plan.**

CARRIED

R11 Workforce Strategic Plan 2023/24 - 2025/26

23/074 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Hayes

That Council adopt the Workforce Strategic Plan 2023/24 – 2025/26.

CARRIED

R12 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2022 - May 2023

23/075 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors M Henderson and D Hayes

That Council receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries for the period July 2022 to May 2023.

CARRIED

R13 Invitation to re-join REROC

23/076 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

That Council

- a) Receive and note the report.**
- b) Defer consideration of the request to the August meeting of Riverina Water to allow sufficient time to:**
 - i. Conduct a workshop on the matter on 24 August 2023**
 - ii. Learn of the NSW Government's policy on Joint Organisations.**
 - iii. Consider the transition plan for the incoming CEO of REROC and RivJO**

CARRIED

R14 Proposed Change of Commencement Time for Board Meetings

A motion was moved by Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

That Council in accordance with Clause 3.1 of the Code of Meeting Practice set the commencement time for ordinary board meetings to be 10.30am to commence at the ordinary board meeting to be held on the 24 August 2023.

An amendment was moved by Councillors D Hayes and M Henderson:

That Council in accordance with Clause 3.1 of the Code of Meeting Practice set the commencement time for ordinary board meetings to be 10.00am to commence at the ordinary board meeting to be held on the 24 August 2023.

The amendment was carried and became the motion.

23/077 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and M Henderson

That Council in accordance with Clause 3.1 of the Code of Meeting Practice set the commencement time for ordinary board meetings to be 10.00am to commence at the ordinary board meeting to be held on the 24 August 2023.

CARRIED

The Board agreed to trial the change in meeting time and pre-meeting workshop for 6 meetings and then review.

R15 Freeroam Theatre Sponsorship Request

23/078 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

That Council provide financial sponsorship of \$2,500 to the Freeroam Theatre Incorporated as part of its 2023/24 Customer and Community Engagement Strategy.

CARRIED

R16 Council Resolution Sheet

23/079 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

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

CARRIED

R17 Works Report covering April 2023

23/080 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Driscoll

That the Works Report covering April 2023 be received and noted.

CARRIED

R18 Works Report covering May 2023

23/081 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

That the Works Report covering May 2023 be received and noted.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Councillor Quinn read in the report regarding the acquisition of the land at The Rock seems to be taking additional time. Yes, access has been agreed on between Riverina Water and the property owner but the request to add an additional exit off the Olympic Highway was rejected by Transport for NSW. Riverina Water is now undertaking further discussions with the property owner to redesign access to the agreed site. Councillor Quinn requested further information be provided in April 2024 by way of an update.
2. Councillor McKinnon enquired further regarding the Wagga Wagga High School works and timeframe for the works to be undertaken. The CEO advised that now the budget has been adopted, we anticipate the tender specifications to be ready within the next 4-6 weeks and released in the next 8 weeks. Hope to have the accepted tender to Council during the October meeting. Management have made a commitment to Wagga Wagga High School to have work completed by 30 June 2024.
3. Councillor Davies enquired further regarding the update the CEO provided during the April meeting on the incident with the truck, has there been any further correspondence with SafeWork NSW or remedial plans actioned with staff? The CEO advised that Riverina Water had received written confirmation of the evidence provided to SafeWork NSW that it was satisfactory. Further management held 3 staff meetings to highlight the importance of completing Safe Work Method Statements for each job every day, The CEO attended these meetings to highlight the importance. SafeWork NSW has further written to Riverina Water and closed the matter,

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.

23/082 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 11:10am.

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 Independent member Audit Risk & Improvement Committee

23/083 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

That Council appoints David Kortum as an independent member of the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee for an initial period of 3 years, commencing 1 July 2023.

CARRIED

CONF-2 Confidential Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 11 May 2023

23/084 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and J McKinnon

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 11 May 2023.

CARRIED

Wendy Reichelt left the meeting at 11:15am

Andrew Crakanthorp, Emily Tonacia, Troy van Berkel, Riley Campton, Joshua Lang, Alex Corneliusen left the meeting at 11:16am.

CONF-4 Performance Review - Chief Executive Officer

23/085 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and J McKinnon

That the report on the Mid-Year Performance Review of the Chief Executive Officer be reviewed and Council endorse the recommendation made by the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Panel which noted the Chief Executive Officer's performance overall to be very pleasing.

CARRIED

Andrew Crakanthorp, Emily Tonacia, Troy van Berkel, Riley Campton, Joshua Lang, Alex Corneliusen and Wendy Reichelt joined the meeting at 11:23am.

Greg Vidler joined the meeting at 11:23am.

Councillor Pat Bourke joined the meeting at 11:25am.

CONF-3 Supply of one Truck 6x4 with Vacuum Excavation Unit Contract W296

23/086 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and D Meyer OAM

That Board:

- a) Accept the tender from DCS Manufacturing for the supply of one Truck 6x4 with Vacuum Excavation Unit.**
- b) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to sign Contract W296 with DCS Manufacturing for the supply of one Truck 6x4 with Vacuum Excavation Unit for \$522,056 ex GST.**
- c) Authorise the affixing of Riverina Water's Common Seal to all relevant documents as required.**

CARRIED

Greg Vidler left the meeting at 11:34am

Reversion to Open Council

23/087 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 11:34am.

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 11:37am**