

# Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 18 April 2024, held in the meeting room of Federation Council in Urana

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**The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:02am.**

## **Present**

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

## **In Attendance**

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Acting Director Corporate Services	(Natasha Harris)
Acting Director Engineering	(Jason Ip)
Governance & Corporate Planning Officer	(Wendy Reichelt)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Customer & Engagement Officer	(Derek Motion)
Trainee ICT Officer	(Riley Campton)

## **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

Nil

## 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.

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared a pecuniary significant interest in CONF-7 Performance Review - Chief Executive Officer the reason being he is the subject being discussed and left the meeting during the discussion.

## Confirmation of Minutes

### **24/025      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and T Quinn

**That the minutes of the meeting of 22 February 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 & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2024 & 10 April 2024.

### **24/026      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

**That the correspondence be received.**

**CARRIED**

## Procedural Motion – En Globo

**24/027 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and M Henderson

**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**

**24/028 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That R1, R2, R3, R7, R9, R14, R15, Conf 1, Conf 2 and Conf 3 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.**

**CARRIED**

## Open Reports

**R1 List of Investments**

**24/029 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of February 2024 and March 2024.**

**CARRIED**

**R2 March 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statement**

**24/030 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That the**

- Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 31 March 2024 be received and adopted.**
- Implications on the 2023/24 Operational Plan be noted.**

**CARRIED**

**R3 Corporate Membership of WaterAid**

**24/031 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That Council change its level of corporate membership of Water Aid to silver.**

**CARRIED**

**R4 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan**

**24/032 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Driscoll

**That Council place the draft Reconciliation Action Plan on public exhibition until 26 May 2024 and invite submissions during this time.**

**CARRIED**

**Clr Quinn noted his vote against the motion be recorded.**

**R5 Draft Donations and Sponsorship Policy**

**24/033 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

**That Council place the draft Donations and Sponsorships Policy on public exhibition until 19 May 2024 and invite submissions during this time and to note changing the reporting to the Board to be every meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**R6 Year 3 of 2022/23-2025/26 Delivery Program and draft 2024-25 Operational Plan**

**24/034 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and M Henderson

**That Riverina Water, in accordance with Sections 404 and 405 of the Local Government Act 1993, place the 2024/25 draft Operational Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, noting that this means the revised Delivery program 2022/23 – 2025/26 will also be placed on exhibition as the plans are presented as one document.**

**CARRIED**

**R7 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2023 - March 2024**

**24/035 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries for the period July 2023 to March 2024.**

**CARRIED**

**R8 Enterprise Resource Planning (Flow) Update**

**24/036 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and M Henderson

**That Council receive and note the report and thank staff for their efforts over the last three and half years in ensuring the success of the project.**

**CARRIED**

**R9 Murray Darling Association 2024 Annual Conference**

**24/037 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That**

- a) Riverina Water be represented at the Murray Darling Association 2024 National Conference and AGM.**
- b) Councillor Driscoll attend the conference as a voting delegate.**
- c) A member of staff also attend as a Riverina Water representative.**

**CARRIED**

**R10 LGNSW Rural & Regional Summit**

**24/038 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

**That the Board note the attendance of Councillors Quinn and Bourke respectively at the Summit noting also that they will bring a report back to a future meeting of the Board on any matters discussed as they are relevant to Riverina Water.**

**CARRIED**

**R11            Review of Organisation Structure**

**24/039        RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and D Tout

**That the Board endorse the organisation structure outlined in the report, noting the changes to the Engineering Directorate.**

**a) Adopt the proposed organisation structure outlined in the report and the creation of the new positions.**

**b) Note the financial implications of the proposed organisation structure have been included in the 2022/23 to 2025/26 Delivery Program and 2024/25 Operational Plan.**

**CARRIED**

**R12            Update on PFAS**

**24/040        RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and D Tout

**That the Board note the report and the ongoing actions of management as a member of the Wagga Wagga PFAS Risk Review – Project Governance Group (PGG).**

**CARRIED**

**R13            Council Resolution Sheet**

**24/041        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**

**R14            Works Report covering February 2024**

**24/042        RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That the Works Report covering February 2024 be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

**R15 Works Report covering March 2024**

**24/043 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That the Works Report covering March 2024 be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

## Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr Quinn enquired regarding the water supply at Walla Walla and when they may expect to have it updated to accommodate additional subdivisions already approved? The Acting Director Engineering advised that capacity with the current supply can accommodate 4 to 6 new lots being connected at low pressure with existing infrastructure, further works to accommodate additional subdivisions will trigger major works with mains replacements and Riverina Water will need a better understanding of supply needs to ensure mains sizing will be appropriate.
2. Clr Quinn raised the water pressure in Henty stating that where new pipes had been laid, the pressure was good, where old pipes were, pressure is poor. The Acting Director Engineering took this on notice to investigate as was not aware of any issues with water pressure in Henty.
3. Clr Quinn enquired regarding the water main break recently in Holbrook and assumed the pipes have been replaced where the break occurred. Riverina Water confirmed the pipes had been replaced.
4. Clr Quinn enquired as to whether Riverina Water was using smart meters. The CEO advised that there was a trial consisting of approximately 200 meters and they were placed on "generally hard to access properties", there is currently no plan to roll out smart meters more widely.
5. Clr Driscoll enquired where the plans were up to for The Rock depot refurbishment. Initial DA approval was given approximately 2 years ago but Riverina Water did not proceed to apply for a construction certificate as Lockhart Shire Council was completing a flood study which raised questions regarding floor height of the new buildings. Riverina Water has revised the plans for The Rock site and are in the process of preparing to apply for a new DA with the new plans. There are sufficient funds in the budget for the next 2 years to complete the build, tender documents are prepared and ready to go once development consent is received.
6. Clr Driscoll asked whether it would be possible to set up a meeting between Riverina Water engineers and the management team at The Rock Bowling Club to discuss options regarding accessing increased water supply/pressure to meet fire compliance requirements for their recent refurbishment. The Acting Director Engineering confirmed a meeting would be created to discuss options for both parties.

7. Cllr Bourke followed up with additional questions regarding the delay to The Rock depot refurbishment and change in DA due to flood level changes. Riverina Water has had changes in staff managing the project and the work has been picked up again and will now progress quickly.

## 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.

**24/044 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

**That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 11:19am.**

**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 7 February 2024**

**24/045 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That the Board endorse the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 7 February 2024.**

**CARRIED**

**CONF-2 Extension of term of ARIC Chair to 30 June 2025**

**24/046 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That Council approve the extension of the term of the ARIC Chair, Mr Bryce McNair for the reasons outlined in this report for a further 12- month period to 30 June 2025.**

**CARRIED**



**CONF-3 Riverina Water Internal Audit Services**

**24/047 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and G Driscoll

**That Council:**

- a) **Appoint Centium for the provision of internal audit services to Riverina Water as per RFQ 2024/2**
- b) **Authorise the CEO to enter into an agreement with Centium for an initial period of 2 years, with possible extension of 1 year and a further year (4 years in total) subject to satisfactory performance.**
- c) **Note that key performance indicators for this contract will be confirmed by the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee during May 2024**

**CARRIED**

**CONF-4 Remediation of Wagga Wagga High School farmland and filling of the Riverina Water 10 megalitre former reservoir**

**24/048 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors M Henderson and G Davies

**That Board:**

- a) **Accept the tender from Huon Contractors (NSW) Pty Ltd.**
- b) **Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to sign Contract W318 with Huon Contractors (NSW) Pty Ltd for Remediation of Wagga Wagga High School Farmland and Filling of the former 10MG Reservoir for \$907,736 ex GST.**
- c) **Authorise the affixing of Riverina Water's Common Seal to all relevant documents as required.**

**CARRIED**

**CONF-5 Replacement of Trencher**

**24/049 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors M Henderson and T Quinn

**That the Board:**

- a) **Accept the quotation from RDO Equipment for the supply of one (1) RTX750 trencher.**
- b) **Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve the purchase order for Contract W319 with RDO Equipment for the supply of one (1) RTX750 trencher for \$243,746 ex GST (including the optional suspension seat) for the unit currently in stock as of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April; or**
- c) **Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve the purchase order for Contract W319 with RDO Equipment for the supply of one (1) RTX750 trencher for**

**\$267,757 ex GST (including the optional suspension seat) for the next available unit should the machine in stock as of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April be sold prior to Riverina Water signing the contract.**

**CARRIED**

**CONF-6 Update on UGL Cost to Complete Claim**

**24/050 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

**That the Board receive and note the report and delegate authority to the CEO to sign the Deed of Settlement in accordance with the terms and conditions as detailed in this report.**

**CARRIED**

*Andrew Crakanthorp, Jason Ip, Natasha Harris, Wendy Reichelt, Derek Motion and Riley Campton left the meeting at 11:38.*

**CONF-7 Performance Review - Chief Executive Officer**

**24/051 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Meyer OAM

**That the report on the Mid-Year Performance Review of the Chief Executive Officer be:**

- a) 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.**
- b) Delegate authority to the Chairperson to investigate the opportunity to compare CEO salaries with other Councils of similar size and bring a report in regards to remuneration options to the next meeting.**

**CARRIED**

*Andrew Crakanthorp, Jason Ip, Natasha Harris, Wendy Reichelt, Derek Motion and Riley Campton joined the meeting at 12:07pm.*

## **Reversion to Open Council**

**24/052 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

**That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 12:09pm.**

**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 12:14pm.**