

# Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 22 February 2024

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**The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:04 AM.**

## **Present**

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

## **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)
Communications & Engagement Officer	(Derek Motion)
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

There were no apologies.

## Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Chairperson Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R4 List of Investments the reason being he works for a financial institution and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

## Confirmation of Minutes

### **24/001 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

**That the minutes of the meeting of 14 December 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

Work Health & Safety Committee: forwarding a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2023.

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2024.

Letters of support for NSW Parliamentary Inquiry hearing from Lockhart Shire Council, Federation Council, Greater Hume Council and Wagga Wagga City Council.

### **24/002 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and T Quinn

**That the correspondence be received.**

**CARRIED**

## Procedural Motion – En Globo

### 24/003 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

**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**

### 24/004 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

**That R2, R6, R7, R10, R12, R14, R15, R16 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.**

**CARRIED**

## Open Reports

### R1 Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

The Returning Officer, Mr. Crakanthorp proceeded to conduct the election.

There was one nomination for the office of Chairperson that being Clr Koschel.

Mr. Crakanthorp declared Clr Koschel duly elected to the position of Chairperson for the period February to September 2024.

There was one nomination for the office of Deputy Chairperson that being Clr Meyer OAM.

Mr. Crakanthorp declared Clr Meyer OAM duly elected to the position of Deputy Chairperson for the period February to September 2024.

### R2 Delegation of Authority to Chairperson

#### 24/005 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

**That in accordance with Section 377 Local Government Act 1992, Council ratify and grant the delegations as set out in the Delegations of Authority Register to the Chairperson.**

**CARRIED**

**R3 Proposed change of date and time for August meeting**

**24/006 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors M Henderson and J McKinnon

**That Council change the date of the August board meeting to Wednesday 7 August 2024 to commence at the later time of 3pm.**

**CARRIED**

**R4 List of Investments**

**24/007 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

**That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of December 2023 and January 2024.**

**CARRIED**

**R5 December 2023 Quarterly Budget Review Statement**

**24/008 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and M Henderson

**That the**

- a) Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 31 December 2023 be received and adopted.**
- b) Implications on the 2023/24 Operational Plan be noted.**

**CARRIED**

**R6 Ongoing External Audit Arrangements**

**24/009 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

**That Council receives and notes the report detailing that the AONSW have re-appointed Crowe to conduct the audit of Riverina Water's financial statements for the years ending 30 June 2024 to 30 June 2026, with an option to extend up to a further two years.**

**CARRIED**

**R7 Internal Audit Charter**

**24/010 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

**That the Board adopt the Riverina Water Internal Audit Charter, noting it has been reviewed and endorsed by the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee.**

**CARRIED**

*Clr Pat Bourke left the meeting at 10:37am.*

*Clr Pat Bourke returned to the meeting at 10:39am.*

**R8 2023-24 Operational Plan progress report toward Delivery Program 2022-2026**

**24/011 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

**That Council note the progress report from 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 for the Operational Plan, which constitutes Year 2 of the 2022-2026 Delivery Program.**

**CARRIED**

**R9 WHS Strategic Plan**

**24/012 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and M Henderson

**That Council receive and note the report and the attached WHS Strategic Plan as amended in the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**R10 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2023 - January 2024**

**24/013 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

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

**CARRIED**

**R11 Corporate Values**

**24/014 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

**That the Board:**

- a) Adopt the Riverina Water Cultural Action Plan dated August 2023**
- b) Endorse the values and associated behaviours in the Cultural Action Plan**
- c) Request management and the working group to further consider the inclusion of the word “culturally” in the commentary regarding the value “Safety”**

**CARRIED**

**R12 NSW Productivity Commission - Review of Funding Models for Local Water Utilities**

**24/015 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

**That the Board note the commencement of the Review and delegate authority to the Chairperson and CEO to prepare a submission and represent Riverina Water at relevant consultation sessions.**

**CARRIED**

**R13 Council Resolution Sheet**

**24/016 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors M Henderson and G Davies

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

**CARRIED**

**R14 Employee participation in Sindhuli Nepal Project Team - partnering with South Wagga Wagga Rotary**

**24/017 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

**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 2024 participants, Ryan Thompson and Fiona Smith in the program as outlined in the report.**

**CARRIED**

**R15 Works Report covering December 2023**

**24/018 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

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

**CARRIED**

**R16 Works Report covering January 2024**

**24/019 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and J McKinnon

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

**CARRIED**

## **Questions and statements**

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr Quinn noted that 2024 will be an extremely challenging year for water authorities and Councils.
2. Clr Bourke referred to the current NSW Government Inquiry into "protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation" and noted that Riverina Water is very sustainable and questioned what the Parliamentary Inquiry was actually looking at.

## **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.

**24/020 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

**That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 11:05am.**

**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 Sludge Thickening Tank Remediation

**24/021 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

**That the Board note and approve the change in scope for the project to undertake the remediation of the Wagga Wagga Water Treatment Plant Sludge Thickening Tank to be included in the Draft 2024/25 Capex budget.**

**CARRIED**

### CONF-2 Riverina Water Award Hours Harmonisation Matter

**24/022 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

**That the Board receive and note the report and authorise the CEO to continue to progress the matter with the aim of presenting a report to the August meeting of the Board.**

**CARRIED**

*Mr Greg Vidler entered the meeting at 11:23am*

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

**24/023 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and M Henderson

**That the Board consider legal advice from Maddocks lawyers and give the CEO delegated authority (and in consultation with the Chairperson) to negotiate a commercial settlement in line with the advice and the financial information contained in the report.**

**CARRIED**

*Mr Greg Vidler and Mr Derek Motion left the meeting at 11:51am.*

## Reversion to Open Council

**24/024 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

**That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 11:53am.**

**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 11:54am.**