

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 26 October 2023

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

Present

Chairperson Tim Koschel
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM
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)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Customer & Communications Team Leader	(Joshua Lang)
ICT Officer	(Riley Campton)
ICT Officer	(Alex Corneliusen)
Communications & Engagement Officer	(Derek Motion)
Risk & Insurance Officer	(Beth Cullen)

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 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 R2 September 2023 Quarterly Budget Review Statement the reason being he works for a financial institution and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Chairperson Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary significant interest in R6 the reason being he is the Deputy Chair of Ronald McDonald House in Wagga and left the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Dallas Tout declared a non-pecuniary significant interest in R6 Request for sponsorship: Wagga Wagga Takes 2 the reason being he is associated with the charity Care-Van Wagga and left the meeting during the discussion.

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared a pecuniary significant interest in CM1 Update on Chief Executive Officer Performance Review the reason being he is named in the report and left the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes

23/116 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and M Henderson

That the minutes of the meeting of 24 August 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 26 July 2023

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2023

23/117 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Oath or Affirmation of Office

At this stage of the meeting the Board member, Councillor Dallas Tout took his oath of office.

Procedural Motion – En Globo

23/118 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies 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

23/119 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That R1, R4, R5, R9, R10, R12, CONF 1 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

Procedural Motion – Late Reports

1 Late Report – Update on PFAS

23/120 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and G Driscoll

That the Board authorise the CEO to provide regular updates to the community with relevant information regarding PFAS and the Riverina Water groundwater water sources and work with Defence and local and State agencies to ensure our long-term water supply remains safe and secure.

CARRIED

2 Late Report - Inquiry into protecting local water utilities from privatisation

23/121 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

That the Board note the information regarding the Inquiry into protecting local water utilities (LWUs) from privatisation and delegate authority to the Chairperson and CEO to prepare and submit the submission.

CARRIED

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp left the meeting at 10:29am

Chairperson's Minute

CM1 Update on Chief Executive Officer Performance Review

23/122 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and T Quinn

That the Board note and adopt this Chairpersons Minute endorsing a 5% increase in the CEO's Total Remuneration Package for the duration of the contract with effect from 1 July 2023.

CARRIED

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp joined the meeting at 10:30am

Open Reports

R1 List of Investments

23/123 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of August 2023 and September 2023.

CARRIED

R2 September 2023 Quarterly Budget Review Statement

23/124 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Davies

That the

- a) Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 30 September 2023 be received and adopted.**
- b) Implications on the 2023/24 Operational Plan be noted.**

CARRIED

Jason Gilbert joined the meeting via a Teams link at 10:37am

R3 Financial Statements 2022/23

23/125 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and D Tout

That the 2022/23 audited Financial Statements be received and noted.

CARRIED

Jason Gilbert left the meeting 10:52am

R4 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Returns

23/126 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Note the pecuniary interest returns of designated persons for the period 1 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023**
- b) Note that these pecuniary interest returns will be published to the Riverina Water website with personal addresses redacted.**

CARRIED

R5 Internal Reporting (Protected Disclosures) policy update

23/127 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council adopt the Internal Reporting (Protected Disclosures) Policy 1.11

CARRIED

Clr Tim Koschel left the meeting at 10:52am. Clr Meyer assumed the position of Chair of the meeting

Clr Dallas Tout declared a conflict of interest and left the room at 10:54am

R6 Request for sponsorship: Wagga Wagga Takes 2

23/128 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the Board support the Wagga Wagga Takes 2 event and determine appropriate value.

CARRIED

A motion was moved by Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the value of the Wagga Wagga Takes 2 sponsorship be \$9000.

An amendment was moved by Councillors P Bourke and M Henderson that the value of the sponsorship be \$6000.

The amendment on being put was carried and became the motion.

23/129 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and M Henderson

That the Board support the Wagga Wagga Takes 2 event with a sponsorship amount of \$6,000

CARRIED

Clrs Tim Koschel and Dallas Tout joined the meeting at 11:08am and Clr Koschel resumed as chair.

23/130 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

RECOMMENDATION A motion was moved that Council suspend standing orders at 11:09am.

CARRIED

23/131 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and G Driscoll

RECOMMENDATION A motion was moved that Council resume standing orders at 11:11am.

CARRIED

R7 Invitation to Re-join REROC

23/132 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and M Henderson

That Council:

- a) decline the invitation to re-join REROC given the lack of benefits associated with membership of REROC.**
- b) Reconsider the offer in twelve months' time.**

CARRIED

R8 Update on PFAS

RECOMMENDATION: please refer to Minute No 23/120 earlier in the meeting

R9 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2023 - September 2023

23/133 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

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

CARRIED

R10 Works Report covering August 2023

23/134 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

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

CARRIED

R11 Works Report covering September 2023

23/135 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and D Tout

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

CARRIED

R12 Council Resolution Sheet

23/136 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

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. Councillor Bourke advised that he was receiving comments from the residents in Rand who are complaining of poor water pressure and asked Director Engineering to look into this further. Director Engineering confirmed he will have this matter looked into.
2. Mr Crakanthorp advised there will be a meeting held with UGL to resolve the cost to complete matter in November and a report will be prepared for the December 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.

23/137 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and M Henderson

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 11:18am.

CARRIED

Clr Dallas Tout left the meeting at 11:18am

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 10 August 2023 and 21 September 2023

23/138 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meetings held on 10 August 2023 and 21 September 2023.

CARRIED

CONF-2 ArcGIS software contract

23/139 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and G Davies

That the Board notes the content of this report and endorse the actions to be taken by the Procurement Coordinator in respect of future contracts.

CARRIED

Reversion to Open Council

23/140 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and P Bourke

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 11:22am.

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 11:23am.