

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 12 December 2024

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:03 AM.

Present

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

In Attendance

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| Chief Executive Officer | (Andrew Crakanthorp) |
| Director Corporate Services | (Emily Tonacia) |
| Director Engineering | (Troy van Berkel) |
| 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 | (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

24/133 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That an apology be received from Councillor Jenny McKinnon for non-attendance at the meeting.

CARRIED

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 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.

Councillor Allana Condron declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R2 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 Dallas Tout declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R7 StateCover Mutual's General Managers Report (Riverina Water) 2023-2024 the reason being he is a Board Member of Local Government NSW who is the owner of StateCover Mutual and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Lea Parker declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R3 2024/25 Enriching Communities Program the reason being Chair of an organisation that applied for funding and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Gail Driscoll declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R3 2024/25 Enriching Communities Program the reason being she is the Chair of a grant recipient and member of the Board of another that applied and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

24/134 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

That the minutes of the meeting of 31 October 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

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2024

24/135 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Procedural Motion – En Globo

24/136 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

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 wish to speak on.**

CARRIED

24/137 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

That R1, R2, R4, R6, R8, R9, R11, R12, CONF 1, CONF 2 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R1 List of Investments

24/138 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

That the Board receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of October 2024 and November 2024.

CARRIED

R2 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - December

24/139 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

That the Board receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R3 2024/25 Enriching Communities Program

24/140 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and B Liston

That Council:

- a) Approve the successful applications for the 2023/24 Enriching Communities program as detailed in the report totalling \$88,000**
- b) That the unexpended funding allocation for Federation Council be provided to an eligible project or projects, limited to Section 355 Committees, as detailed in the report**
- c) Conduct a review of the grants program as detailed in the report**

CARRIED

R4 July-December 2024 rebate update

24/141 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R5 End of Term Report 2024

24/142 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and A Condrón

That Council note the End of Term Report 2024.

CARRIED

R6 Code of Conduct Statistical Report

24/143 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

That Council note that the Riverina Water Code of Conduct statistical report from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has been lodged with the Office of Local Government with zero notifications or determinations for that period.

CARRIED

R7 StateCover Mutual's General Managers Report (Riverina Water) 2023-2024

24/144 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That the Board receive and note the report.

CARRIED

Wendy Reichelt left the meeting at 10:29am

R8 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2024 - November 2024

24/145 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period July 2024 to November 2024.

CARRIED

R9 Council Resolution Sheet

24/146 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

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

CARRIED

Wendy Reichelt returned to the meeting at 10:31am

R10 Electricity Market Conditions and Contract Arrangements

24/147 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and D Tout

That Council:

- a) Pursuant to s55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Board considers that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders before entering into a contract for the purchase of energy, due to extenuating circumstances, being:
 - i. current energy market volatility and significant risk in entering into a fixed agreement**
 - ii. multiple options for purchasing energy, such as wholesale purchasing**
 - iii. flexibility in purchasing processes is required for speed of acting on low price demands within the National Energy Market (NEM)****
- b) Provide the CEO or their delegate the delegation to negotiate the purchase of energy and enter into any such Agreements necessary to continue the efficient operations of the Riverina Water supply network**

CARRIED

R11 Works Report covering October 2024

24/148 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

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

CARRIED

R12 Works Report covering November 2024

24/149 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

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

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr Koschel thanked everyone for their efforts following the election of the current Board. He wishes everyone a safe Christmas and New Year and look forward working with everyone over the next few years.

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.

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 Award Hours Harmonisation Matter

24/150 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That the Board receive and note the report and endorse the proposed course of action as recommended by the CEO.

CARRIED

CONF-2 Confidential Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 6 November 2024

24/151 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 6 November 2024 and receives the Chairperson report in respect of the same meeting.

CARRIED

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 10:34am.