

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Wednesday 7 August 2024

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 3:01pm.

Present

Chairperson Tim Koschel
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM
Councillor Pat Bourke (via teams)
Councillor Tony Quinn
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)
Manager Finance & Sourcing	(Natasha Harris)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Customer & Communication Team Leader	(Josh Lang)
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

24/081 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and T Quinn

That an apology be received from Councillor Dallas Tout for non-attendance at the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting noted that Councillor Davies was on approved leave.

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 significant non-pecuniary interest in R3 Investment policy the reason being working for a financial institute which is named in the report and left the meeting during the discussion.

Ms Emily Tonacia declared significant pecuniary interest in CONF 2 Changed Employment Conditions for Senior Staff under the Local Government Act the reason being a subject to the report and left the room during the discussion.

Mr Troy van Berkel declared significant pecuniary interest in CONF 2 Changed Employment Conditions for Senior Staff under the Local Government Act the reason being a subject to the report and left the room during the discussion.

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared significant pecuniary interest in CONF 4 Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review for the period ending 30 June 2024 the reason being the report is regarding his performance and left the room during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

24/082 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

That the minutes of the meeting of 27 June 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 18 July 2024

24/083 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Recognition of Councillor Doug Meyer OAM

The Chairperson paid tribute to Clr Doug Meyer OAM who will be retiring from Council at the end of the current term, presenting Clr Meyer with a gift on behalf of the Board.

Procedural Motion – En Globo

24/084 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 intended to vote against the recommendation;**
- **Items where the Board Members wish to speak on.**

CARRIED

24/085 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That R1, R4, R6, R7, R9, R10, R11, R12, R13, R14, CONF 1 and CONF 3 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R1 List of Investments

24/086 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of June 2024 and July 2024.

CARRIED

R2 Revoted Budget - 2024/25

24/087 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Driscoll

That Council:

- a) **Revote capital budget totalling \$3,461,477 from the 2023/24 budget to be included in the 2024/25 budget; and**
- b) **Note capital budget items committed to be spent prior to 30 June 2024, totalling \$2,045,964 will be carried forward to the 2024/25 budget; and**
- c) **Approve adjustments to the original 2024/25 budget resulting from the reprioritisation of the capital works program resulting in a revised capital budget of \$12,707,061 (\$18,214,502 inclusive of recommendations a) and b)).**

CARRIED

Clr Tim Koschel left the meeting at 3:25pm and Clr Meyer OAM assumed the role of Chair.

R3 Investments Policy

24/088 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors M Henderson and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) **Note the additional proposed changes to POL 4.10 – Investments Policy regarding the inclusion of sustainability provisions; and**
- b) **Adopt POL 4.10 – Investments Policy inclusive of amendment to Clause 7 “Environmentally and Socially Responsible Investments”.**

CARRIED

Clr Tim Koschel returned to the meeting at 3:27pm and assumed the role of Chair.

R4 Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2025

24/089 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That Council

- a) **Note there were no submissions made during the public exhibition period**
- b) **Note that minor changes to the draft plan as required by Reconciliation Australia have been implemented**
- c) **Adopt the Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-25**

CARRIED

R5 2024/25 Enriching Communities program

24/090 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the report**
- b) Endorse the draft Enriching Communities grants program guidelines and timeline as attached to this report**

CARRIED

R6 Donations and Sponsorships 2024/25 progress report - August

24/091 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R7 Recission of Internal Audit Policy 1.17

24/092 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That Council rescind Internal Audit Policy 1.17 as the provisions of the policy are now contained within the Internal Audit Charter.

CARRIED

R8 2022/23-2025/26 Delivery Program & 2023-24 Operational Plan report

24/093 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Meyer OAM

That the Board note the end of year result for the Operational Plan 2023-24 and Year 2 of the 2022/23-2025/26 Delivery Program.

CARRIED

R9 Disclosure Pecuniary Interest Returns 2023-24

24/094 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) **Note the tabling of the pecuniary interest returns of designated persons for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 at the 7 August 2024 meeting**
- b) **Note that the pecuniary interest returns will be published to the Riverina Water website or made available for public inspection with personal addresses redacted.**

CARRIED

R10 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2023 - June 2024

24/095 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

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

CARRIED

R11 Proposed change of date for October meeting

24/096 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That Council change the date of the October board meeting to Thursday 31 October 2024 to commence at 10:00am.

CARRIED

R12 Council Resolution Sheet

24/097 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

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

CARRIED

R13 Works Report covering June 2024

24/098 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

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

CARRIED

R14 Boree Creek Pipeline Project Budget Variation

24/099 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That the Board receive the project update and also approve the recommended additional budget included in the “Revoted Budget – 2024/25 report” in this Business Paper required to complete the project.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr Quinn enquired about the structural framework that appeared at Ralvona Lane Water Treatment site. The CEO advised there is extensive works happening at this site to enclose the 2 small reservoirs onsite. Mesh to cover the framework has been ordered.
2. Clr Driscoll enquired as to the progress of the acquisition of the land for new The Rock reservoir. The CEO advised there has not been an update since the workshop held with the Board on 27 June 2024. The Director Engineering took the question on progress on notice and advised it was still within the timeframes advised at the workshop.
3. Clr Driscoll asked whether the Boad would get to see the communications sent to staff regarding the harmonisation project prior to it being sent to staff. Expressed she was concerned how it was going to be presented to staff. CEO advised this could be further discussed when in confidential session.
4. Mr van Berkel advised the meeting that The Rock acquisition was still aimed for March 2025 after addressing concerns raised and reviewing environmental factors in September, will advise if this has occurred. The staff member managing this project has been away ill and only returned this week.
5. Ms Tonacia advised the team has been working on establishing a framework to facilitate tours at Riverina Water for school and community groups. Process should be released publicly shortly and will be via an application form on the website.
6. Mr Crakanthorp advised that following today's meeting he will be writing to the General Managers of the constituent councils to provide them with an information sheet for those elected to their Councils and considering standing for election to Riverina Water board and what it means to be on our Board. The General Managers advised they found this helpful at the last election.
7. Clr Koshel thanked everyone for the last 2 ½ years and wish everyone all the best for those running on 14 September.

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.

24/100 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Meyer OAM

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 3.51pm.

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 the Extraordinary Meeting of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 13 June 2024

24/101 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Extraordinary Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 13 June 2024.

CARRIED

Troy van Berkel, Emily Tonacia, Josh Lang, Derek Motion, Riley Campton left the room at 3:51pm.

CONF-2 Changed Employment Conditions for Senior Staff under the Local Government Act

24/102 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

CONF-3 RFT2024/06 - W324 - Bedding Sand Supply and Delivery - Boree Creek to Morundah Pipeline Project

24/103 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

That the Board:

- a) Accepts the Tender Submissions from Boots Civil Pty Ltd and Bidgee Quarries Pty Ltd**
- b) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into contracts for the supply and delivery of bedding sand for the Boree Creek to Morundah Pipeline with both abovementioned companies.**

CARRIED

Andrew Crakanthorp left the room at 3:54pm

CONF-4 Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review for the period ending 30 June 2024

24/104 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and M Henderson

That Council note and adopt this Chairperson's Minute which includes the Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review Panel's position following the Annual Review for 2023/24 and accepts the late amendment to the Chairpersons Minute contained in the body of the report and as discussed during the meeting.

CARRIED

Clr Quinn requested his vote against the late amendment to the Chairpersons Minute be recorded.

Reversion to Open Council

24/105 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and T Quinn

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 4:44pm.

CARRIED

Andrew Crakanthorp joined the meeting at 4:44pm

Troy van Berkel, Emily Tonacia, Riley Campton joined the meeting at 4:46pm

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 4:48pm.