

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 29 August 2024

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 9:34 AM.

Present

Chairperson Tim Koschel
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM
Councillor Pat Bourke via Teams
Councillor Gail Driscoll via Teams
Councillor Michael Henderson
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Dallas Tout

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia – via Teams)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Manager Finance & Sourcing	(Natasha Harris)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Customer & Communication Team Leader	(Josh Lang)
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

24/106 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and M Henderson

That apologies for non-attendance from Councillors Tony Quinn and Georgie Davies be received.

CARRIED

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Nil

Open Reports

R1 Financial Statements 2023/2024

24/107 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and M Henderson

That:

- a) Council receive and note the unaudited 2023/24 Primary Financial Statements;**
- b) Council's Draft Financial Statements be referred for audit by Council's auditors being the Audit Office of New South Wales;**
- c) Council makes a resolution in accordance with Section 412(2c) that the annual financial report:**
 - i. is in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made there under.**
 - ii. is in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements.**
 - iii. is in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.**
 - iv. presents fairly the council's operating results and financial position for the year**
 - v. is in accordance with Council's accounting policies and other records.**
 - vi. that Council is not aware of any matter that would render this report false or misleading in any way.**
- d) Council adopts the above-mentioned statement and that the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer and Responsible Accounting Officer be authorised to complete the 'Statement by Members of the Council' in relation to Council's 2023/24 Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Reports and be attached thereto;**
- e) The Chief Executive Officer be delegated the authority to issue the audited Financial Statements immediately upon receipt of the Auditor's Reports, subject to their being no material changes or audit issues; and**

f) Council presents the final audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report to the public at its ordinary meeting to be held 31 October 2024.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Councillor McKinnon enquired on progress of the solar farm project. Director Engineering advised that work is still progressing on this project and there is budget in this financial year to progress further. Currently setting up the steering committee and revisiting business case and project plan.
2. Councillor Koschel enquired as to the expected completion date for the solar farm project. CEO advised that it is in line with Riverina Water net zero plan of 2030, expecting contracts to be awarded and works to commence during financial year 2025-2026.
3. Councillor Tout asked what the plans were between 14 September and 31 October if there was to be a crisis arise? CEO advised nothing formal has been put in place (as was past practice at Riverina Water and in the absence of advice from the NSW Office of Local Government) and enquired what the plans were for Wagga Wagga City Council. Councillor Tout advised he has been nominated as delegate to continue in the mayoral role until the election for new Mayor is undertaken. The CEO made note to formalise the process for the 2028 local government elections.
4. Cllr Koschel thanked all board members for their work and effort during this term of the Board.

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 9:59am.