Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Monday 29 June 2026

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:00 AM.

Present

Councillor Gail Driscoll
Councillor Allana Condron
Councillor Patrick Bourke (via Teams)
Councillor Georgie Davies (via Teams)
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Dallas Tout
Councillor Brian Liston
Councillor Amelia Parkins

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Customer & Communication Team Leader	(Josh Lang)
IT Officer	(Alex Corneliusen)

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

26/076 **RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and B Liston

That pursuant to Clause 5.26 of the Code of Meeting Practice, that the Board grant approval for Councillors Patrick Bourke and Georgie Davies to attend today's meeting of the Board of Riverina Water County Council via audio-visual link due to the medical reasons (Cr Bourke) and carer responsibilities (Cr Davies) provided to the meeting.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke Cr G Davies Cr G Driscoll Cr J McKinnon Cr D Tout Cr A Condron Cr B Liston Cr Parkins	

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Board Member Allana Condron declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R7 Donations and Sponsorships 2025-26 progress report the reason being she is a Board Member of Ronald McDonald House Charities and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Board Member Amelia Parkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in R7 Donations and Sponsorships 2025-26 progress report the reason being she is a Board Member of Wagga Women's Health Centre, Riverina Conservatorium of Music and Wollundry Rotary Club and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Dallas Tout declared a significant, non-pecuniary interest in R7 Donations and Sponsorships 2025-2026 Report the reason being he is the Treasurer of RDA Riverina and Chair of the Relay for Life Committee and both have received funding and left the meeting during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

26/077 **RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and J McKinnon

That the minutes of the meeting of 23 April 2026], having been circulated and read by Members, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	
Cr Parkins	

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 16 April 2026

Staff Consultative Committee – Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2026

Work Health and Safety Committee – Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2026

Staff Consultative Committee – Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2026

Staff Consultative Committee – Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2026

RAP Working Group – Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2026

26/078 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and B Liston

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	

Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr Parkins

Procedural Motion – En Globo

26/079 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and B Liston

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 wished to speak on**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	
Cr Parkins	

26/080 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and B Liston

That R1, R2, R4, R6, R9, R10, R12, R17, R18, R19, R20, R21, CONF 1, CONF 2, CONF 3, CONF 4 be adopted En Globo as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	

Cr Parkins

Open Reports

R1 **List of Investments**

26/081 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of April 2026 and May 2026.

CARRIED

R2 **Investments Policy**

26/082 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council:

a) **Note the proposed amendments to the Investment Policy;**
b) **Place the draft Investment Policy on public exhibition and invite public submissions on the draft policy; and**
c) **Receive a further report following the exhibition and submission period:**
   i. **Addressing any submissions made in respect of the proposed Investments Policy; and**
   ii. **Proposing the adoption of the Policy unless there are any recommended amendments deemed to be substantial and requiring a further public exhibition period.**

CARRIED

R3 **Delivery Program, Operational Plan & Long Term Financial Plan**

26/083 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and Parkins

That Council:

a) **Note the submissions received during the public exhibition period and the management responses provided;**
b) **Note that no amendments are recommended to the draft Delivery Program 2025 – 2029, Operational Plan 2026/27, Long Term Financial Plan 2026/27–2035/36 or proposed fees and charges as a result of the submissions received;**
c) **Note the inclusion of the revised statutory Section 603 Certificate fee of $105 and the reduction in the maximum interest rate payable on overdue rates and charges to 9.5% per annum, as determined by the Office of Local Government; and**

d) **Adopt the Delivery Program 2025–2029, Operational Plan 2026/27, including Fees and Charges, and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026/27–2035/36 as presented, noting the changes as advised by the Director Corporate Services memo dated 26 June 2026 (including an amount for the annual premium for workers compensation insurance) and as added to the Riverina Water Website as a supporting document to the Business Paper for the Board meeting held on 29 June 2026.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	
Cr Parkins	

R4 Determination of Fees for Board Members, Chairperson and ARIC members

26/084 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council:

a) **Approve a 3.70% increase in board member and chairperson fees for the 2026/27 financial year in line with the determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.**
b) **Approve a 3.70% increase in ARIC member and chairperson fees for the 2026/27 financial year.**

CARRIED

R5 Opening Doors Foundation - Correspondence from Dr Joe McGirr MP

A motion was moved by Councillors J McKinnon and D Tout

That Council note the correspondence received from the office of Dr Joe McGirr MP regarding charitable water charge exemptions.

An amendment was proposed by Cr Driscoll that in addition to the above wording that a report on the financial implications of removing the availability charge be prepared for consideration by the Board at a future meeting.
The mover and seconder of the motion agree to incorporate the amendment into the motion.

CARRIED/LOST

26/085 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Tout

That:

(a) That Council note the correspondence received from the office of Dr Joe McGirr MP regarding charitable water charge exemptions,
(b) that a report considering the request by Opening Doors Foundation to waive fees as previously requested be prepared for consideration by the Board at a future meeting.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	
Cr Parkins	

R6 **Debt Management and Hardship Policy**

26/086 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council:

a) Note there were no submissions made during the public exhibition period; and
b) Adopt the Debt Management and Hardship Policy

CARRIED

Cr Dallas Tout left the meeting at 10:30am

R7 **Donations and Sponsorships 2025-26 report**

26/087 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and B Liston

That the Board receive and note the report.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	

Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr Parkins

Cr Dallas Tout returned to the meeting at 10:31am

R8 2025/26 Customer Satisfaction Survey

26/088 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors B Liston and J McKinnon

That Council:

a) **Receive and note the report; and**
b) **Acknowledge and thank staff for their ongoing good work as reflected in the consistent results of the community satisfaction survey results year-on-year.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	
Cr Parkins	

R9 2026/27 Grants program

26/089 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council:

a) **Endorse the Riverina Water grants program guidelines as attached to this report**
b) **Nominate one Board member and an alternate per Local Government Area, as required, to the Enriching Communities grants assessment panels**

c) **Delegate authority to the CEO (in conjunction with the Chairperson) to make changes to the assessment panel members due to unavailability or conflict of interest to be made at his discretion, should it be required**

CARRIED

R10 Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group - Terms of Reference

26/090 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group.

CARRIED

R11 Draft PFAS MOU with Department of Defence

26/091 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and B Liston

That the Board note the report and delegate authority to the CEO to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Department of Defence.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	
Cr Parkins	

R12 Acting Chief Executive Officer for 1 July 2026 - 30 June 2027

26/092 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That:

a) **The Board appoints the Director Engineering to act in the role of Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent between 1 July and 30 September 2026;**

b) **The Board appoints the Acting Director Corporate Services to act in the role of Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent between 1 October and 31 December 2026;**
c) **The Board appoints the Director Engineering to act in the role of Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent between 1 January and 31 March 2027;**
d) **The Board appoints the Director Corporate Services to act in the role of Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent between 1 April and 30 June 2027.**
e) **In the event a Director acting in the role of Chief Executive Officer is absent, the other Director act in the role of Chief Executive Officer.**

CARRIED

R13 Murray Darling Association 2026 Annual Conference

26/093 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Tout

That

a) **Riverina Water be represented at the Murray Darling Association 2026 National Conference and Annual General Meeting.**
b) **Chairperson Driscoll attend the conference as a voting delegate.**
c) **Nominations be called for other Board Members to attend the conference**
d) **A member of staff also attends as a Riverina Water representative – Troy van Berkel**

CARRIED

Councillor Bourke indicated he would be interested in attending the Conference.

Record of voting on the Motion

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	
Cr Parkins	

R14 Local Government NSW - 2026 Water Management Conference

26/094 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and B Liston

That:

a) **Riverina Water be represented at the Local Government New South Wales 2026 Water Management Conference**
b) **The Chairperson or her nominee attends as a voting delegate**
c) **Nominations of other Board Members to attend be called -**
d) **The Chief Executive Officer and Manager Operations or their nominees attend as observers**

CARRIED

Councillor Bourke indicated he may be interested in attending the Conference.

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	
Cr Parkins	

R15 Local Government NSW Annual Conference

26/095 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and B Liston

That Council:

a) **Approve the attendance of the Chairperson and the CEO at the 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference to be held at the WIN Sports & Entertainment Centres Wollongong from Sunday 22 November to Tuesday 24 November 2026**
b) **elect the Chairperson as Council's voting at the Conference**
c) **Nominations be called for other Board Members to attend in late October 2026**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	

Cr Parkins

R16 Code of Meeting Practice

26/096 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and P Bourke

That Council rescind Resolution 25/182 adopted at the Board Meeting held on 11 December 2025, which adopted the Code of Meeting Practice 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Cr P Bourke	
Cr G Davies	
Cr G Driscoll	
Cr J McKinnon	
Cr D Tout	
Cr A Condron	
Cr B Liston	
Cr Parkins	

R17 Regional Banking Investment Alliance (RBIA)

26/097 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council:

1. **Formally endorse the *Obligation on banks to fund face-to-face banking in regional Australia* campaign led by the Regional Banking Investment Alliance and include the Riverina Water logo on RBIA materials.**
2. **Advocate to the Commonwealth Government to legislate a cost sharing model for banks to fund regional face-to-face banking services.**
3. **Continue to leverage Riverina Water's existing advocacy platforms to amplify the campaign.**

CARRIED

R18 Council Resolution Sheet

26/098 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

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

CARRIED

R19 Works Report covering April 2026

26/099 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That the Works Report covering April 2026 be received and noted
CARRIED

R20 Works Report covering May 2026

26/100 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That the Works Report covering May 2026 be received and noted

CARRIED

R21 Morundah Pipeline Project Close Out Report

26/101 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council receive and note the report, including the current year budget overspend, which is being offset by underspends across the 2025/26 Capital Works Program.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr Parkins and Clr Driscoll wished Director Corporate Services all the best for the birth of her baby
2. The Chief Executive Officer circulated to the Board an issue outside of the meeting regarding unbilled meter reads and provided an update to the Board on where the issue is up to.
3. The Chief Executive Officer advised work has commenced on the Plumpton Road project involving the construction of a large replacement main in the road reserve.

Loan funding has been drawn down and Riverina Water will start making payments to Wagga City Council in accordance with a previously signed Deed of Agreement.

4. The Chief Executive Officer advised he will be taking leave mid-July and the Director Corporate Services will be acting CEO.
5. The Director Engineering advised the Board a Request for Quote to duplicate the Wagga Wagga Water Treatment Plant was released last week.
6. Clr McKinnon raised a question regarding the Daily Telegraph article on PFAS in Wagga with the CEO providing context to the article.
7. The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged Jason Ip has been nominated as an Australia Water Association 2026 "Legend of Water" in recognition of his 25 years contribution to the NSW water sector.

Confidential Reports

CONF-1 Confidential Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 14 May 2026

26/102 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 14 May 2026.

CARRIED

CONF-2 Tender RFT2026/06 - W344 - Wagga Wagga WTP Bank Stability Project

26/103 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That the Board:

a) **Accepts the Tender Submission from Bottom Up Projects Pty Limited under a lump sum contract for the amount specified in the report in accordance with Specification W344.**
b) **Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with Bottom Up Projects Pty Limited for the Wagga Wagga Water Treatment Plant Bank Stability Project.**

CARRIED

CONF-3 Procurement of Operational Technology and Engineering services in response to IT/OT Audit Report

26/104 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That the Board:

(a) note the procurement history, technical evaluation and cyber-security context outlined in this report;

(b) pursuant to section 55(3)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, resolve that, by reason of the unavailability of competitive or reliable tenderers – a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders due to the OT software-defined network equipment and the specialist engineering required to design, configure and integrate it being proprietary and single-source to Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, and the equipment platform having been selected through a competitive process under Specification W307 ; and

(c) approve acceptance of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL) Quotation 041837.900.00 for $282,991.83 (excluding GST) for the design, supply, integration and commissioning of the segregated OT network at the Wagga Wagga Water Treatment Plant, as a variation to the microgrid communication and control system engagement.

CARRIED

CONF-4 Acting Director Corporate Services

26/105 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and D Tout

That Council note the report and endorse the actions of the CEO in appointing Edwina Marks as Acting Director Corporate Services for the period outlined in the report.

CARRIED

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 10:59am.