

# Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Wednesday 28 October 2020

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**The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:32am.**

## **Present**

Councillor Greg Verdon (Chairperson)  
Councillor Pat Bourke  
Councillor Yvonne Braid OAM  
Councillor Paul Funnell  
Councillor Vanessa Keenan (via zoom)  
Councillor Tim Koschel  
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM  
Councillor Tony Quinn

## **In Attendance**

General Manager	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director of Engineering	(Bede Spannagle)
Manager Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Manager Human Resources & Governance	(Simon Thomson)
Community Engagement Officer	(Josh Lang)
Executive Assistant to the General Manager	(Melissa Vincent)
Engineering Cadet	(Ashleigh Hayden)
ERP Project Manager	(Grace Henley)
Crowe Representative	(Dannielle Mackenzie) (via zoom)

## **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.

## **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.

## Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was received and accepted from Councillor Greg Conkey OAM on the Motion of Councillors P Funnell and D Meyer.

## Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R6 List of Investments the reason being his employment with a financial institution and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

## Confirmation of Minutes

### 20/101 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

**That the minutes of the meeting of 26 August 2020 and the extraordinary meeting of 26 September 2020, 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 17 September 2020

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020

### 20/102 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Funnell and T Koschel

**That the correspondence be received.**

**CARRIED**

*Director of Engineering introduced Ashley Haydon, Engineering Cadet, to the meeting. Manager of Corporate Services introduced Grace Henley, EPR Project Manager, to the meeting.*

*Grace Henley left the meeting at 10:35am*

## Open Reports

### R1 Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

The Chairperson vacated the position of Chairperson and requested the Returning Officer, Mr Crakanthorp, to conduct the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for the one year period from October 2020 to October 2021.

Mr. Crakanthorp declared the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson vacant.

The Returning Officer, Mr. Crakanthorp proceeded to conduct the election.

There was one nomination for the office of Chairperson that being Clr Verdon, nominated by Clr Meyer and Clr Funnell.

Mr. Crakanthorp declared Clr Verdon duly elected to the position of Chairperson for the ensuing 12 month period.

There was one nomination for the office of Deputy Chairperson that being Clr Funnell, nominated by Clr Braid and Clr Quinn.

Mr. Crakanthorp declared Clr Funnell duly elected to the position of Deputy Chairperson for the ensuing 12 month period.

### R2 Delegation of Authority to Chairperson

#### 20/103 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

**That in accordance with Section 377 Local Government Act 1992, Council ratify and grant the delegations as set out in the Delegations of Authority Register to the Chairperson.**

**CARRIED**

### R3 Financial Statements 2019/2020

#### 20/104 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Funnell and D Meyer OAM

**That the 2019/20 Audited Financial Statements be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

*Danielle Mackenzie left meeting at 10:48am*

**R4            September 2020 Quarterly Budget Review**

**20/105       RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel

**That the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 30 September 2020 be received and adopted.**

**CARRIED**

**R5            Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Returns 2019-2020**

**20/106       RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

**That Council note the pecuniary interest returns of Board members and designated persons for the period 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020 tabled in accordance with Clause 4.21 of the Riverina Water Code of Conduct.**

**CARRIED**

**R6            List of Investments**

**20/107       RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors Y Braid OAM and D Meyer OAM

**That the report detailing Council's external investments for the months of August and September 2020 be received.**

**CARRIED**

**R7            Media & social media report - 1 July to 30 September 2020**

**20/108       RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors Y Braid OAM and T Koschel

**That the report detailing Council's media coverage and social media performance from 1 July to 30 September 2020 be received**

**CARRIED**

**R8 Naming of Council Meeting Room**

**20/109 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and Y Braid OAM

**That Council:**

- a) Notes there were three submissions received during the public exhibition period for the proposed naming of the Council Meeting Room**
- b) Adopts the name the “Pat Brassil AM Room” for the Council Meeting Room**

**CARRIED**

**R9 Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control Policy**

**20/110 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

**That Council approve the:**

- a) Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control Policy**
- b) Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control Plan**

**CARRIED**

**R10 Board representation on Audit Risk and Improvement Committee**

**20/111 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors P Funnell and D Meyer OAM

**That Council nominate a Board representative and alternate representative to the Riverina Water Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee until October 2021.**

**CARRIED**

Councillor T Koschel nominated himself and was declared Council's representative with Councillor T Quinn as alternate representative to the Riverina Water Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

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**R11        WHS Policy 4.3**

**20/112      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

**That Council adopt Policy 4.3 - Work Health & Safety.**

**CARRIED**

**R12        The Rock Depot Redevelopment Master Plan**

**20/113      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors P Funnell and D Meyer OAM

**That Council note the proposed staging for The Rock Depot Redevelopment Master Plan project.**

**CARRIED**

**R13        Operations Office Refurbishment**

**20/114      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors P Funnell and T Koschel

**That:**

- 1)    Notes the progress update on the Operations Office Refurbishment project**
- 2)    Conduct a workshop with the Board on the project during November and receive a further report to the December meeting**

**CARRIED**

[Intentionally left blank]

**R14 Amendments to the Code of Conduct and the Procedures**

**20/115 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and P Bourke

**That Council:**

- a) Note and adopt the changes to the Riverina Water Code of Conduct as prescribed within the Model Code of Conduct 2020**
- b) Increase the cap for gifts and benefits within the Riverina Water Code of Conduct to \$100; and**
- c) Note the updated Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (the Procedures) 2020**

**CARRIED**

**R15 Portable standpipe use by Constituent Councils**

**20/116 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

**That Council phase out use of portable standpipes onto Riverina Water's reticulation system by constituent councils and increase the utilisation of automated fixed filling stations as a substitute.**

**CARRIED**

**R16 Council Meeting Schedule 2021**

**20/117 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and Y Braid OAM

**That: that Council endorse the schedule of Council meeting dates for 2021 as follows:**

- Wednesday 24 February**
- Wednesday 28 April in Urana**
- Wednesday 23 June**
- Wednesday 25 August**
- Wednesday 27 October**

**CARRIED**

**R17 Council Resolution Sheet**

**20/118 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

**That the report detailing the status of the active resolutions of Council be received**

**CARRIED**

**R18 Works Report covering August 2020**

**20/119 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors P Funnell and T Koschel

**That the Works Report covering August 2020 be received and noted**

**CARRIED**

**R19 Works Report covering September 2020**

**20/120 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors P Funnell and T Koschel

**That the Works Report covering September 2020 be received and noted**

**CARRIED**

**Committee Minutes**

**M1 Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 16 September 2020**

**20/121 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and Y Braid OAM

**That Council endorse the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 16 September 2020.**

**CARRIED**



## Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr T Koschel congratulated the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson on their re-election to these positions
2. Clr T Koschel commented on the increase in grant applications received this year and wished grant panels the best of luck in the assessment process
3. Clr V Keenan apologised for not making the reservoir opening this morning and congratulated the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson on their re-election
4. Clr P Bourke enquired after an update on the reservoir at Urana
5. Clr P Bourke noted the increase in number of grant applications from all areas and congratulated Josh on his promotion of the grants program
6. Clr T Quinn congratulated staff on the opening of the two new reservoirs earlier in the day and also confirmed that he did not support the Community Grants Program
7. Clr D Meyer congratulated the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson on their re-election to these positions
8. Clr P Funnell questioned expense of the new meeting room and referred to problems during the meeting with the microphones.
9. Clr D Meyer advised the hearing loop was not working particularly well during the meeting
10. Clr G Verdon commented on the Bidgeemia extension and how well this has been received by the farmers in the area. Clr G Verdon has received comments from farmers on staff and passed on these comments to the staff. Clr G Verdon thanked the Board Members for their confidence in himself and the Deputy Chairperson to continue to lead the organisation for the next 12 months.
11. Clr G Verdon thanked staff for their efforts in the opening of the reservoir today
12. Mr A Crakanthorp noted the handouts that had been left for the Board Member for their information. A copy of REROC Annual Report was tabled for all Board Members.
13. Mr A Crakanthorp advised his appointment to the StateCover Mutual Board for a period of 2 years.
14. Mr B Spannagle advised this months is Work Health & Safety Month. He noted men in the construction industry are 50% more likely to commit suicide. As part of Safety Week, WorkCover are visiting to conduct a mental health survey with staff, this is a new initiative. Interested to see the results of Riverina Water staff.
15. Ms E Tonacia advised Riverina Water has commenced product demonstrations for ERP software
16. Clr G Verdon congratulated Andrew on his appointment to StateCover Mutual

**This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 11:58am**