

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 22 October 2026

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

Present

Councillor Gail Driscoll
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Patrick Bourke
Councillor Georgie Davies
Councillor Dallas Tout
Councillor Allana Condron
Councillor Brian Liston
Councillor Lea Parker
Councillor Amelia Parkins

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Acting Director Corporate Services	(Edwina Marks)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Manager Customer, Engagement & Strategy	(Josh Lang)
Manager Finance & Sourcing	(Natasha Harris)
Communications and Engagement Officer	(Lauren Jones)
IT Server, Network and Security Specialist	(Andrew Littlewood)
Strategic Planning & Reporting Officer	(Shane Manning)
Manager, Risk, Audit and Governance	(Beth Cullen)
Crowe	(Jason Gilbert) (via AV link)
Director, Audit Office of NSW	(Nirupama Mani) (via AV link)

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

Nil

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Amelia Parkins declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R11 Donations and Sponsorships 2026/27 progress report the reason being she is a Board member of the Riverina Conservatorium of Music and Wollundry Rotary and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Lea Parker declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in CONF 3 W278 Operations Building Rectification Dispute - Mediation Outcome the reason being her daughter worked for the original company and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

26/131 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condrón

That the minutes of the meeting of 27 August 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 Condrón

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

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 25 August 2026

Work Health and Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2026

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2026

26/132 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors Parkins and J McKinnon

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 L Parker
Cr Parkins

Procedural Motion – En Globo

26/133 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and Parkins

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 L Parker
Cr Parkins

26/134 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That R2, R4, R6, R7, R8, R9, R11, R13, R16, R19, R20, R21, CONF 1, CONF 2, CONF 3 be adopted 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 Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker
Cr Parkins

Open Reports

R1 Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

26/135 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and G Davies

That the Board conduct the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson by the voting method determined by the Board for the period from October 2026 to September 2028.

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 Condrón
Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker
Cr Parkins

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

There was one nomination for the office of Chairperson that being Clr Gail Driscoll.

Mr Crakanthorp declared Clr Driscoll duly elected to the position of Chairperson for the period October 2026 to September 2028 and congratulated her on becoming Chairperson.

There were two nominations for the office of Deputy Chairperson that being Clr Allana Condron and Clr Jenny McKinnon.

26/136 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That the election for Deputy Chairperson be held via show of hands.

CARRIED

The Returning Officer called for a show of hand in favour of Clr Condron: votes recorded from Board members Tout, Condron, Bourke and Davies

The Returning Officer called for a show of hands in favour of Clr McKinnon: votes recorded from Board Members Driscoll, Liston, Parker, McKinnon and Parkins

Votes declared in favour of Clr McKinnon 5 votes to 4.

Mr Crakanthorp declared Clr McKinnon duly elected to the position of Deputy Chairperson for the period October 2026 to September 2028 and congratulated her on becoming Chairperson.

R2 Delegation of Authority to Chairperson

26/137 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That in accordance with Section 381(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council ratify and grant the delegations as set out in the Delegations of Authority Register to the Chairperson.

CARRIED

R3 2025/26 Financial Statements - Independent Audit Reports

26/138 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That Council receives and notes the 2025/26 Independent Auditor's reports, being:

a) Independent Auditor's Report on the General Purpose Financial Statements;

- b) Independent Auditor's Report on the Special Purpose Financial Statements;
- c) Report on the Conduct of the Audit; and
- d) 2025/26 Financial Statements – 3 in 1 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 D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker
Cr Parkins

At this stage of the meeting Nirupama Nari and Jason Gilbert left the meeting (having attended via audio visual link)

R4 List of Investments

26/139 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of August 2026 and September 2026.

CARRIED

R5 September 2026 Quarterly Budget Review Statement

26/140 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That Council receive and adopt the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 30 September 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 Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker
Cr Parkins

R6 Native Title Determination Application — Southern West Yiradyuri/ Wiradyuri/ Wiradjuri People

26/141 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the report on the Southern West Yiradyuri/Wiradyuri/Wiradjuri People native title determination application (Federal Court file NSD1851/2025; National Native Title Tribunal reference NC2025/004), and note that Riverina Water has been identified by the Native Title Registrar as a proprietary interest holder within the claim area.
- b) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to file a Form 5 Notice of Intention to Become a Party with the Federal Court of Australia on or before 25 November 2026, so that Riverina Water is joined as a respondent party to the proceedings.
- c) Notes that Riverina Water does not oppose the recognition of native title, and that its participation as a respondent party will be limited to a watching brief for the purpose of protecting its land, infrastructure, easements, water access entitlements and operational access rights.
- d) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to seek written confirmation from the NSW Crown Solicitor's Office and Crown Lands as to whether the State of New South Wales' standard schedule of other interests adequately captures the interests of a county council water supply authority.
- e) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to engage specialist native title legal advice within the delegation limits of the Procurement Policy, to a capped amount of \$20,000 as part of the 2026/27 December quarterly budget review (if required), and to include provision for an ongoing watching brief in future budgets as outlined in the financial implications section of this report.
- f) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to pursue a coordinated approach with constituent councils and other affected water utilities, including shared legal representation where this is demonstrably cost-effective.
- g) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to complete a tenure and interests audit of all Riverina Water assets, easements, licences and approvals located within the claim area, and to report the outcome to Council at its October 2027 meeting
- h) Note that Riverina Water will continue to engage directly and respectfully with the Southern West Yiradyuri Clans Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation

on cultural heritage, consultation and operational matters, independently of the Federal Court proceedings.

- i) Receives a further report following the first case management hearing, or earlier if a material development arises.

CARRIED

R7 Draft Fraud & Corruption Prevention Control Policy

26/142 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Note that no submissions were received during the exhibition period in May 2026
- b) Adopt the Fraud & Corruption Control Policy as presented
- c) Rescind all previous versions of the Fraud & Corruption policy

CARRIED

R8 Draft Equal Employment Opportunity Policy And EEO Management Plan

26/143 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Endorse the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan and place them on public exhibition for a period of 28 days (until 19 November 2026) and invite public submissions on the drafts during that time in accordance with Section 160 of the Local Government Act 1993; and
- b) If no submissions are received during the exhibition period, the draft Policy and management plan be deemed adopted as exhibited, without the need for a further report to Council; or
- c) If submissions are received, a further report be presented to Council for consideration prior to adoption

CARRIED

R9 Draft Public Access to Information Policy

26/144 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Note that no submissions were received during the period of exhibition until the 31 May 2026
- b) Adopt the Public Access to Information Policy; and
- c) Rescind all previous versions of the Public Access to Information policy

CARRIED

R10 30th Anniversary of Riverina Water

26/145 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and B Liston

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the report
- b) Provide input into potential ways to mark Riverina Water's impending milestones
- c) Receive a further report, as required, detailing proposed actions and any associated budget considerations

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 Condrón
 Cr B Liston
 Cr L Parker
 Cr Parkins

R11 Donations and Sponsorships 2026/27 progress report

26/146 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That the Board receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R12 2026/27 Grants Program assessment panels

26/147 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council 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 D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker
Cr Parkins

R13 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2026 to September 2026

26/148 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period July 2026 to September 2026, noting that the data is accurate as of 12 October 2026.

CARRIED

R14 Local Government NSW Annual Conference

26/149 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

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) Appoint the Chairperson as Council's voting delegate at the Conference**
- c) Nominations be called for other Board Members to attend the conference at this meeting. (no nominations were 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 L Parker
Cr Parkins

R15 Proposed Council Meeting Schedule 2027

26/150 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors B Liston and G Davies

That the Board endorse the schedule of Riverina Water meeting dates for 2027 as follows:

- **Thursday 25 February 2027**
- **Thursday 22 April 2027 (in Lockhart Council at Lockhart)**
- **Thursday 24 June 2027**
- **Thursday 26 August 2027 (in Federation Council at Urana)**
- **Thursday 28 October 2027**
- **Thursday 9 December 2027**

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 L Parker
Cr Parkins

R16 Review of Joint Organisations Framework

26/151 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report, noting the Chairperson and CEO will participate in discussions with REROC and that further reports to the Board will be forthcoming.

CARRIED

R17 Securing Water Supply for Regional NSW Campaign

26/152 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Note the release of the Local Government NSW and Water Directorate action plan, *Securing Our Water Supply: Delivering safe, reliable and affordable water and sewerage services for regional communities at risk*:**
- b) Endorse the proposal's actions, which call on the NSW Government to:**
 - i. Provide capital grant funding of \$5 billion for at least a further 10 years;**
 - ii. Strengthen drinking water quality in rural, regional and remote NSW including support for Local Water Utilities (LWU) to address emerging contaminants such as PFAS;**
 - iii. Reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on LWUs in rural, regional and remote NSW including the NSW Regulatory and Assurance Framework, water utility strategic planning and Section 60 approvals;**
 - iv. Implement a contemporary Community Service Obligation model for better targeted, more efficient and predictable funding for Councils that cannot raise sufficient revenue to meet the costs of running their water and sewerage systems;**
 - v. Commit \$4 million per annum to a Local Water Utilities Alliance program, enabling utilities to share expertise, access specialist skills, coordinate planning and to respond more effectively to droughts, emergencies and asset management challenges;**
 - vi. Commit to a \$15 million, 10-year Regional Water Workforce Development Program to build a skilled and sustainable regional water workforce and allocate \$2.5 million over 5 years to create dedicated career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.**
- c) Write to the Premier and Minister for Water:**
 - i. Asking that the NSW Government adopt the Securing Our Water Supply Action Plan; and**
 - ii. Setting out the risks for Riverina Water's services if the NSW Government fails to take action.**

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 Condon

Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker
Cr Parkins

R18 Membership of Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)

26/153 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Riverina Water confirm its ongoing membership of REROC and approve payment of the 2026/27 membership contribution of \$23,305.70 (including GST)

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker
Cr Parkins

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr A Condon

Beth Cullen left the meeting at 10:50am

Beth Cullen joined the meeting at 11:00am

R19 Council Resolution Sheet

26/154 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

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

CARRIED

R20 Works Report covering August 2026

26/155 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That the Works Report covering August 2026 be received and noted

CARRIED

R21 Works Report covering September 2026

26/156 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That the Works Report covering September 2026 be received and noted

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Cllr Tout advised a few staff from Wagga Council visited Mangoplah where they asked about the extension to the BESS site. Mr Crakanthorp confirmed the BESS site that Cllr Tout is referring to is the solar farm located 3kms south of Mangoplah. Mr Crakanthorp confirmed an approach was made to provide comment on a development application by the relevant consent authority and has also spoken to one of the neighbours who has expressed concern. Mr Crakanthorp confirmed Riverina Water will provide a letter of feedback of the information we provided to Board Members. Cllr Tout advised residents questioned what impact the extension to BESS would have on supply of Mangoplah.
2. Cllr McKinnon raised the issue of the Data Centre developments at Gregadoo and the high level of community concern and was wondering if there was anything that can be said regarding supply of water needed for the proposed development. Mr Crakanthorp advised we have had some early discussion and will need to review the proposal to determine what water requirements are needed. Current understanding is they will be predominantly using a closed loop system and bulk of water usage will be during construction. Ultimately Riverina Water needs further information on demand and will need to look at capacity to supply.
3. Cllr Liston enquired regarding the Woomargama water supply and it being a shallow bore and was wondering if it is due to be replaced? Mr van Berkel confirmed it is a shallow bore and that work is being carried out to ensure it is protected. Looking to complete further work around source water categorisation to ensure controls in place into the future. Bore will remain in place with further work carried out on the treatment side.
4. Mr Crakanthorp confirmed we will be opening the new works depot at The Rock on 5 November, Dr Joe McGirr confirmed to officially open. Have created an invite list that will include Mayors and GMs from constituent councils.

Confidential Reports

CONF-1 Confidential Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 26 August 2026

26/157 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Extraordinary Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 26 August 2026.

CARRIED

CONF-2 Proposed 12 Month Fixed-Term Position - Storeperson

26/158 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Endorse the creation of a 12 month temporary amendment to the organisation structure for a position to implement improvements to better manage contractors.**
- b) Endorse a budget variation of \$110,000 to fund the appointment of a Storeperson on a 12-month fixed-term basis.**

CARRIED

CONF-3 W278 Operations Building Rectification Dispute - Mediation Outcome

26/159 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the report; and**
- b) Note that Riverina Water's claim against PPG Project Co Pty Ltd, and PPG's crossclaim, settled at mediation on 17 September 2026 within the range approved by the Board on 27 August 2026, and that the terms of settlement are confidential.**

CARRIED

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 11:06am.