

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 26 June 2025

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

Present

Chairperson Tim Koschel
Councillor Gail Driscoll
Councillor Patrick Bourke
Councillor Georgie Davies
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Brian Liston
Councillor Lea Parker

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Manager, Finance and Sourcing	(Natasha Harris)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Governance & Corporate Planning Officer	(Wendy Reichelt)
Customer & Communication Team Leader	(Josh Lang)
IT Server, Network and Security Specialist	(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

25/067 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That apologies for:

- a) non-attendance were received from Councillor Dallas Tout and Councillor Allana Condron and that
- b) leave of absence for Councillor Tim Koschel for the meeting to be held on 28 August 2025 be approved

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

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 non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R9 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - April the reason being he is the Chair of Ronald McDonald House Wagga and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Gail Driscoll declared a non-pecuniary interest in R9 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - April and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Gail Driscoll declared a non-pecuniary interest in CONF 6 2025 Award Negotiation Update the reason being her daughter works for Riverina Water and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Jenny McKinnon declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R3 Business Activity Strategic Plan, DPOP and Long Term Financial Plan the reason being has an interest in solar project in Queensland and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Lea Parker declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R9 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - April the reason being she is a member of the Holbrook Community Group mentioned in the report and remained in the meeting during the discussion

Ms Emily Tonacia declared a non-significant non-pecuniary interest in CONF 6 2025 Award Negotiation Update the reason being the report is discussing the approach by management for the process of the upcoming IRC meeting in Wagga and remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Mr Troy van Berkel declared a non-significant non-pecuniary interest in CONF 6 2025 Award Negotiation Update the reason being the report is discussing the approach by management for the process of the upcoming IRC meeting in Wagga and remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

25/068 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and G Driscoll

That the minutes of the meeting of 24 April 2025 and the extraordinary meeting of 13 May 2025, 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

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Against the Motion

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 22 May 2025

Work Health and Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2025

Minister Rose Jackson: response to efficiency review undertaken by Atom Consulting in 2022

LGNSW Media Release: NSW Councils ready to work with returned Federal Government

Holbrook Cricket Club: Thank you letter for funding provided

WaterNSW: Riverina Water County Council Murrumbidgee CAG Membership

25/069 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and P Bourke

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr T Koschel

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

Procedural Motion – En Globo

25/070 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

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 T Koschel

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

25/071 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That R1, R2, R4, R5, R6, R7, R9, R10, R11, R12, R13, R14, R18, R20, R21, CONF1, CONF2, CONF4 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 T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Open Reports

R1 List of Investments

25/072 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That the Board receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of April 2025 and May 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R2 Fluoridation Policy

25/073 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council review and adopt Fluoridation Policy 2.05 noting there have been no material changes made since the last policy review.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R3 Business Activity Strategic Plan, DPOP and Long Term Financial Plan

25/074 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Notes the submissions received on the Business Activity Strategic Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan, and Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2025/26–2028/29, along with the management responses**
- b) Adopt the Business Activity Strategic Plan, *Leading into 2035***
- c) Adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35**
- d) Adopt the Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2025/26-2028/29**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Against the Motion

Cr G Davies

R4 Determination of fees for Board members, chairperson and ARIC members and chairperson

25/075 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council:

- a) Approve a 3% increase in Board member and chairperson fees for the 2025/26 financial year in line with the determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal**
- b) Confirm that the methodology for annual increase in ARIC member and chairperson fees will follow that of the Board (that is, 100% of any increase as determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal)**

c) Approve a 3% increase in ARIC member and chairperson fees for the 2025/26 financial year in line with the determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R5 Procurement Policy

25/076

RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council adopt the Procurement Policy 4.20.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R6 Modern Slavery Policy

25/077

RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council adopt Modern Slavery Policy 1.33.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R7 Draft Assistance for Undetected Leak Policy

25/078 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council:

- a) Note there were no submissions made during the public exhibition period**
- b) Adopt the Assistance for Undetected Leak Policy**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R8 2024/25 Customer Satisfaction Survey

25/079 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll 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 T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Ms Natasha Harris left the meeting at 10:39am.

R9 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 summary report

25/080 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

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 T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R10 Customer and Community Engagement Strategy 2025/26-2028/29

25/081 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council:

- a) Note there was one submission made during the public exhibition period**
- b) Adopt the Customer and Community Engagement Strategy 2025/26-2028/29**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R11 Riverina Water Workforce Strategic Plan 2025/26 - 2028/29

25/082 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council adopt the *Riverina Water Workforce Strategic Plan 2025/26 – 2028/29* as part of Riverina Water’s Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R12 Work Health & Safety Committee Constitution

25/083 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council adopt the *Riverina Water County Council Work Health and Safety Committee Constitution* dated April 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R13 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2024 - June 2025

25/084 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period July 2024 to June 2025, noting that the data is accurate as at 16th June 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr T Koschel

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R14 Work Health & Safety Policy

25/085 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council adopt Work Health and Safety Policy 3.04

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr T Koschel

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R15 Murray Darling Association 2025 Annual Conference

25/086 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and G Davies

That

- a) Riverina Water be represented at the Murray Darling Association 2025 National Conference and AGM.**
- b) Councillor Driscoll attend the conference as a voting delegate.**
- c) A member of staff also attends as a Riverina Water representative.**
- d) Councillor Pat Bourke attend the conference as a registrant.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr T Koschel

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R16 Local Government NSW - 2025 Water Management Conference

25/087 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That:

- a) Riverina Water be represented at the Local Government New South Wales 2025 Water Management Conference**
- b) The Deputy Chairperson or her nominee attend as a voting delegate**
- c) Councillors Lea Parker and Brian Liston attend the conference as registrants**
- d) The Chief Executive Officer and Manager Operations or their nominees attend as observers**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr T Koschel

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R17 Local Government NSW Annual Conference

25/088 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and B Liston

That Council:

- a) Approve the attendance of the Chairperson and the CEO at the 2025 LGNSW Annual Conference to be held in the Panthers Penrith, Western Sydney Conference Centre, Penrith from Sunday 23 November to Tuesday 25 November 2025**
- b) elect the Chairperson as Council's voting at the Conference**
- c) Councillors Brian Liston and Pat Bourke attend the conference as registrants.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R18 Submission advocating for inclusion of County Councils in the development assessment process

25/089 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council:

- (a) approve the Chief Executive Officer and/or his delegate to make a submission to the relevant Ministers and State Government Officers seeking regulatory reform for the inclusion of County Councils into the Development Application process.**
- (b) Submit a motion to the LGNSW 2025 Annual Conference seeking support for LGNSW to lobby on behalf of its member Councils for the inclusion of County Council's in the Development Application process.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R19 Council Resolution Sheet

25/090 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

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

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R20 Works Report covering April 2025

25/091 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That the Works Report covering April 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R21 Works Report covering May 2025

25/092 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That the Works Report covering May 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr T Koschel

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Cr Bourke commented on the progress of the new pipeline must be getting close to hitting Morundah. The Director Engineering advised approximately 40 kilometres has been completed. There were some issues with the Riverina Water trencher requiring it to be sent away for repair and recently utilising a contractor to complete a section of the pipeline. CEO advised he will be briefing Manex soon on a celebration of the completion of the pipeline in either August or September 2025 to turn on of the water.
2. Cr Bourke asked if there had been an increase from farmers during the dry period to connect into the network. CEO confirmed there have been additional enquiries made. Cr Bourke also made enquiries regarding if there was a legal way to get right of way to access water through another property. CEO advised Riverina Water prefers to use road reserves but where that isn't possible will use easements through private properties.
3. Cr Parker flagged With Riverina Water discussions with Greater Hume Council regarding future water supply options.
4. Mr Crakanthorp presented to the meeting a Sponsorship Request from The Rock Memorial Bowling Club for \$500 for consideration. The Chair and Deputy Chair have declared conflicts of interest. The Board supported the sponsorship request.
5. Mr Crakanthorp advised that he will be commencing 5 weeks leave on 7 July, Director Engineering will be on leave for 3 weeks commencing 7 July. The Director Corporate Services will be Acting CEO for 3 weeks, when Director Engineering returns from leave, will assume Acting CEO position until the CEO's return on 11 August.

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.

25/093 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and B Liston

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 11:04am.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Against the Motion

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 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 8 May 2025

25/094 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 8 May 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll

Against the Motion

Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

CONF-2 Riverina Water ARIC membership

25/095 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

That Council:

- a) Endorse the appointment of Ms Emma Pryor to the Riverina Water Audit Risk & Improvement Committee for a period of 4 years commencing 1 July 2025, with an opportunity to appoint for a further term subject to satisfactory performance**
- b) Endorse the re-appointment of Mr Shannon Buckley to the Riverina Water Audit Risk & Improvement Committee for a further 3-year term, commencing 1 September 2025**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

CONF-3 RFQ 2025/9 W337 - Two (2) Backhoe Loaders

25/096 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That the Board:

- a) That the offer from Construction Equipment Australia (JCB) for two (2) Backhoe Loaders be accepted; and**
- b) That the Chief Executive Officer be delegated authority to approve the resulting purchase order**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

CONF-4 Tender RFT2025/08 W327 - Oura Reservoir Access Track

25/097 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and L Parker

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 T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

CONF-5 In-Principle support for strategic watermain upgrade – Plumpton Road, Wagga Wagga

25/098 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and G Driscoll

That the Board:

- a. **Notes the inclusion of a provisional sum (by Riverina Water) in the WWCC tender for a potential full replacement of the watermain along Plumpton Road.**
- b. **Provides in-principle support to explore this opportunity, subject to an assessment of strategic merit and value for money upon receipt of tender pricing and methodology.**
- c. **Receive a follow-up report following the close of tenders for a decision on whether to proceed with the full upgrade.**
- d. **Endorse an initial budget of \$3.39M to be included in the 2025/26 Capital Works Program, noting that this amount may be adjusted through the Quarterly Budget Review (QBR) process following the finalisation of the tender.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Mr Josh Lang, Mr Alex Corneliusen, Ms Wendy Reichelt left the meeting at 11:18am

CONF-6 2025 Award Negotiation Update

25/099 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That the Board receive and note the report and delegate authority to the CEO to negotiate the 2025 Riverina Water Enterprise Award in the terms as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Reversion to Open Council

25/100 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and J McKinnon

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 11.42.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr T Koschel

Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Mr Josh Lang, Mr Alex Corneliusen, Ms Wendy Reichelt joined the meeting at 11:42am

Brian Liston left the meeting at 11:42am

Decisions Read Aloud

The Chief Executive Officer read aloud the decisions of the Council made whilst the meeting was closed to the public.

Brian Liston returned to the meeting at 11:46am.

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 11:46am