Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 27 August 2026

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 9:33am.

Present

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

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Acting Director Corporate Services	(Edwina Marks)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel via Teams)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Manager Customer, Engagement & Strategy	(Josh Lang)
Communications and Engagement Officer	(Lauren Jones)
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

26/106 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and B Liston

That an apology be received from Councillor Dallas Tout for non-attendance at the meeting

CARRIED

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Amelia Parkins declared a non-significant non-pecuniary interest in R7 Donations and Sponsorships 2026/27 progress report the reason being she is a Director of the Board of Wollundry Rotary who has received funding and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared significant pecuniary interest in CONF 4 Performance Review - Chief Executive Officer for the period ending 30 June 2026 the reason being the report is regarding his performance and left the room during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

26/107 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and P Bourke

That the minutes of the meeting of 29 June 2026, 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

Work Health and Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2026

Charles Sturt University – Riverina Water Scholarship Letter

Basketball NSW – NAIDOC week thank you

LGNSW Membership Renewal

26/108 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and B Liston

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Procedural Motion – En Globo

26/109 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

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

26/110 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That R7, R8, R9, R12, R13, R14, CONF 1 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R1 **Riverina Water Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Report 1 July 2025 - 31 August 2026**

26/111 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Parkins

That Council receive the report from the Riverina Water Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 August 2026, as prepared by the ARIC Chair, Mr David Kortum.

CARRIED

R2 **List of Investments**

26/112 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of June 2026 and July 2026.

CARRIED

R3 **Investments Policy**

26/113 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and B Liston

That Council:

a) **Note that no public submissions were received during the public exhibition period; and**
b) **Adopt the revised Investments Policy (Pol 4.10) as presented**
c) **Rescind all previous versions of the Investment Policy.**

CARRIED

R4 **Revoted Budget - 2026/27**

26/114 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That Council:

a) **Revote capital budget totalling $1,686,506 from the 2025/26 budget to be included in the 2026/27 budget; and**
b) **Note capital budget items committed to be spent prior to 30 June 2026, totalling $6,996,174 will be carried forward to the 2026/27 budget; and**
c) **Approve adjustments to the original 2026/27 budget resulting from the reprioritisation of the capital works program resulting in a revised capital budget of $11,628,006 ($20,310,686 inclusive of recommendations a) and b)).**

CARRIED

R5 **Financial Statements 2025/26**

26/115 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and A Condron

That Council:

a) **receive and note the unaudited 2025/26 Primary Financial Statements;**
b) **refer Riverina Water's Draft Financial Statements be referred for audit by Council's auditors being the Audit Office of New South Wales;**
c) **makes a resolution in accordance with Section 413 (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) **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 Board' in relation to Riverina Water's 2025/26 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) **presents the final audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report to the public at its ordinary meeting to be held 22 October 2026.**

CARRIED

R6 2026/27 Grants Program assessment panels

26/116 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors B Liston and A Parkins

That Council:

a) **Nominate one Board member and an alternate per Local Government Area, as required, to the grants assessment panels**
b) **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

Councillor B Liston was nominated for and accepted the delegates role for Greater Hume Council with Councillor L Parker as the alternate.

Councillor J McKinnon was nominated for and accepted the delegates role for Wagga Wagga City Council with Councillor A Parker as the alternate.

R7 Donations and Sponsorships 2026/27 progress report

26/117 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That the Board receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R8 **School Awards Program**

26/118 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That Council endorse the implementation of the School Awards Program as outlined in the report.

CARRIED

R9 **Customer rebate 2025/26 summary**

26/119 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That Council receive and note the report

CARRIED

R10 **Operational Plan 2025/26 report: Progress to Delivery Program Report 2025/26-2028/29**

26/120 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and A Parkins

That Council receive and note the Operational Plan report for 2025/26.

CARRIED

R11 **Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2025 to June 2026**

26/121 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period July 2025 to June 2026, noting that the data is accurate as of 17 August 2026.

CARRIED

R12 **Council Resolution Sheet**

26/122 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

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

CARRIED

R13 **Works Report covering June 2026**

26/123 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That the Works Report covering June 2026 be received and noted

CARRIED

R14 **Works Report covering July 2026**

26/124 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That the Works Report covering July 2026 be received and noted

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr Parkins asked the CEO for an update on the PFAS situation given the increase in media recently. The CEO advised there has been no change to the situation over the last 7-8 months and customers should not be alarmed, Riverina Water would never provide unsafe drinking water. Management are reviewing three locations; East Wagga, West Wagga and Tarcutta. Defence have advised that all contaminated material from RAAF has been removed. West Wagga source continues to be investigated. Tarcutta Bore 1 remains out of production and staff are undertaking modelling to source a new supply. Riverina Water has sought reimbursement from Defence for the costs associated with monitoring the East Wagga Bores and is also seeking reimbursement for incurred costs at Tarcutta.
2. Clr Bourke provided an update on the recently held Murray Darling Association Annual Conference he attended along with Clr Driscoll.
3. Clr Driscoll thanked Riverina Water for the opportunity to attend the conference noting the Annual General Meeting is being held today.
4. The Director Engineering enquired if there was any mention at the Conference regarding environmental projects and riverine systems as well as any discussions regarding the Carp virus and its impact. Clrs Bourke and Driscoll provided an update discussions held at the Conference.
5. Clr Parker enquired if any discussions held at the Conference regarding water allocations and how much water need to be released? Clrs Driscoll and Bourke advised that there had not been much conversation at the conference regarding these topics.

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.

26/125 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and B Liston

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 10:53am.

CARRIED

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 13 August 2026**

26/126 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condron

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 13 August 2026.

CARRIED

Greg Vidler joined the meeting at 10:54am

CONF-2 **Request from Opening Doors Foundation**

26/127 **RESOLVED:**
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That the Board:

- **a) Receive and note the report;**
- **b) Determine not to provide exemptions for water charges under Section 558 of the Local Government Act 1993; and**
- **c) Note that Riverina Water has committed to investigating opportunities for different revenue structures for charities that reflect the Board's intentions, and which also align with legislation and financial sustainability requirements.**

CARRIED

CONF-3 W278 Operations Building Rectification Dispute – Settlement Negotiation Authority

26/128 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and A Condron

That Council:

a) **Receive and note the report;**
b) **Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer or his nominated delegate to negotiate and settle with PPG at mediation, within a range as detailed in the report (inclusive of GST) for the reasons outlined in the report; and**
c) **Delegate authority to the Manager Projects to produce and swear an affidavit in support of item (b) above and for the purposes of the ongoing legal negotiations with PPG.**

CARRIED

Clr Parker declared an interest to the meeting regarding the employment status of her daughter potentially working for the company that purchased the company that is the respondent to the above proceedings.

Andrew Crakanthorp, Troy van Berkel, Edwina Marks, Greg Vidler, Josh Lang, Lauren Jones, Alex Corneliusen left the meeting at 11:05am.

CONF-4 Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review for the period ending 30 June 2026

26/129 RESOLVED:
On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and A Condron

That Council:

a) **Adopt this Chairperson's Minute which includes the Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review Panel's position following the Annual Review for 2025/26.**
b) **Review and accept the recommendation on salary review from CEO's performance review committee and that the increase in TRP apply for the duration of the contract.**

CARRIED

Andrew Crakanthorp, Edwina Marks, Josh Lang, Lauren Jones, Alex Corneliusen rejoined the meeting at 11:15am

Reversion to Open Council

26/130 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 11:20am.

CARRIED

Decisions Read Aloud

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

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council which rose at 11:21am