

# Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 24 February 2022

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**The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 9:31am.**

## **Present**

Councillor Tim Koschel (Chairperson)  
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM  
Councillor Georgie Davies  
Councillor Gail Driscoll  
Councillor Dan Hayes  
Councillor Michael Henderson  
Councillor Jenny McKinnon  
Councillor Tony Quinn

## **In Attendance**

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Engineering	(Bede Spannagle)
Customer & Communications Team Leader	(Joshua Lang)
Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Manager Works	(Austin Morris)
Accounting Officer	(Genevieve Taylor)
Governance & Records Officer	(Wendy Reichelt)

## **Reminder of Ethical Obligations**

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.

## **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

Apologies were received for Councillor P Bourke and Ms Emily Tonacia.

## Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R1 List of Investments the reason being his employment with a financial institution and he remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Michael Henderson declared a pecuniary interest in R5 Rescission of Policy 1.4 Statement of Business Ethics the reason being he is a supplier to Riverina Water and left the meeting during the discussion.

## Confirmation of Minutes

**22/008**

**RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

**That the minutes of the meeting of 2 February 2022, 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 18 November 2021

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2022

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2022

**RECOMMENDATION** that the correspondence be received.

## Open Reports

### R1 List of Investments

#### 22/009 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

**That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of November 2021, December 2021, and January 2022.**

**CARRIED**

### R2 December 2021 Quarterly Budget Review

#### 22/010 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Quinn

**That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ended 31 December 2021 be received and the recommended changes be adopted.**

**CARRIED**

### R3 Gumly Gumly Private Irrigation District Service Agreement

#### 22/011 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

**That Council not enter into any future agreement with the Gumly Gumly Private Irrigation District beyond 30 June 2022.**

**CARRIED**

### R4 Annual Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics Report

#### 22/012 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and M Henderson

**That Council note there were no Code of Conduct complaints received or finalised during the 2020-21 reporting year.**

**CARRIED**

*Councillor Michael Henderson left the meeting at 10:09am*

**R5                    Rescission of Policy 1.4 Statement of Business Ethics**

**22/013            RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

**That Council:**

- a) Rescind Policy 1.4 Statement of Business Ethics**
- b) Note that Policy 1.4 Statement of Business Ethics will be replaced by a Statement of Business Ethics to be published on the Riverina Water website and given to contractors and suppliers dealing with Riverina Water**

**CARRIED**

*Councillor Michael Henderson returned to the meeting at 10:09am*

**R6                    Code of Meeting Practice Policy 1.02**

A motion was moved by Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

**That Council:**

- a) Note the changes to the Code of Meeting Practice, Policy 1.02 including the new provisions outlined in the *Model Code of Practice for Local Government in NSW 2021*
- b) Note that the revised Code of Meeting Practice, Policy 1.02 will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days
- c) Note that a further report will be provided to the April 2022 meeting with the outcome of the exhibition period

**The motion was withdrawn by Councillor G Davies and J McKinnon**

**22/014            RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and D Hayes

**That discussion of the Draft Code of Meeting Practice be moved to a workshop with a further report to the April meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**R7                    Media Policy 1.29**

**22/015            RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Davies

**That Council adopt the revised Media Policy 1.29 noting that the policy will now have a review period of 4 years.**

**CARRIED**

**R8 Acknowledgment of Country Policy 1.29**

**22/016 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and G Driscoll

**That Council adopt the reviewed Policy 1.29 Acknowledgment of Country**

**CARRIED**

**R9 Board member access to information and premises Policy 1.09**

**22/017 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and J McKinnon

**That Council review and adopt Board member access to information and premises Policy 1.09**

**CARRIED**

**R10 Board Member Training and Development Policy 1.08**

**22/018 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Davies

**That Council:**

- a) Review the Board Member Training and Development Policy 1.08**
- b) Note that the Board Member Training and Development Policy 1.08 will be placed on public exhibition following the February 2022 Board meeting and a further report will be provided to the April meeting of the Board for adoption.**

**CARRIED**

**R11 Draft Assistance for Undetected Water Leaks Policy**

**22/019 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and M Henderson

**That Council:**

- a) Endorse the draft policy and place it on public exhibition until 31 March 2022 invite public submissions on the draft policy during that period**
- b) Receive a further report following the public exhibition and submission period:**
  - i. Addressing any submissions made in respect of the proposed policy**
  - ii. Proposing adoption of the policy unless there are any recommended amendments deemed to be substantial and requiring a further public exhibition period.**

**CARRIED**

**R12 Annual customer survey**

**22/020 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and D Hayes

**That Council endorse undertaking a revised customer survey for 2021-22 at a lower cost than previous years.**

**CARRIED**

**R13 2021-22 Community Grants Program assessment panels**

**22/021 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and D Meyer OAM

**That Council:**

- a) Receive and note the report**
- b) Nominate Board members and an alternate as required to Community Grants Program assessment panels**
- c) Authorise the CEO to make changes to the assessment panel members due to unavailability or conflict of interest to be made at his discretion, should that be required.**

**CARRIED**

Councillor D Meyer OAM was nominated and appointed as the member of the Greater Hume Council Panel with Councillor Quinn as an alternate

Councillor Gail Driscoll was nominated and appointed as the member of the Lockhart Shire Council panel

Councillor Georgie Davies was nominated and appointed as the member of the Wagga Wagga City Council Panel

Councillor Pat Bourke was nominated and appointed as the member of the Federation Council Panel.

**R14 Work Health & Safety Constitution**

**22/022 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors JM McKinnon and GD Davies

**That Council adopt the Riverina Water County Council Work Health and Safety Constitution dated February 2022.**

**CARRIED**

**R15 Adoption of SCC Constitution**

**22/023 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Davies

**That Council adopt the Riverina Water County Council Staff Consultative Committee Constitution dated February 2022**

**CARRIED**

**R16 Review of Take Home Vehicle Policy**

**22/024 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and G Davies

**That Council adopt the Riverina Water County Council Take Home Vehicle Internal Policy dated February 2022.**

**CARRIED**

**R17 Goldenfields Water County Council customer transfer**

**22/025 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and D Meyer OAM

**That Council:**

- a) Receive and note the report**
- b) Receive and note the updated Community Engagement Plan**

**CARRIED**

**R18 Lost Time Injury Statistics 2021/22 - July-January Period**

**22/026 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Quinn

**That Council receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries for the period July 2021 to January 2022.**

**CARRIED**

*Mrs Wendy Reichelt left the meeting at 10:50am*

**R19      Oura LAND MATTERS**

**22/027      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and G Davies

**That Council:**

- 1. Purchase additional land by agreement with the property owner, Lot 10 as shown in the attached unregistered plan, for the replacement of Oura reservoirs.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to purchase the land in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and classify the land as operational, upon acquisition.**
- 3. Affix Council's Common Seal to documents as required.**

**CARRIED**

**R20      NSW Department of Primary Industries & Environment Concurrence - Riverina Water County Council Integrated Water Management Strategy**

**22/028      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and D Meyer OAM

**That Council receive and note the report.**

**CARRIED**

**R21      Net Zero Emissions Policy Adoption**

**22/029      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and D Hayes

**That Council:**

- a) Note the submissions received in response to the exhibition of the Draft Net Zero Emissions Policy**
- b) Adopt the Net Zero Emissions Policy**

**CARRIED**

**R22      Works Report covering January 2022**

**22/030      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and G Davies

**That the Works Report covering January 2022 be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

## **R23 Council Resolution Sheet**

### **22/031 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Davies

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

**CARRIED**

## **Committee Minutes**

### **M1 Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 10 November 2021**

### **22/032 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and J McKinnon

**That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 10 November 2021.**

**CARRIED**

## **Questions and statements**

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr Quinn asked Director Engineering if The Rock Reservoir was proceeding as planned. Director Engineering advised it is.
2. Clr Meyer advised that Holbrook customers are still mentioning they can smell and taste chlorine in the water and asked if anything else can be done about this. Director Engineering advised Clr Meyer to have customers contact Riverina Water so water quality testing can be undertaken.
3. Clr Driscoll noted her support for Clr McKinnon's comments on privacy in Works Reports going forward
4. Clr Koschel noted that while attending the Water Management Conference in Narrabri 2 weeks ago, Riverina Water was awarded the Sam Samra award and presented the award to the Chief Executive Officer Mr Crakanthorp. Clr Koschel invited the CEO to provide further information on the award. Clr Koschel thanked everyone for their attendance today.
5. Mr Crakanthorp advised that during the LGNSW Conference in Sydney next week, it is tradition for Riverina Water to take the representatives from Constituent Councils to dinner.

Mr Crakanthorp reminded Councillors to visit their preferred clothing supply shop and purchase their suits for the Board and to provide the receipts for reimbursement.

Mr Crakanthorp raised the possibility of organising a ½ day tour of network locally to begin with, potentially around the June meeting and Clr Quinn confirmed the importance of Councillors viewing all Riverina Water infrastructure this year.

Director Engineering offered to deliver a presentation during the next workshop on the network and how it works, Councillors were supportive of this.

**This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 11:29am.**