

Minutes of the meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Wednesday 26 August 2020

The meeting of Riverina Water County Council was declared open at 9:32am.

Present

Councillors Greg Verdon (Chairperson)
Councillor Yvonne Braid OAM
Councillor Pat Bourke (via zoom)
Councillor Greg Conkey OAM (via Zoom)
Councillor Vanessa Keenan (via zoom)
Councillor Tim Koschel (via Zoom)
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM (via Zoom)
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) (via Zoom)
Manager Operations	(Jason Ip) (via Zoom)
Community Engagement Officer	(Josh Lang)
Executive Assistant to the General Manager	(Melissa Donges)
Chairperson, ARIC	(David Maxwell)

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 Paul Funnell on the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel.

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor T Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R2 - List of Investments the reason being that he works for a financial company and remained in the chamber during its consideration.

Confirmation of Minutes

20/066 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Conkey OAM and V Keenan

That the minutes of the meeting of 24 June 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: Minutes of the meeting held 23 July 2020

WHS Committee: Minutes of the meeting held 13 August 2020

20/067 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R1 Riverina Water County Council Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee Report Year ended 30 June 2020

Councillor P Bourke entered the meeting at 9:41am

20/068 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That Council receive the report from the Riverina Water Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) as presented by the ARIC Chair, Mr David Maxwell.

CARRIED

David Maxwell left the meeting at 9:47am

R2 List of Investments

20/069 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Conkey OAM

That the report detailing Council's external investments for the months of June and July 2020 be received.

CARRIED

R3 Financial Statements 2019/2020

20/070 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and Y Braid OAM

That:

- a) Council's Draft Financial Statements be referred to audit by Council's auditors, Audit Office of New South Wales**
- b) Council make a resolution in accordance with section 413 (2c) that the annual financial report is in accordance with:
 - i. The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made there under**
 - ii. The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements**
 - iii. The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting**
 - iv. Presents fairly the councils operating results and financial position for the year**
 - v. Accords with Council's accounting and other records**
 - vi. That Council is not aware of any matter that would render this report false or misleading in any way****
- c) Council adopt the abovementioned statement and that the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer be authorised to complete the 'Statement by Members of the Council' in relation to Council's 2019/20 Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Reports and be attached thereto**
- d) The General Manager 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**
- e) Council present the final audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report to the public at its ordinary meeting to be held 28 October 2020**

CARRIED

R4 Financial Position as at 30 June 2020

20/071 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel

That:

- a) The unaudited 2019/20 Financial Statements be received**
- b) Council endorse the proposed changes to internal cash restrictions to be reflected in the 2019/20 Financial Statements, being that:**
 - i. An appropriate level of internal restriction for Employee Leave Entitlements is determined to be 50% of Council's leave liability**
 - ii. An appropriate maximum level of funds to be kept as an internal restriction for sales fluctuations be \$3,000,000**
 - iii. An amount of \$228,250 in relation to the completion of the Water Treatment Plant be internally restricted as at 30 June 2020**

CARRIED

R5 CAPEX Budget Results 2019/20

20/072 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and D Meyer OAM

That Council receive and note the report on the final capital expenditure budget result for 2019/20 financial year.

CARRIED

R6 Overdue Debtors June 2020

20/073 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and T Quinn

That the report on overdue debtors for the period ended 30 June 2020 be received and noted.

CARRIED

R7 Revoted Budget – 2020/2021

20/074 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

That capital expenditure totalling \$430,175 be revoted and included in the 2020/2021 budget.

CARRIED

R8 Community Grants Program Assessment Panels

20/075 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and G Conkey OAM

That one Board member and one alternate from Greater Hume and Wagga Wagga City Council nominate to be on the respective community grant assessment panel for their Local Government Area.

CARRIED

Councillor D Meyer OAM nominated to be the representative from Greater Hume, with Councillor T Quinn as the alternate. Councillor V Keenan was nominated and accepted to be the representative from Wagga Wagga City Council, with Councillor T Koschel as the alternate.

R9 Amendment to the Community Grants Program guidelines

Melissa Donges left the meeting at 10:03am

20/076 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors Meyer and Keenan

That Council amends the 2020/21 Community Grants Program Guidelines to include that eligible applicants who have incomplete projects from the 2019/20 program may still apply under the 2020/21 program, noting:

- a) Preference may be given to applicants without incomplete projects**
- b) 2019/20 grants must be acquitted before any funding from the 2020/21 is released**
- c) The project funded by the 2020/21 program must still be completed within the specified timeframe**

CARRIED

R10 Updated Fluoridation Policy and New Drinking Water Policy

Melissa Donges returned to the meeting at 10:06am

20/077 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That Council:

- a) Endorse the updated Fluoridation Policy and draft Drinking Water Policy and place them on public exhibition from 27 August to 25 September 2020 and invite public submissions on the draft policies 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 Fluoridation and Drinking Water Policies**
 - ii. Proposing adoption of the policies unless there are any recommended amendments deemed to be substantial and requiring a further public exhibition period**

CARRIED

R11 Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control Policy 1.1.4 and Plan

20/078 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and T Quinn

That Council:

- a) Endorse the Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control Policy 1.1.4 and Plan and place them on public exhibition from 27 August to 25 September 2020 and invite public submissions on the draft policies 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 Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control Policy 1.1.4 and Plan**
 - ii. Proposing adoption of the policy and plan unless there are any recommended amendments deemed to be substantial and requiring a further public exhibition period**

CARRIED

R12 Draft Assets and Infrastructure Naming Policy

20/079 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and Y Braid OAM

That Council:

- a) Notes there were no submissions received during the public exhibition period for the draft Assets and Infrastructure Policy**
- b) Adopts the Assets and Infrastructure Policy**

CARRIED

R13 Workforce Plan 2020 – 2024

20/080 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and T Koschel

That the Board adopt the Riverina Water Workforce Management Plan 2020-2024.

CARRIED

R14 Minor change to wording of Code of Meeting Practice

20/081 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Quinn

That Council approve the change of wording of item 5.21 of the Code of Meeting Practice to read: 5.21 A recording of each meeting of the council and committee of the council is to be retained on the council's website for 12 months from the time of recording. Recordings of meetings may be disposed of in accordance with the State Records Act 1998.

CARRIED

Councillor T Koschel referred to the inclusion of additional wording regarding the use of recordings of Council meetings. The General Manager advised that appropriate wording would be considered and added to the Policy, with a further report to the October meeting of the Board.

R15 Operational Plan – Performance Targets

Melissa Donges left the meeting at 10:20am

20/082 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That the report detailing the progress towards the objectives set out in the 2019/2020 Operational Plan as at 30 June 2020, be received and noted.

CARRIED

R16 Membership of Regional Organisations

Melissa Donges returned to the meeting at 10:23am

20/083 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and V Keenan

That Council:

- a) Discontinue its membership with the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) at the end of the 2020/21 Financial Year**
- b) Provide written notice to REROC of this decision and thank them for their support over the past twenty years**
- c) Delegate authority to the Chairperson and General Manager to negotiate an exit from REROC**

CARRIED

R17 Proposed naming of Council Meeting Room

20/084 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Koschel

That Council:

- a) Propose to name the Council Meeting Room, the “Pat Brassil OAM Room”**
- b) Place the proposed room name on public exhibition from 30 August to 25 September 2020 invite public submissions on the proposed name during that period**
- c) Receive a further report following the public exhibition and submission period:**
 - i. Addressing any submissions made in respect of the proposed room name**
 - ii. Proposing adoption of the room name unless there are any submissions that deem it necessary to require a further public exhibition period**

CARRIED

R18 Extension of community representatives to Riverina Water Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC)

20/085 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and T Quinn

That:

- a) Council extend the community members on the Riverina Water ARIC for a further 12 months to November 2021**
- b) Council extend the term of the ARIC Chair for a further 12-month period to November 2021**
- c) A letter be sent to the community members extending their tenure on the Committee to November 2021**
- d) Council elect a Board member and their alternate, to participate on the ARIC until October 2021 (at its meeting to be held in October 2020)**

CARRIED

R19 Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Tender

20/086 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and Y Braid OAM

That Council endorse the proposed timeline, including providing agreement for an extraordinary meeting on 25 November, to facilitate progression of the tender evaluation.

CARRIED

R20 Annual Customer Survey

20/087 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Koschel

That Council continue to undertake a comprehensive customer survey every two years, with specific purpose surveys to be undertaken every intervening year on matters relevant to Council at the time.

CARRIED

R21 Lockhart Water Tower Mural

20/088 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and V Keenan

That:

- a) Council endorse the Memorandum of Understanding between Lockhart Shire Council and Riverina Water County Council and authorise the General Manager to sign the document**
- b) A clause be included within the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the possible removal of the artwork within an agreed timeframe (i.e. 10 years), should the artwork fall into disrepair**

CARRIED

R22 Media and Social Media Report – 1 April to 30 June 2020 (13 weeks)

20/089 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That the report detailing Council's media coverage and social media performance from 1 April to 30 June 2020 be received.

CARRIED

R23 Council Resolution Sheet

20/090 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That the report detailing the current resolutions of Council be received.

CARRIED

R24 Works Report covering June 2020

20/091 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

That the Works Report covering June 2020 be received and noted.

CARRIED

R25 Works Report covering July 2020

20/092 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

That the Works Report covering July 2020 be received and noted.

CARRIED

Committee Minutes

M1 Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

20/093 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors Y Braid OAM and T Koschel

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 20 May 2020 and 22 July 2020.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Councillor D Meyer OAM asked if the work recently done in Henty was in response to a break or routine maintenance. Bede Spannagle advised that the work was part of routine maintenance.
2. Councillor T Koschel thanked the General Manager for his continued contact and communication to all Board Members.
3. Councillor G Conkey OAM endorsed the comments made by the General Manager regarding the legal case with UGL and offered his congratulations to Bede Spannagle and team on the outstanding result.
4. Councillor P Bourke echoed Councillor Conkey's comments.
5. Councillor G Verdon asked if staff were aware of complaints regarding RWCC work in a back lane in Lockhart and the condition it was left in. Bede Spannagle will follow this up with the Manager Works.
6. Councillor G Verdon mentioned the work at the level crossing at Henty which had been delayed due to Telstra/RWCC relocating a pipe. Bede Spannagle confirmed that the work was completed 6 months ago by RWCC, and the delay is likely due to Telstra now.
7. Councillor G Verdon congratulated staff on the completion of the capital works program.

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.

20/094 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and P Bourke

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 11:08am.

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

CONF1 General Manager Annual Performance Review for period ending 30 June 2020

Andrew Crakanthorp, Bede Spannagle, Emily Tonacia, Simon Thomson and Josh Lang left the meeting at 11:08am

20/095 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Conkey OAM and V Keenan

That the Board note this Chairperson's Minute which includes the General Manager's Performance Review Panel's position following the Annual Review for 2019/20.

CARRIED

Andrew Crakanthorp, Bede Spannagle, Emily Tonacia and Josh Lang returned to the meeting at 11:13am

CONF2 Lease Agreement – 1,000 ML High Security (Murrumbidgee River) Entitlement, 2-Year Fixed Term

20/096 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Conkey OAM and V Keenan

That Council endorses the General Manager's decision to accept the highest bid of \$340/ML to lease its 1,000 megalitre High Security (Murrumbidgee River) Water entitlement over two years (with an optional additional year), and enter into a formal lease agreement with National Water Brokers accordingly.

CARRIED

Reversion to Open Council

20/097 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and G Conkey OAM

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 11:16am.

CARRIED

Decisions Read Aloud

The General Manager read aloud the decisions of the Council made whilst the meeting was closed to the public.

Councillor G Verdon extended his thanks to Melissa Donges and wished her well in the future for her pending relocation and birth of her baby.

This concluded the meeting of Riverina Water County Council which rose at 11:19am