

# Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Tuesday 26 October 2021

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The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 3:00pm.

## Present

Councillor Greg Verdon (Chairperson)  
Councillor Tim Koschel  
Councillor Pat Bourke  
Councillor Yvonne Braid OAM  
Councillor Vanessa Keenan (via zoom)  
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM  
Councillor Dan Hayes

## In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Engineering	(Bede Spannagle)
Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Community Engagement Officer	(Joshua Lang)
Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Manager Operations	(Jason Ip)
ICT Officer	(Dylan Comerford)

## 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

**21/108 RESOLVED:**  
On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and T Koschel

**That an apology for non-attendance be received from Councillor Tony Quinn and Councillor Greg Conkey OAM.**

**CARRIED**

## Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R2 List of Investments the reason being his employment with a financial institution and he remained in the meeting during the discussion

## Confirmation of Minutes

**21/109 RESOLVED:**  
On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

**That the minutes of the meeting of 24 August 2021, 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 19 August 2021

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2021

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021

Letter from The Hon. Shelley Hancock – Ability for county councils to meet remotely dated 7 October 2021

**21/110 RESOLVED:**  
On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and Y Braid OAM

**That the correspondence be received.**

**CARRIED**

## Open Reports

**21/111 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

**That R3 Financial Statements 2020/2021 be moved to be the first item discussed**

**CARRIED**

**R3 Financial Statements 2020/2021**

**21/112 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

**That the 2020/21 Audited Financial Statements be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

*Councillor Pat Bourke left the meeting at 3:08pm*

*Mr Joshua Lang left the meeting at 3:08pm*

*Mr Joshua Lang returned to the meeting at 3:09pm*

*Councillor Dan Hayes joined the meeting at 3:12pm*

**R1 September 2021 Quarterly Budget Review**

**21/113 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

**That the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 30 September 2021 be received and adopted.**

**CARRIED**

**R2 List of Investments**

**21/114 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors Y Braid OAM and T Koschel

**That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of August and September 2021.**

**CARRIED**

*Mr Dylan Comerford left the meeting at 3:17pm*

*Mr Dylan Comerford returned to the meeting at 3:18pm*

**R4 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Returns**

**21/115 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and D Meyer OAM

**That Council:**

- a) Note the pecuniary interest returns of Board members and designated persons for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 tabled in accordance with Clause 4.21 of the Riverina Water Code of Conduct; and
- b) Note that these pecuniary interest returns will be published to the Riverina Water website with personal addresses redacted.

**CARRIED**

**R5 New Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework final consultation**

**21/116 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors Y Braid OAM and T Koschel

**That Council:**

- a) Note the latest draft of the Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework for local councils in NSW; and
- b) Authorise the Chair of the ARIC (supported by input from the CEO) to make a submission on behalf of Riverina Water should that be deemed appropriate prior to 26 November 2021.

**CARRIED**

**R6 Social Media and Media Quarterly Report July-September 2021**

**21/117 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

**That Council receives and notes the report.**

**CARRIED**

**R7 Willans Hill Land Matters**

**21/118 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

**That Council:**

1. Proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the land described as:
  1. Lot 1 in unregistered plan of acquisition of Lot 22 in Deposited Plan 835331 (plan attached);
  2. Proposed easement for Pipeline 6 wide marked T in the unregistered plan (plan attached).for the purpose of the construction of water supply infrastructure and associated access in accordance with the requirements of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991; and
2. Council make an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire:
  1. Lot 1 in unregistered plan of acquisition of Lot 22 in Deposited Plan 835331;
  2. Proposed easement for Pipeline 6 wide marked T in the unregistered plan.by compulsory process under Section 186(1) of the of the Local Government Act.
3. That the land upon acquisition be classified as operational land in accordance with the Local Government Act.
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to purchase the land and establish the pipeline easements under compulsory acquisition process.

**CARRIED**

**R8 Net Zero Emissions Policy Adoption**

**21/119 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and Y Braid OAM

**That Council note:**

- a) The Net Zero Emissions Policy;
- b) That the policy will be placed on public exhibition; and
- c) That a further report will be provided to the February 2022 Board meeting regarding any feedback provided during the exhibition period and including a recommendation to adopt

**CARRIED**

*Mr Andrew Crakanthorp left the meeting at 3:30pm*

*Mr Andrew Crakanthorp returned to the meeting at 3:30pm*

**R9 County Councils in the Development Assessment Process**

**21/120 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

**That Council:**

- 1) Receives and notes the report.**
- 2) Support the collective approach of County Councils to advocate for mandated legal mechanism(s) requiring development applications to be referred to County Councils for consultation and/or concurrence, under a new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP).**
- 3) In the meantime, continue to pursue and establish a range of formal and informal mechanisms with its constituent councils to include Riverina Water in their development assessment and approval processes that impact its operations, for example Memorandums of Understanding and pre-development approval consultation with developers.**
- 4) That Riverina Water submit a motion to the Local Government New South Wales Annual Conference regarding the level of consultation of County Councils by the NSW Government and in particular expressing frustration that often County Councils are overlooked when legislation is being changed..**

**CARRIED**

*Councillor Pat Bourke returned to the meeting at 3:33pm*

**R10 Groundwater Purchase - 133 megalitres of water from the Lower Billabong water source**

**21/121 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

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

**CARRIED**

**R11 Works Report covering August 2021**

**21/122 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

**That the Works Report covering August 2021 be received and noted**

**CARRIED**

**R12 Works Report covering September 2021**

**21/123 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

**That the Works Report covering September 2021 be received and noted**

**CARRIED**

**R13 Lost Time Injury Statistics 2021/22 - July-September Period**

**21/124 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

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

**CARRIED**

**R14 Council Resolution Sheet**

**21/125 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

**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 15 September 2021**

**21/126 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

**That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 15 September 2021.**

**CARRIED**

## **Questions and statements**

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Cllr D Meyer advised he has received an email from Henty Public School regarding one of their students winning a school based poster competition (conducted by Riverina Water) held as part of National Water Week. Cllr Meyer advised his nomination for re-election has been accepted, and expressed how he has enjoyed being a part of the Riverina Water Board.

2. Clr P Bourke enquired as to what numbers are needed to make a new water service line “viable”. Mr Spannagle advised it is dependent on the cost of the line and the number of connections, and such matters are not always a straight economic answer. Clr Bourke congratulated the Chair and Riverina Water for how well the organisation has been performing. Clr Bourke thanked Ms Tonacia for her ongoing auditing and financial management, well done to everyone.
3. Clr Y Braid thanked everyone for their support.
4. Clr T Koschel thanked everyone for their work in the past five years. He also thanked the Chairman for his leadership and then thanked Andrew and Directors for their support.
5. Mr Bede Spannagle expressed his thanks to the Board for being knowledgeable, respectful and capable in assisting management run the organisation. He also thanked the Chairman for his leadership.
6. Mr Andrew Crakanthorp echoed Mr Spannagle's comments. He thanked the Chairman for support and guidance and mentorship. Wish all members well in upcoming elections and what the future may bring.
7. Clr G Verdon thanked fellow board members. He noted the collegial approach and everyone has been free to speak their minds. He further stated that Council was blessed to have professional staff that has guided the organisation through difficult tasks when needed, and that the organisation is in good hands. Clr Verdon thanked Mr Crakanthorp, Mr Spannagle, Ms Tonacia and Mr Lang for their support.

## 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.

**21/127 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

**That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 3:59pm.**

**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 Tender for Specification W280 Cleaning of Council Facilities at Riverina Water**

**21/128 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

**That Council:**

- 1. Accepts the Tender Submission from Charles Sturt Campus Services Limited under a schedule of rates contract, with an estimated annual cost of \$128,000, in accordance with Specification W280 and the terms of the contract of engagement.**
- 2. Authorise the CEO to execute the documents relating to the contract.**

**CARRIED**

*Clr Vanessa Keenan joined the meeting at 3:59pm*

**CONF-2 The Rock Reservoir Land Acquisition Update**

**21/129 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

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

**CARRIED**

**CONF-3 Small Site Electricity and Metering Contracts**

**21/130 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and Y Braid OAM

**That Council authorises:**

- a) The Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and accept the Tender for provision of electricity to Small Sites and electricity metering services.**
- b) The Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson to execute the electricity supply contract for small sites and electricity metering services, for a contract period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**CARRIED**

**CONF-4 Riverina Water Cyber Incident**

**21/131 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

**That Council;**

- a) receive and note the report; and**
- b) approve the additional budget in the 2021/22 Operational Plan for the costs in relation to the incident and implementation of recommendations.**

**CARRIED**

**Reversion to Open Council**

**21/132 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

**That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 4:15pm.**

**CARRIED**

**Decisions Read Aloud**

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

Clr V Keenan thanked everyone for their time, been a pleasure to be a part of the board. Today has been a milestone day, quite an achievement. Great to see the room was also named today. Thanked the Chair.

**This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 4:18pm**