

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 26 February 2026

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

Present

Councillor Gail Driscoll
Councillor Patrick Bourke
Councillor Georgie Davies
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Dallas Tout
Councillor Allana Condron
Councillor Brian Liston
Councillor Lea Parker

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Customer & Communication Team Leader	(Josh Lang)
IT Officer	(Alex Corneliusen)
Communications & Engagement Officer	(Lauren Jones)
Manager Finance & Sourcing	(Natasha Harris)

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. The recording will be publicly available on our website after the meeting.

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 Wiradyuri 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 Wiradyuri Nation and extend that respect to other Community members present.

Apologies

No apologies were received.

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Allana Condron declared a non-significant non-pecuniary interest in R6 Donations and Sponsorships 2025-26 progress report the reason being she is a member of the Board of Ronald McDonald House Charities and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Dallas Tout declared a non-pecuniary interest in CONF-4 Tender RFT2025/26 - Oura Reservoir Replacement - Design & Construct Concrete Reservoir, the reason being he is a resident of Oura and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Dallas Tout declared a non-pecuniary interest in CONF-5 Oura Reservoirs - Land Matters - Creation of Right of Way the reason being he is a resident of Oura and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

26/001 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and B Liston

That the minutes of the meeting of 11 December 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

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

Correspondence

Local Government: NSW Weekly Circulars: previously forwarded to Councillors by Constituent Councils

Koorinal High School – Certificate of Appreciation in support of Schools Presentation Night 2025

Charles Sturt University – letter of thanks for support of students

Work Health and Safety Committee – minutes of meeting held 10 December 2025

Staff Consultative Committee – minutes of meeting held 11 December 2025

Work Health and Safety Committee – minutes of meeting held 28 January 2026

26/002 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

Procedural Motion – En Globo

26/003 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and G Davies

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 G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

26/004 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That R1, R3, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10, R14, R16, R18, R19, R20, R22, R23, CONF-1 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 G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Open Reports

R1 List of Investments

26/005 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of December 2025 and January 2026.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout

Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R2 December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement

26/006 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That Council receive and adopt the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 31 December 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R3 Budget Management Policy

26/007 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That Council adopt the Budget Management Policy.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R4 Recommendation to Extend Internal Audit Services - Centium

26/008 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and G Davies

That Council:

- a) Notes that Centium's performance as the contracted internal audit service provider has been satisfactory; and**
- b) Approves the extension of Centium's internal audit services contract for a further two (2) years, effective from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2028, in accordance with the original contract provisions.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R5 Operational Plan Progress Report - 31 December 2025

26/009 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That Council receive and note the Operational Plan progress report for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

Natasha Harris left the meeting at 10:23am

R6 Donations and Sponsorships 2025-26 progress report

26/010 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon 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 G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condrón

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R7 Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2030

26/011 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That Council:

- a) Note there were no submissions made during the public exhibition period; and**
- b) Adopt the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2030**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condrón

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R8 Customer rebate 2025/26 six-monthly update

26/012 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That Council receive and note the report

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R9 Proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Riverina Water and Wagga Wagga City Council

26/013 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That the Board:

- a) endorse the attached draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Riverina Water and Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC)**
- b) delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to sign the MOU on behalf of Riverina Water**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R10 Draft Assets and Infrastructure Naming Policy

26/014 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That Council:

- a) Endorse the draft Assets and Infrastructure Naming Policy and place it on public exhibition until 31 March 2026 and invite public submissions on the draft policy during that time; and**
- 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

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R11 Draft Pensioner Concession Rebate Policy

26/015 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Endorse the draft Pensioner Concession Rebate Policy and place it on public exhibition until 31 March 2026, and invite public submissions on the draft policy during that time; and**
- 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

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R12 Draft Media Policy

26/016 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Endorse the draft Media Policy and place it on public exhibition until 31 March 2026, and 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

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R13 Draft Social Media Policy

26/017 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Endorse the draft Social Media Policy and place it on public exhibition until 31 March 2026, and invite public submissions on the draft policy during that time; and**
- 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

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R14 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2025 to January 2026

26/018 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period June 2025 to January 2026, noting that the data is accurate as of 16 February 2026.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R15 Arrangements Following the Resignation of the Chairperson

26/019 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Note that, in accordance with governance practice, the Deputy Chairperson will assume the role of Chairperson on an interim basis until a new Chairperson is elected.
- b) Approve the payment of the Chairperson's allowance to the Deputy Chairperson from 1 February 2026 to the date of the election of the new Chairperson
- c) Note that, subject to the completion of an electoral process by the NSW Electoral Commission and Wagga Wagga City Council, an extraordinary meeting of the Riverina Water Board is likely to March 2026 to elect a new Chairperson.
- d) Endorses the approach that the Chairperson elected to fill the casual vacancy will hold office for the balance of the current term, until October 2026, consistent with the intent of Section 230(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*; and
- e) Notes that an election for Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for a full two-year term will be conducted in October 2026.
- f) Convene an extraordinary meeting to be held on Wednesday 25 March 2026 commencing at 5:30pm

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R16 Proposed Future Governance Processes to Trade Water Entitlements

26/020 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That Council receive and note the report, noting the proposed future governance arrangements proposed to be used for future temporary trading of Riverina Water's 1,000 megalitre High Security (Murrumbidgee River) Licence (WAL 16171)

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condrón

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

Josh Lang left the meeting at 11:08am

Josh Lang joined the meeting at 11:11am

R17 Review of Joint Organisation Framework

26/021 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and J McKinnon

That Council consider its position on membership of the Riverina JO at the extraordinary meeting of the Board on Wednesday 25 March 2026.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condrón

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R18 LGNSW Rural & Regional Summit

26/022 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That the Board receive and note the report and not attend the Local Government New South Wales 2026 Rural and Regional Summit.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condrón

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R19 Adoption of SCC Constitution

26/023 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That Council endorse the Riverina Water County Council Staff Consultative Committee Constitution dated February 2026.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condrón

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R20 Council Resolution Sheet

26/024 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

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 G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

R21 Greater Hume Settlement Strategy

26/025 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That Council:

- a) **Note this report and the concerns raised by Riverina Water regarding the Greater Hume Shire Council Settlement Strategy.**
- b) **Endorse the submission of feedback to Greater Hume Shire Council expressing Riverina Water's concerns regarding the proposed timing and location of certain rezonings, particularly those extending above existing serviceable pressure zone elevations, and requesting that staging of growth be aligned with infrastructure servicing capacity**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R22 Works Report covering December 2025

26/026 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That the Works Report covering December 2025 be received and noted

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

R23 Works Report covering January 2026

26/027 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That the Works Report covering January 2026 be received and noted

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Councillor Liston enquired if the asbestos trailer noted in the Correspondence file was used mainly on old pipes. The Director Engineering advised this was the case and the trailer was fully set up containing the correct equipment and protective equipment for staff to handle asbestos safely while working.
2. Councillor Bourke advised he had been asked to make enquiries on where the new works agreements made some time ago were up to. He has also been asked to enquire into the water pressure at the Urana standpipe as it has been an issue this summer, normally reading around 1000PSI but has only been reading at 300PSI. The Director Engineering advised he would follow up with Councillor Bourke outside of the meeting on these matters.
3. Councillor Bourke commented on whether there was a need for Riverina Water to continue to utilise the en-globo function or if it would be easier to just work through the agenda as is?
4. Mr Crakanthorp congratulate Emily Tonacia on her nomination and shortlisting as Young Professional of the Year at the upcoming AWA ceremony being held in Sydney
5. Mr van Berkel noted the works reports show the significant demand that had been encountered during the January heatwave and that it was up approximately 50% on last financial year and recognised the staff on the front line during that time.

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.

26/028 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors B Liston and D Tout

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 11:23am.

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 5 February 2026

26/029 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and L Parker

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 5 February 2026.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

Natasha Harris joined the meeting at 11:25am

CONF-2 New Borrowing - Plumpton Road (WWCC Works)

26/030 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and B Liston

That Council;

- a) Resolve to borrow \$3,000,000 over a 10-year fixed term as outlined in the body of the report to fund the Plumpton Road Watermain Replacement Project; and**
- b) Authorise management to complete all documentation required to establish the loan facility based on the most competitive offer available at the time of execution, including affixing the common seal of Riverina Water (if required).**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout

Cr A Condron

Cr B Liston

Cr L Parker

Natasha Harris left the meeting at 11:40am

CONF-3 Request from Opening Doors Foundation

26/031 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the report;**
- b) Determine not to provide an exemption of water charges under Section 558 of the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to the request received from Opening Doors Foundation; and**
- c) Approve a one-off donation of \$5,000 to the Opening Doors Foundation.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke

Cr G Davies

Cr G Driscoll

Cr J McKinnon

Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

CONF-4 Tender RFT2025/26 - Oura Reservoir Replacement - Design & Construct Concrete Reservoir

26/032 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors B Liston and G Davies

That the Board:

- a) Accepts the Tender Submission from Hornick Constructions Pty Ltd under a lump sum contract for the amount specified in the report in accordance with Specification W341.**
- b) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Contract for the Oura Reservoir Replacement - Design & Construct Concrete Reservoir project.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condrón
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

CONF-5 Oura Reservoirs - Land Matters - Creation of Right of Way

26/033 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and B Liston

That the Board:

- a) Endorses the creation of an easement for Right of Way at Lot 11 DP1302151 over the recently completed new access track to the Oura Reservoirs, to establish right of access to the Oura Reservoirs.**
- b) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to establish easement for Right of Way.**
- c) Affix Council's Common Seal to documents as required.**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

CONF-6 Temporary Lease - 1 Gigalitre High Security Murrumbidgee River Regulated Water Entitlement

26/034 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and P Bourke

That Council:

- a) Consider approve releasing Riverina Water's 1,000 ML High Security (Murrumbidgee River) License (WAL 16171) onto the temporary water market for the remaining water year ending 30 June 2026**
- b) accept the recommended lease proposal from water brokers presented during the meeting.**
- c) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a lease with the successful bidder**

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Against the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Reversion to Open Council

26/035 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and B Liston

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 12:05pm.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr D Tout
Cr A Condron
Cr B Liston
Cr L Parker

Against the Motion

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 Board which rose at 12:09pm