

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 28 August 2025

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:02 AM.

Present

Councillor Gail Driscoll
Councillor Patrick Bourke
Councillor Georgie Davies
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Allana Condon
Councillor Brian Liston

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Director Engineering	(Troy van Berkel)
Manager, Finance and Sourcing	(Natasha Harris)
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Governance & Corporate Planning Officer	(Wendy Reichelt)
Customer & Communication Team Leader	(Josh Lang)
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 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

25/105 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Apologies for non-attendance were received from Chairperson Tim Koschel and Councillors Dallas Tout and Lea Parker.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr A Condon
Cr B Liston

Against the Motion

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared significant pecuniary interest in CONF 4 Performance Review - Chief Executive Officer for the period ending 30 June 2025 the reason being the report is regarding his performance and left the room during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

25/106 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and B Liston

That the minutes of the meeting of 26 June 2025 and the extraordinary meeting of 5 July 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

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr A Condon
Cr B Liston

Against the Motion

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 7 August 2025

Work Health and Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2025

Regional Development Australia: Thankyou letter for attending Defence and The Riverina-Murray: national Assets, Regional Opportunities.

25/107 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke 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 A Condrón

Cr B Liston

Procedural Motion – En Globo

25/108 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and B Liston

That the standing orders be varied for the meeting 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 A Condrón
Cr B Liston

25/109 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That R2, R4, R5, R6, R7, R9, R10, R12, R13, R17, R18, CONF1, CONF2 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 A Condrón
Cr B Liston

Open Reports

R1 Financial Statements 2024/2025

At this stage of the meeting the CEO advised the Board that the 2024/25 Financial Statements were not finalised and that an extraordinary meeting of the Board would be requested during the week of the 8 September. He requested that the Chair seek a motion "that the report lie on the table".

The Chair agreed to the revised wording and the recommendation (appearing below) was withdrawn:

RECOMMENDATION that:

- a) Council receive and note the unaudited 2024/25 Primary Financial Statements;
- b) Council's Draft Financial Statements be referred for audit by Council's auditors being the Audit Office of New South Wales;
- c) Council makes a resolution in accordance with Section 412(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) Council 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 Council' in relation to Council's 2024/25 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) Council presents the final audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report to the public at its ordinary meeting to be held 23 October 2025.

25/110 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and J McKinnon

That the report lie on the table

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 A Condon
Cr B Liston

R2 List of Investments

25/111 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the Board receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of June 2025 and July 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 A Condrón
Cr B Liston

R3 Revoted Budget - 2025/26

25/112 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and P Bourke

That Council:

- a) Revote capital budget totalling \$2,016,349 from the 2024/25 budget to be included in the 2025/26 budget; and
- b) Note capital budget items committed to be spent prior to 30 June 2025, totalling \$1,985,466 will be carried forward to the 2025/26 budget; and
- c) Approve adjustments to the original 2025/26 budget resulting from the reprioritisation of the capital works program resulting in a revised capital budget of \$18,255,624 (\$22,257,439 inclusive of recommendations a) and b)).

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 A Condrón
Cr B Liston

R4 Customer rebate 2024/25 summary report

25/113 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

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 A Condrón

Cr B Liston

R5 Donations and Sponsorships 2025-26 progress report

25/114 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

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 A Condrón

Cr B Liston

R6 Draft Acknowledgement of Country Policy

25/115 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Endorse the draft policy and place it on public exhibition until 30 September 2025 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 A Condrón

Cr B Liston

R7 2025/26 Riverina Water grants program

25/116 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Endorse the Riverina Water grants program guidelines as attached to this report
- b) Nominate one Board member and an alternate per Local Government Area, as required, to the Enriching Communities grants assessment panels
- c) 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

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 A Condron
Cr B Liston

R8 Proposed School Awards Program

25/117 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and B Liston

That Council endorse the implementation of the proposed School Awards Program as outlined in 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 A Condron
Cr B Liston

R9 Code of Meeting Practice

25/118 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Review the Code of Meeting Practice Policy 1.02**
- b) Note that as required, the Code of Meeting Practice Policy 1.02 will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days**
- c) Note that following the exhibition period, the Code of Meeting Practice Policy 1.02 will be presented to the Board at its meeting in October for final review and adoption**

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 A Condrón
Cr B Liston

R10 Riverina Water Code of Conduct Policy 1.01

25/119 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council review:

- a) The Riverina Water Code of Conduct 1.01, noting that it is required to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days following the Board meeting**
- b) The Model Code Procedures for the Administration of the Riverina Water Code of Conduct Policy 1.01, noting that these will be adopted with the Code of Conduct in October 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 A Condrón
Cr B Liston

R11 Delivery Program 2022/23 - 2024/25 Yr 3 Operational Plan

25/120 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and A Condon

RECOMMENDATION the Board note the end of year result for the 2022/23-2024/25 Delivery Program and the 2024-25 Operational Plan.

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 A Condon

Cr B Liston

R12 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2025 - August 2025

25/121 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period June 2025 to August 2025, noting that the data is accurate as at 15th August 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 A Condon

Cr B Liston

R13 Proposed Council Meeting Schedule 2026

25/122 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the Board endorse the schedule of Riverina Water meeting dates for 2026 as follows:

- **Thursday 26 February 2026**
- **Thursday 23 April 2026 (in Federation Council at Urana)**
- **Thursday 25 June 2026**
- **Thursday 27 August 2026 (Greater Hume Council at Culcairn)**
- **Thursday 22 October 2026**
- **Thursday 10 December 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 A Condon

Cr B Liston

R14 Membership of Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)

25/123 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Davies

That Riverina Water decline the offer by the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Council's (REROC) to rejoin REROC, for the reasons which informed the decision in August 2020 by Riverina Water to withdraw its membership of REROC.

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 A Condon

Cr B Liston

R15 Lake Albert Pipeline - Memorandum of Understanding - Wagga Wagga City Council and Riverina Water

25/124 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and B Liston

That Council:

(a) Note the project progress

(b) Endorse the CEO or their delegate to negotiate to enter:

- i. A non-binding MoU with Wagga Wagga City Council that will guide the development of future agreements and partnership in relation to the project**
- ii A peppercorn lease for land at the Hammond Avenue site that will be used to house the pump and offtake**
- iii An operational agreement with Wagga Wagga City Council that may include:**

provisions for electrical supply

maintenance and operational agreement

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 A Condrón

Cr B Liston

R16 Council Resolution Sheet

25/125 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and A Condrón

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 A Condrón

Cr B Liston

R17 Works Report covering June 2025

25/126 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the Works Report covering June 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 A Condrón

Cr B Liston

R18 Works Report covering July 2025

25/127 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the Works Report covering July 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 A Condon

Cr B Liston

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Cllr McKinnon enquired if Management were planning on bringing back to the Board the data from the Listening Lounges when available. The Chief Executive Officer advised that this can be arranged.
2. Cllr Bourke advised that Federation Council was supporting requests by the communities in Rand and Oaklands for the water standpipes to be upgraded. The Chief Executive Officer took this on notice for review.
3. Cllr Bourke enquired if the Water Fountain Station program is still being run by Riverina Water and how is it accessed. The Chief Executive Officer advised the program is still running and Federation Council need to email Riverina Water with a location they would like one installed. Allocations are undertaken for each LGA once each financial year.
4. Ms Tonacia advised the Board that Riverina Water has this week been named a finalist in the 2025 Australian Service Excellence Awards in the Customer Service Organisation of the Year - Local Government category.

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.

25/128 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 10:56am.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr A Condon
Cr B Liston

Against the Motion

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 14 August 2025

25/129 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 14 August 2025.

CARRIED

Record of voting on the Motion

For the Motion

Cr P Bourke
Cr G Davies
Cr G Driscoll
Cr J McKinnon
Cr A Condon

Against the Motion

Cr B Liston

CONF-2 Tender RFT2025/12 W304 - Demolition of Existing Structures, Civil Works & Construction of Warehouse, Workshop & Office - The Rock Depot

25/130 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That the Board:

- a) Accepts the Tender Submission from Joss Facility Management under a lump sum contract for the amount specified in the report in accordance with Specification W304.**
- b) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Contract for the Demolition of Existing Structures, Civil Works & Construction of Warehouse, Workshop & Office at The Rock Depot.**

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 A Condon

Cr B Liston

CONF-3 PFAS Update

25/131 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Davies and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) note the current PFAS status across Riverina Water's supply systems.**
- b) consider the proposed next steps regarding potential participation in the water industry legal action as referenced in 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 A Condron

Cr B Liston

Andrew Crakanthorp, Emily Tonacia, Troy van Berkel, Wendy Reichelt, Josh Lang and Alex Corneliusen left the room at 11:13am

CONF-4 Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review for the period ending 30 June 2025

25/132 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and J McKinnon

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 2024/25.**
- b) Review and accept the recommendation on salary review from CEO's performance review committee.**

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 A Condron

Cr B Liston

Andrew Crakanthorp, Emily Tonacia, Troy van Berkel, Wendy Reichelt, Josh Lang and Alex Corneliusen joined the room at 11:27am

Reversion to Open Council

25/133 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and B Liston

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 11:27am.

CARRIED

Decisions Read Aloud

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

The Board congratulated the Andrew Crakanthorp on his performance over the last 12 months and the way he has conducted himself and the business. What has been achieved is a credit to the team.

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 11:31am.