

Minutes of the meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Wednesday 24 June 2020

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

Present

Councillors Greg Verdon (Chairperson)
Councillor Pat Bourke (via zoom)
Councillor Greg Conkey OAM
Councillor Paul Funnell (via zoom)
Councillor Vanessa Keenan (via zoom)
Councillor Tim Koschel
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM
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)
Community Engagement Officer	(Josh Lang)
Executive Assistant to the General Manager	(Melissa Donges)

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.

Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was received and accepted from Councillor Yvonne Braid OAM on the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Conkey OAM.

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor T Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R1 Financial Statements – List of Investments the reason being that he works at a financial institution and remained in the chamber during its consideration.

Confirmation of Minutes

20/045 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That the minutes of the meeting of 22 April 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

MDA Delegates Report: As submitted by Councillor Paul Maytom

Staff Consultative Committee: Minutes of the meeting held 21 May 2020

20/046 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Koschel

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Information Paper

The meeting noted that an Information paper including reports for the Board's information had been sent under separate cover.

Open Reports

R1 Financial Statements – List of Investments

20/047 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

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

CARRIED

R2 Draft Delivery Program 2020/21 – 2023/24 and Draft Operational Plan 2020/21

20/048 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and P Funnell

That the:

- a) Draft Revised Delivery Program 2020 – 2024 and Operational Plan 2020/2021, as exhibited, following close of public comments, be adopted as Council's Delivery Program 2020-2024 and Operational Plan 2020/2021, subject to the proposed changes listed in the body of this report**
- b) Fees and charges be made for the 2020/2021 year, as outlined in the draft Operational Plan 2020/2021, subject to the proposed changes listed in the body of this report**

CARRIED

R3 Determination of remuneration fees for Board members and Chairperson 2020/21

20/049 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel

That the report on determination of remunerations fees for Board members and Chairperson for 2020/21 as set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal be noted.

CARRIED

R4 Determination of remuneration fees for independent members of the Riverina Water ARIC 2020/21

20/050 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

That Riverina Water continue to pay remuneration to the two independent members of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee as follows:

- a) Chairperson \$464 per meeting**
- b) Committee member \$347 per meeting**

CARRIED

R5 Performance Review – General Manager

20/051 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Funnell

That the report be received and board members provide the Chairperson with any items for consideration by the Performance Review Committee (PRC) prior to 10 August 2020.

CARRIED

R6 Contractual Conditions of Senior Staff

20/052 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

That the report on the contractual conditions of senior staff be received and noted.

CARRIED

R7 Membership of Regional Organisations

20/053 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Conkey OAM

That Council reaffirm its associate membership to the Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO) and support its ongoing existence.

CARRIED

R8 Local Government NSW 2020 Annual Conference

20/054 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and V Keenan

That:

- a) Council be represented at the Local Government NSW 2020 Annual Conference**
- b) Council's delegate be the Chairperson and the General Manager (as an observer)**
- c) Nominations be invited from any other Councillor to attend as an observer**
- d) Council determine motions that it believes are of concern and should be discussed at the conference**

CARRIED

Councillor T Koschel expressed interest in attending as did Councillor T Quinn. Both Councillors were asked to confirm their attendance as soon as practicable.

R9 Local Government New South Wales – 2020 Water Management Conference

20/055 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Conkey OAM and P Bourke

That:

- a) Council be represented at the Local Government New South Wales 2020 Water Management Conference**
- b) The Chairman attend as a delegate, accompanied by Councillors Koschel, Quinn and Funnell**
- c) The Director Engineering or his nominee attend as an observer**

CARRIED

R10 Community Grants Program 2020-21 guidelines

20/056 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

That Council endorse the guidelines for the 2020-21 Community Grants Program.

CARRIED

R11 2019/20 Donations and Sponsorships summary

20/057 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Funnell

That:

- a) The advice from the General Manager regarding sponsorships by Riverina Water for the year 2019/2020 be noted**
- b) Council endorse the actions of the Chairperson and General Manager for recipients impacted by COVID-19 to retain its donation into 2020/21**

CARRIED

R12 Donation to South Wagga Anglican Church

20/058 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Conkey OAM and T Quinn

That Council make a donation of \$5,659 to the development/upgrade of the new amenities at South Wagga Anglican Church.

CARRIED

R13 Glenoak reservoir land matters

20/059 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

That Council:

- a) Proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the land described as:**
 - i. Lot 1 in Deposited Plan 1257693**
 - ii. Proposed Right of Carriage Way 6 wide marked CW in Deposited Plan 1257693**
 - iii. Proposed Easement for Water Supply 6 wide in marked W in Deposited Plan 1257693**

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*
- b) Make an application to the Minister and the Governor to receive approval to acquire:**
 - i. Lot 1 in Deposited Plan 1257693**
 - ii. Proposed Right of Carriage Way 6 wide marked CW in Deposited Plan 1257693**
 - iii. Proposed Easement for Water Supply 6 wide in marked W in Deposited Plan 1257693**

by compulsory process under section 186(1) of the Local Government Act
- c) Classify the land as operational land**

CARRIED

R14 Draft Assets and Infrastructure Naming Policy

20/060 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and V Keenan

That Council:

- a) Endorse the draft Assets and Infrastructure Naming Policy and place it on public exhibition from 25 June to 24 July 2020 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 Assets and Infrastructure Naming Policy**
 - ii. Proposing adoption of the policy unless there are any recommended amendments deemed to be substantial and requiring a further public exhibition period**
 - iii. Details on current opportunities to name assets or infrastructure and a register of existing name suggestions in line with the draft policy**

CARRIED

R15 Adoption of Policy 2.6 - Water Restrictions

20/061 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That the Board:

- a) Notes that one submission was received during the public exhibition period for the draft Policy 2.6 Water Restrictions**
- b) Adopts Policy 2.6 Water Restrictions as exhibited**

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

UGL Process

20/062 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel

That the Director of Engineering, General Manager and relevant staff be congratulated on the way they have performed in managing the UGL contractual matters to date.

CARRIED

1. Councillor P Bourke followed up on the matter of a proposed dividend payment to Wagga Wagga City Council. The General Manager responded that the motion was withdrawn from the papers at the time and he sat in on a preceeding workshop with Wagga Wagga City Councillors. It was resolved there that the General Manager of Wagga Wagga City Council will make direct contact with Riverina Water, which has yet to happen.
2. Councillor P Funnell mentioned that he was against the dividend motion at the time, and does not endorse this action.
3. Councillor G Conkey OAM mentioned that he will wait for the report on the dividend motion, and it will be discussed by Wagga Wagga City Council at that time.
4. Councillor G Verdon followed up on the redevelopment of the depot and new reservoir at The Rock. The Director of Engineering responded that the depot design has been delayed by approx. 6-8 weeks due to COVID-19. The designs are expected by 10 July and the survey has been lodged to consolidate the lots. In regarding to the new reservoir, a valuation has been done following a survey and offered to the owner, which is currently sitting with their solicitor.
5. Councillor T Quinn asked why a negotiation can't take place directly with the owner in relation to The Rock reservoir. The Director of Engineering responded that he is confident that the current process being undertaken through solicitors will reach a favourable outcome.
6. The Manager Corporate Services reminded Councillors to submit their related party disclosures.

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.

20/063 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 10:27am.

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 Update on WTP contract

20/064 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Conkey OAM

That Council:

- a) Authorise the General Manager to continue to protect Council's interests in relation to this matter**
- b) Authorise the General Manager to initiate further legal action if deemed appropriate**

CARRIED

Reversion to Open Council

20/065 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 10:51am.

CARRIED

Decisions Read Aloud

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

This concluded the meeting of Riverina Water County Council which rose at 10:52am