

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Thursday 24 April 2025

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 10:01am.

Present

Chairperson Tim Koschel
Councillor Gail Driscoll
Councillor Patrick Bourke
Councillor Jenny McKinnon
Councillor Dallas Tout
Councillor Allana Condron
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 Server, Network and Security Specialist	(Andrew Littlewood)

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

25/032 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and G Driscoll

That an apology from Councillors Brian Liston and Georgie Davies be received.

CARRIED

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Chairperson Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R1 List of Investments the reason being he works for a financial institution and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Chairperson Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R4 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - April the reason being he is the Chair of Ronald McDonald House Wagga and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Gail Driscoll declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in CONF 5 2025 Award Negotiation Update the reason being her daughter works for Riverina Water in the People and Culture Team and left the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Allana Condron declared a non-pecuniary interest in R4 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - April the reason being she is a Board Member of Ronald McDonald House Wagga and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Allana Condron declared a non-pecuniary interest in CONF 5 2025 Award Negotiation Update the reason being a friend's partner works at Riverina Water and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Lea Parker declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in R4 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - April and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Jenny McKinnon declared a non-pecuniary interest in CONF 5 2025 Award Negotiation Update the reason being a relation works at Riverina Water and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared significant pecuniary interest in CONF 6 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.

Ms Emily Tonacia declared significant pecuniary interest in CONF 5 2025 Award Negotiation Update the reason being the report will at some stage in the near future impact her conditions of employment. She left the room during the discussion.

Mr Troy van Berkel declared significant pecuniary interest in CONF 5 2025 Award Negotiation Update the reason being the report will at some stage in the near future impact his conditions of employment. He left the room during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

25/033 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and G Driscoll

That the minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2025, 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

Special Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2025

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2025

Work Health and Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2025

25/034 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condron and G Driscoll

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Procedural Motion – En Globo

25/035 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

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

25/036

RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That R3, R4, R5, R7, R8, R11, R12, R13, R14, R15, R16, R17, R18, CONF 1, CONF 2, CONF 4 be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R1

List of Investments

25/037

RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and A Condron

That the Board receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of February 2025 and March 2025.

CARRIED

R2

March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement

25/038

RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

That the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 31 March 2025 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

R3

Draft Assistance for Undetected Leak Policy

25/039

RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That Council:

- a) Endorse the draft policy and place it on public exhibition until 30 May 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

R4 Donations and Sponsorships 2024-25 progress report - April

25/040 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That the Board receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R5 Customer and Community Engagement Strategy

25/041 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That Council:

- a) **Endorse the draft Customer and Community Engagement Strategy and place it on public exhibition until 30 May 2025 and invite public submissions on the draft strategy 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 strategy**
 - ii. **Proposing adoption of the strategy unless there are any recommended amendments deemed to be substantial and requiring a further public exhibition period.**

CARRIED

R6 Options for community funding initiatives

25/042 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and J McKinnon

That Council

- a) **Receive and acknowledge the report**
- b) **Endorse Option 1 as contained in the report for the 2025/26 financial year, after which the success of the approach will be reassessed**
- c) **Receive a further report outlining the details of the Community Development Fund process**

CARRIED

R7 Reconciliation Action Plan - progress report

25/043 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R8 Enterprise Risk Framework and Associated Foundational Documents

25/044 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That the Board:

- 1. Adopt the draft revised Enterprise Risk Policy and draft revised Risk Appetite Statements; and**
- 2. Endorse the draft revised Enterprise Risk Management Framework and Plan.**

CARRIED

R9 Leading into 2035 - Riverina Water Business Activity Strategic Plan

25/045 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and J McKinnon

That Council:

- a) Endorse the Riverina Water business activity strategic plan, *Leading into 2035*, and place it on public exhibition for a period of 28 days seeking public submissions**
- b) Note that if no submissions are received during the exhibition period, that the plan will be taken to be adopted by the Board.**
- c) Note that if there are material or significant submissions received a further report will be provided to the June 2025 meeting**

CARRIED

R10 Delivery Program 2025/26-2028/29, LTFP and Operational Plan 2025-26

25/046 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and D Tout

RECOMMENDATION: that Council:

- a) Review the draft Delivery Program 2025/26-2028/29 and the Operational Plan 2025-26, as combined in the DPOP**
- b) Review the draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)**
- c) Place the DPOP and LTFP on public exhibition for a period of 28 days**
- d) Receive a follow up report to the Board in June 2025 to review any changes or submissions from the public with a view to adopting the LTFP and the combined Delivery Program 2025/26-2028/29 and Operational Plan 2025-26**

CARRIED

R11 Lost Time Injury Statistics July 2024 - April 2025

25/047 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That the Board receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) for the period July 2024 to April 2025, noting that the data is accurate as at 14th April 2025.

CARRIED

R12 Acting Chief Executive Officer for 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026

25/048 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That:

- a) The Board appoints the Director Engineering to act in the role of Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent between 1 July and 30 September 2025;**
- b) The Board appoints the Director Corporate Services to act in the role of Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent between 1 October and 31 December 2025;**
- c) The Board appoints the Director Engineering to act in the role of Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent between 1 January and 31 March 2026;**
- d) The Board appoints the Director Corporate Services to act in the role of Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent between 1 April and 30 June 2026.**
- e) In the event a Director acting in the role of Chief Executive Officer is absent, the other Director act in the role of Chief Executive Officer.**

CARRIED

R13 Confirmation of Organisation Structure

25/049 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That Council endorse the organisation structure as referenced in the body of the report, noting no changes to the organisation structure as adopted by Council in April 2024.

CARRIED

R14 Adoption of SCC Constitution

25/050 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That Council endorse the Riverina Water County Council Staff Consultative Committee Constitution dated April 2025

CARRIED

R15 Efficiency Review - Riverina Water & Culcairn Water Supply (Greater Hume Council)

25/051 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That Council approve the submission of the attached report to the Minister for Water.

CARRIED

R16 Council Resolution Sheet

25/052 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That the report detailing the status of the active resolutions of the Board of Riverina Water be noted and received.

CARRIED

R17 Works Report covering February 2025

25/053 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That the Works Report covering February 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

R18 Works Report covering March 2025

25/054 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That the Works Report covering March 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

R19 Tarcutta PFAS Response Update

25/055 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Driscoll and A Condrón

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr Bourke enquired regarding the history of the new Morundah pipeline and what the intention is to do with the existing water treatment plant. Mr van Berkel advised the meeting that construction of the new Boree Creek to Morundah pipeline stands at 32kms constructed thus far and are hitting a lot of rock during construction. Currently looking at contingencies to keep project on track. The intent is to decommission the existing plant due to how labour intensive the current processes are. Clr Bourke enquired if there would be any downsides into the future should something happen in another part of the supply area and whether there is the ability to pull water back into the Wagga network? Mr van Berkel advised that we have a well-integrated network.
2. Mr Crakanthorp advised that on the back of the successful Infor implementation project, Emily Tonacia, has been invited to join the global Infor Customer Advisory Board. The meeting congratulated Emily on her appointment.
3. Clr Tout congratulated staff on the release of the customer portal and advised he has been able to successfully log in. Ms Tonacia updated the meeting to advise we have 190 registrations in the portal as of this morning and over the coming months will commence promoting it to all customers.

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.

25/056 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors L Parker and A Condrón

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 10:58am.

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 13 February 2025

25/057 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Confidential Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 13 February 2025 and receives the Chairperson report in respect of the same meeting.

CARRIED

CONF-2 Appointment of ARIC Chair

25/058 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That Council:

- a) **Endorse the appointment of Mr David Kortum as the Chair of the Riverina Water Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) commencing 1 July 2025 for a period of four years, subject to satisfactory performance**
- b) **Note that an expression of interest for a new independent member of the ARIC will be conducted during May and June 2025.**
- c) **Thank outgoing Chair, Mr Bryce McNair, for his contribution to Riverina Water through his eight years on the ARIC**

CARRIED

CONF-3 Tender - RFT2025/3 W330 - North Wagga Aeration Cover Footings

25/059 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and A Condrón

That the Board receives and notes the report.

CARRIED

CONF-4 Electricity Market Conditions and Contract Arrangements

25/060 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and L Parker

That Council:

- a) Provide the CEO the delegation to enter into an Agreement for retail supply of electricity to small sites (under 100MW hours/Year) to continue the efficient operations of the Riverina Water supply network.**

CARRIED

Clr Driscoll, Troy van Berkel, Emily Tonacia, Josh Lang, Andrew Littlewood and Melissa Vincent left the meeting at 11.00am

CONF-5 2025 Award Negotiation Update

25/061 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors A Condrón and D Tout

That the Board receive and note the report and delegate authority to the CEO to negotiate the 2025 Riverina Water Enterprise Award in the terms as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

Clr Driscoll and Melissa Vincent returned to the meeting at 11:18am.

Andrew Crakanthorp left the meeting at 11:18am

CONF-6 Performance Review - Chief Executive Officer

25/062 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors J McKinnon and A Condrón

That the report on the Mid-Year Performance Review of the Chief Executive Officer be reviewed and Council endorse the recommendation made by the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Panel which noted the Chief Executive Officer's performance overall to be very pleasing.

CARRIED

Andrew Crakanthorp, Emily Tonacia, Troy van Berkel, Josh Lang and Andrew Littlewood returned to the meeting at 11:28am

Reversion to Open Council

25/063 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Tout and P Bourke

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 11:29am.

CARRIED

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 11:32am