

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Wednesday 16 December 2020

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 9:29 am.

Present

Councillor Greg Verdon (Chairperson)
Councillor Pat Bourke
Councillor Yvonne Braid OAM
Councillor Greg Conkey OAM
Councillor Vanessa Keenan
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 Vincent)

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

An apology for non-attendance was received and accepted from Councillor Paul Funnell on the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel.

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R1 List of Investments the reason being his employment with a financial institution and he remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Greg Conkey declared a non-pecuniary interest in R5 Community Grants Program 2020/21 the reason being conflict of interest with some of the applicants and left the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Vanessa Keenan declared a non-pecuniary interest in R5 Community Grants Program 2020/21 the reason being was a member of the grants panel and has conflict of interest with applications from other Councils and left the meeting during the discussion.

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared a non-pecuniary interest in R8 StateCover Annual Workers Compensation and WHS 2019/2020 Report the reason being he is member of the Board of StateCover Mutual and remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Confirmation of Minutes

20/122 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

That the minutes of the meeting of 28 October 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

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2020

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2020

20/123 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and V Keenan

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R1 List of Investments

20/124 RESOLVED:

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

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

CARRIED

R2 Drought Relief Assistance

20/125 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and T Quinn

That Council:

- a) **Receive and note the report detailing the success of the Drought Relief Assistance package; and**
- b) **Endorse that the Drought Relief Assistance package will end at 31 December 2020, with no further extension to be granted.**

CARRIED

R3 Draft Media Policy

20/126 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Koschel

That Council:

- a) **Endorse the draft Media Policy and place it on public exhibition from Thursday 17 December until noon, Friday 29 January 2021 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 draft Media 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 Fluoridation and Water Quality Policies

20/127 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

That Council approve the:

- a) (updated) Fluoridation Policy**
- b) (new) Drinking Water Policy**

CARRIED

Councillors G Conkey and V Keenan left the meeting at 9:37am

R5 Community Grants Program 2020/21

20/128 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That Council approve the successful applications for the Community Grants Program 2020/21 as detailed in the report totalling \$612,836

CARRIED

Councillors V Keenan and G Conkey entered the meeting at 9:42am

Councillor P Bourke entered the meeting at 9:46am

R6 Workshop Operational Plan 2021/2022

20/129 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That Council hold a workshop to discuss key aspects of the 2021/2022 Operational Plan, following Council's February 2021 meeting.

CARRIED

R7 Lost Time Injury Statistics 2020/21 - July-Dec Period

20/130 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and T Quinn

That Council receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries for the July / December period of 2020/21 financial year.

CARRIED

R8 StateCover Annual Workers Compensation and WHS 2019/2020 Report

20/131 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Conkey OAM

That Council notes the results of the StateCover Annual Workers Compensation and WHS 2019/2020 Report.

CARRIED

R9 Council Resolution Sheet

20/132 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and Y Braid OAM

That the report detailing the status of the active resolutions of Council be received

CARRIED

R10 Works Report covering October 2020

20/133 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and G Conkey OAM

That the Works Report covering October 2020 be received and noted.

CARRIED

R11 Works Report covering November 2020

20/134 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and G Conkey OAM

That the Works Report covering November 2020 be received and noted.

CARRIED

Committee Minutes

M1 Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 16 November 2020

20/135 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and G Conkey OAM

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 16 November 2020.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr T Koschel wished Councillors and staff a Merry Christmas and happy New Year and for their support during the year
2. Clr G Conkey congratulated the team for the UGL court case outcome, this is an endorsement of our actions. Clr Conkey also thanked staff for their efforts in the last 12 months
3. Clr P Bourke endorsed what has previously been stated by Clrs Koschel and Conkey, it has been an enjoyable Board to be on and works well together. Congratulations to the General Manager and staff at Riverina Water, thank you to the Board for the comradery this year, Merry Christmas and happy New Year
4. Clr V Keenan wished everyone a Merry Christmas, thank you to Andrew and team for a fantastic year. Shout out to those staff that are working or on standby over break
5. Clr T Quinn congratulates senior staff on creating an organisation that is effective. It is a peaceful Board which is very good. Congratulations to the Chairman on conducting business successfully
6. Clr D Meyer endorsed Clr Bourke's words. Honour to be a member of this Board.
7. Mr A Crakanthorp wishes season's greetings to all and their families, looking forward to returning for a productive 2021. Finishing on Friday for leave, Mr B Spannagle will be acting General Manager for 2 weeks.
8. Mr B Spannagle thanked Councillors for their assistance, good to have a knowledgeable board that understands the organisations directions and strategies. Merry Christmas
9. Clr G Verdon thanked all Councillors and staff for continued encouragement during the year. Extended a special thanks senior staff, in particular, the General Manager and the way they conduct business with Chairperson and keeping informed of issues. Congratulations to staff for their ability to react and respond to issues such as bushfires and COVID-19 and still maintain quality drinking water. Manner in which the UGL matter was dealt with professionally by staff, shows the organisation is well managed and in good hands. Wish everyone and Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

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.

20/136 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 10:37am.

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 Operations Office Refurbishment Project

20/137 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and D Meyer OAM

That Council:

- 1) Notes the progress update on the Operations Office Refurbishment project.**
- 2) Approves the recommended staging and budgets for the Operations Office Refurbishment project.**

CARRIED

Reversion to Open Council

20/138 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 10:41am.

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 the Riverina Water County Council Board
which rose at 10:45am**