

# Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Wednesday 30 June 2021

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

## **Present**

Councillor Greg Verdon (Chairperson)  
Councillor Pat Bourke  
Councillor Vanessa Keenan  
Councillor Tim Koschel  
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM  
Councillor Tony Quinn

## **In Attendance**

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Engineering	(Bede Spannagle)
Interim Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Community Engagement Officer	(Joshua Lang)
Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
ICT Officer	(Dylan Comerford)

## **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**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillor Greg Conkey OAM, Councillor Paul Funnell and Councillor Yvonne Braid OAM the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and V Keenan.

## 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.

Mr Bede Spannagle declared a non-pecuniary interest in CM1 General Manager Remuneration Discussion Paper and he remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Miss Emily Tonacia declared a non-pecuniary interest in CM1 General Manager Remuneration Discussion Paper and she remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared a pecuniary interest in CM1 General Manager Remuneration Discussion Paper and left the meeting.

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared a non-pecuniary interest in CM2 Performance Review - Chief Executive Officer and he remained in the meeting during the discussion.

## Confirmation of Minutes

### **21/048 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and T Quinn

**That the minutes of the meeting of 28 April 2021], 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 20 May 2021

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2021

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2021

Forwarding a copy of Letter from The Hon Shelley Hancock MP Minister for Local Government on 23 June 2021

### **21/049 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Koschel

**That the correspondence be received.**

**CARRIED**

## Chairperson's Minute

Councillor Greg Verdon passed on his congratulations to Miss Emily Tonacia on her appointment as Director of Corporate services. Clr Verdon also welcomed Mrs Jacqui Sloan to Riverina Water as the new water billing officer for 12 months.

*Mr Crakanthorp left the meeting at 10:06am*

*Clr Pat Bourke entered the meeting at 10:06am*

### **CM1      General Manager Remuneration Discussion Paper**

**21/050      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and D Meyer OAM

**That Council make a submission and delegate authority to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to prepare and lodge a submission which favours the status quo remaining.**

**CARRIED**

*Mr Crakanthorp entered the meeting at 10:10am*

### **CM2      Performance Review - Chief Executive Officer**

**21/051      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

**That this report be received and board members provide the Chairperson with any items for consideration by the Performance Review Committee (PRC) prior to 9 August 2021.**

**CARRIED**

## Open Reports

### **R1      List of Investments**

**21/052      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Quinn

**That the report detailing Council's external investments for the months of April and May 2021 be received.**

**CARRIED**

**R2            Draft Delivery Program 2021/22 - 2024/25 and Draft Operational Plan 2021/22**

**21/053        RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

**That the:**

- a) Draft Delivery Program 2021–2025 and Operational Plan 2021/22, as exhibited and following the close of public comments, be adopted as Council's Delivery Program 2021–2025 and Operational Plan 2021/22, subject to the proposed changes listed in the body of this report.**
- b) Fees and charges be made for the 2021/2022 financial year, as outlined in the Draft Operational Plan 2021/2022.**

**CARRIED**

**R3            Lease Extension Wagga Wagga Community Media Incorporated**

**21/054        RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and V Keenan

**RECOMMENDED that Council:**

- a) Approve the extension of the current lease agreement for Part Lot 16 in DP 1132238 being the 2AAA Radio Studio at 29 Young Street, Turvey Park for a period of twenty (20) years expiring October 2040.**
- b) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to execute the extension of the lease agreement.**

**CARRIED**

**R4            Employee Relocation Expenses Policy**

**21/055        RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and V Keenan

**That Council approve the adoption of the Employee Relocation Expenses Policy, IP 3.08**

**CARRIED**

**R5 Determination of fees for board members and chair from 1 July 2021**

**21/056 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and D Meyer OAM

**That Council approve a 2.0% increase in member and chairperson fees for 2021/2022 in line with the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determination**

**CARRIED**

*Clr Tim Koschel requested his vote against the motion be recorded.*

**R6 Determination of fees for independent members of the Riverina Water ARIC 2021-22**

**21/057 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel

**That Council approve a 2% increase in fees for the independent members of the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) as follows: Chairperson \$474 per meeting; Committee member \$354 per meeting**

**CARRIED**

**R7 Change of time for August Board Meeting**

**21/058 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

**That the Board meeting to be held on the 25 August 2021 commence at 3pm to be followed by an end of term dinner function for Board Members and their partners and the Executive Team and their partners that evening.**

**CARRIED**

These minutes note resolution 21/069 which subsequently moved the date of the above meeting to 3pm on 24 August 2021

**R8 Contractual Conditions of Senior Staff**

**21/059 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

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

**CARRIED**

**R9 Policy Review - Board member expenses and facilities**

**21/060 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

**That Council note:**

- a) the updated policy *Board member expenses and facilities – Policy 1.10*
- b) that the policy will be placed on public exhibition; and
- c) that a further report will be provided to the August Board meeting regarding any public feedback and the recommendation to adopt Policy 1.10 as amended

**CARRIED**

**R10 2020/21 Donations and Sponsorships Summary**

**21/061 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

**That Council receive and note the report.**

**CARRIED**

**R11 Council Resolution Sheet**

**21/062 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and T Quinn

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

**CARRIED**

**R12 Net Zero Policy Development**

**21/063 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Quinn

**That Council:**

- a) Acknowledge the receipt of the Net Zero roadmap presentation.
- b) Endorse the development of a Net Zero Policy.

**CARRIED**

**R13 Walla Walla Water Pressure**

**21/064 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel

**That Council;**

- 1) Replace all 20mm services south of the railway line in Walla Walla with 25mm services.**
- 2) Engage the community, and advise the action to be taken to address the petition.**

**CARRIED**

**R14 Humula Steel Tank and Land Matters**

**21/065 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Quinn

**That Council:**

- 1) Dispose of (by selling) the redundant steel reservoir and land in Lot 1 DP520078 at Downfall Road Humula.**
- 2) Delegate authority to the CEO to dispose of (sell) the land.**
- 3) Affix Council's Common Seal to documents as required.**

**CARRIED**

**R15 Works Report covering April 2021**

**21/066 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

**That the Works Report covering April 2021 be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

**R16 Works Report covering May 2021**

**21/067 RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

**That the Works Report covering May 2021 be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

**R17      Audit Risk & Improvement Committee minutes 12 May 2021**

**21/068      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

**That Council review and note the minutes and the Chairman's report of the Riverina Water Audit Risk & Improvement Committee meeting of 12 May 2021.**

**CARRIED**

### **Questions and statements**

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1.    Clr D Meyer observed the Riverina JO meetings being conducted in Canberra the day after the August Board meeting and enquired if the meeting in August could be bought forward to Tuesday 24 August.
2.    Mr A Crakanthorp advised the potential new date for the opening of the Water Treatment Plant is during the tenure of the current Board.
3.    Clr G Verdon proposed to move the August Board meeting forward to the Tuesday 24 August at 3pm.

**21/069      RESOLVED:**

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

**That the date and time for the August meeting of Council be 3pm on Tuesday 24 August 2021**

**CARRIED**

4.    Clr G Verdon will work with the Chief Executive Officer to find a suitable date for the opening of the Water Treatment Plant and the naming of the Pat Brassil AM meeting room and noted that event could be held as a standalone function to fit in with the NSW Minister of Water's calendar.
5.    Clr V Keenan was happy to be invited back for the opening of the Water Treatment Plant if a suitable date is unable to be found during the term of the current board.
6.    Miss E Tonacia advised Riverina Water has received notification from the Audit Office of NSW regarding the appointment of external auditor. Crowe will continue to provide external audits for a further 2 years.
7.    Miss E Tonacia advised Riverina Water had received a request from Greater Hume Council regarding assistance with a large quarterly water bill relating to the Holbrook Swimming Pool and a large leak having been discovered. Riverina Water negotiated a reduced water bill for the Council, noting the circumstances associated with the account.

8. Mr A Crakanthorp advised Atom Consulting has been engaged to complete an efficiency assessments between Riverina Water and the operation of the Culcairn town water supply with a draft report due in a couple of weeks. Atom Consulting has previously completed a similar analysis for Goldenfields Water. Results of the analysis will be presented to the Board along with any recommendations.
9. Mr A Crakanthorp noted the Water Management Conference in Narrabri next week has now been cancelled. Registrants should have received an email advising of two potential dates and their preference. Dates offered were September 2021 and February 2022.

**This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board  
which rose at 11:12am**