

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday 7 August 2026

RAMJO BOARD MEETING

DATE	Friday 7 August 2026
TIME	9:30am – 12:30pm
LOCATION	Club Tocumwal – Tocumwal Golf & Bowls Club
CHAIR	Cr. Ruth McRae OAM
ONLINE LINK	Microsoft Teams Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 454 060 253 147 8 Passcode: bs9q4rm7

ATTENDEES	Council / Organisation	Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
	Albury City Council	Cr. Kevin Mack	Mr Steve McGrath
	Balranald Shire Council	Cr. Louie Zaffina	Mr. Terry Dodds PSM
	Berrigan Shire Council	Cr. Julia Cornwell-McKean	Mr. Cameron Boardman
	Edward River Council	Cr. Ashley Hall	Mr. Jack Bond
	Federation Council	Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mr. Adrian Butler
	Griffith City Council	Cr. Doug Curran	Mr. Scott Grant
	Hay Shire Council	Cr. Carol Oataway	Ms Kirstyn Thronder in the absence of Mr. David Webb
	Leeton Shire Council	Cr. George Weston	Mrs. Jackie Kruger
	Murray River Council	Cr. John Harvie	Mrs. Stacy Williams
	Murrumbidgee Council	Cr. Ruth McRae OAM	Mr. John Scarce
	Narrandera Shire Council	Cr. Neville Kschenka OAM	Mr. Timothy Coote
	Wentworth Shire Council	Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mr. Ken Ross

RAMJO Staff

Mr. Brett Stonestreet PSM	Executive Officer
Mrs. Susan Escott	Administration Officer
Mrs Emma Avery	Regional Resource Recovery Project Manager
Mr Andrew Fisher	JONZA Project Manager

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday 7 August 2026

RAMJO BOARD MEETING

Presenters

Mr. Giles Butler	Director, Regional Coordination - South, Delivery & Engagement, NSW Premier's Department
Mr. Cameron Templeton	Council Engagement Manager - Riverina and Far South-West, NSW Office of Local Government
Ms Louise Taylor	Council Engagement Manager – Southern NSW and Southern/Western Sydney, NSW Office of Local Government
Mr David Heine	Chief Executive Officer, Regional Australia Bank

ATTENDEES

Invited

Ms Sarimah Hellyer	Chief Executive Officer, RDA-Murray
Ms Rachel Whiting	Chief Executive Officer, RDA-Riverina
Ms Jesmine Coromandel	Stakeholder Engagement and Projects Officer - Murray Riverina, Workforce Australia
Cr Shari Blumer	Chair, Murray Darling Association

MEETING AGENDA

ITEM	TOPIC	TIME
1	WELCOME Acknowledgement of Country	9.30
2	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	9.31
3	DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST	9.32
4	MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS 4.1 15 May 2026 Board Meeting – Attachment 4.1	9.33
5	MATTERS AND ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS	9.34
6	PRESENTATIONS 6.1 Mr David Heine - Regional Banking Investment Alliance	9.40
7	UPDATE FROM OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 7.1 Ms Louise Taylor, Council Engagement Manager – Southern NSW and Southern/Western Sydney	10.00

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday 7 August 2026

MEETING AGENDA		
ITEM	TOPIC	TIME
8	UPDATE FROM NSW PREMIERS' DEPARTMENT 8.1 Mr. Giles Butler, <i>Director Regional Coordination</i>	10.15
MORNING TEA		10.30
9	STRATEGY, ADVOCACY and POLICY 9.1 Future format of RAMJO meetings – <i>Attachment 9.1</i> 9.2 Advocacy Brochure 9.3 Regional Coordination Support Program- Advocacy to Extend Program – <i>Attachment 9.3</i> 9.4 Murray Darling Basin Communities Advocacy Campaign – <i>Attachment 9.4</i> 9.5 Murray River Tourism - Skills Based Director Vacancy - Panel Nomination – <i>Attachments 9.5a & 9.5b</i> 9.6 Policies for revision and/or adoption: • <i>Attachment 9.6a</i> - Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy • <i>Attachment 9.6b</i> – Flexible Working Arrangements Policy	10.45
10	REPORTS FOR NOTING 10.1 Draft Minutes of ARIC meeting 13 May 2026 – <i>Attachment 10.1</i> 10.2 Draft Minutes of General Managers Advisory Committee 17 July 2026 – <i>Attachment 10.2a</i> and Executive Summary - <i>Attachment 10.2b</i>	12.15
11	GENERAL BUSINESS 11.1 Call for general business by the Chair	12.25
12	MEETING CLOSE	12.30

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday 7 August 2026

1 – WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chair to welcome attendees and acknowledgement of country.

2 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies have been received from Mr Cameron Templeton, Mr David Webb, Mr John Scarce, Ms Rachel Whiting

Recommendation:

That apologies be accepted and that leave of absence be granted.

3 – DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST

Attendees to note any declarations.

4 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 15 May 2026 Board Meeting

Tabling of Draft minutes of Board Meeting of 15 May 2026– *Attachment 4.1*

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held 15 May 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

5 – MATTERS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS

ACTIONS IN PROGRESS			
MEETING	ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
13/2/2026	7.2 Office of Local Government Update	OLG to seek clarification to identify who should pay rates when developers lease farmland and land is rezoned	OUTSTANDING Awaiting response from OLG
15/5/2026	4 Minutes of previous meeting	Update minute format to clearly identify actual attendees	COMPLETED
15/5/2026	6.1 Andrew Cottrill, nbnCo	Andrew Cottrill to share presentation with Members	
		Councils to support community awareness campaigns around fibre upgrades and digital inclusion.	ONGOING

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday 7 August 2026

ACTIONS IN PROGRESS			
MEETING	ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
15/5/2026	7.1 Office of Local Government Update	Louise took on notice to answer question of who is to pay if code of conduct matter is to appear at Land & Environment Court?	
15/5/2026	8.1 NSW Premiers Department Update	RAMJO to write a letter to Premiers Dept, State and Federal Government representatives, and others identified by Giles, to advocate for regional fuel security for agriculture-dependent communities	COMPLETED Report provided to GMAC 17/7/26
15/5/2026	9.1 Q3 25/26FY Operational Budget Review	EO to Prepare report for next Board meeting to: - Clarify restricted vs unrestricted funds - Provide recommendations on internal reserves	COMPLETED Report provided to this meeting
15/05/2026	9.2 Executive Officers Update	EO to Investigate shared or reduced cost ARIC model	ONGOING Report provided to GMAC 17/7/26
15/05/2026	9.3 Draft Budget 2026/2027	EO to arrange purchase of vehicle from Albury City or Murrumbidgee to meet contractual agreement and report back to Board	COMPLETED Report provided to GMAC 17/7/26
15/05/2026	11.4 Change of location of meetings	EO to investigate meeting in Sydney with ministers once a year. Speak with other JOs and Megan Mulroney, EO if REROC, and report to August meeting.	ONGOING

Recommendation:

That the Board note the status of matters arising from previous Board meetings.

6 – PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Mr David Heine, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Bank Australia

David Heine from Regional Bank Australia to present a report on Regional Banking Investment Alliance

Recommendation:

That the Board note the presentations from Regional Bank Australia

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday 7 August 2026

7 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

7.1 Office of Local Government Council Engagement Manager Update

Ms Louise Taylor, *Council Engagement Manager* – Southern NSW and Southern/Western Sydney to provide an update and discuss current focuses of the Office of Local Government in the absence of Mr Cameron Templeton, Council Engagement Manager - Riverina and Far South-West.

Recommendation:

That the Board note the updates provided by Ms Louise Taylor of Office of Local Government

8 – NSW PREMIERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

8.1 NSW Premiers Department Update

Mr Giles Butler, Director - Regional Coordination South, Delivery & Engagement, to provide an update and discuss current focuses of the NSW Premiers Department.

Recommendation:

That the Board note the update provided by Mr Giles Butler of the NSW Premiers Department.

MORNING TEA BREAK – 15 Mins

9 – STRATEGY, ADVOCACY and POLICY

9.1 Future format of RAMJO Board meetings

At the May Board meeting a Notice of Motion by Cr Cornwall McKean was endorsed. The Board will commit at least one hour at the August meeting to discuss the future format of RAMJO meetings to include, at a minimum:

- Consideration of how RAMJO meetings can become more strategic with a view to harness collective advocacy power on common issues
- Consideration of reducing time on operational/for noting matters including delegating GMAC or providing out of session email/advice wherever possible
- Consideration of options to reduce time spent on RAMJO operational matters (eg charter, budgets) including the possibility of delegating to a subcommittee wherever possible

Attachment 9.1 to be utilised as a guide.

Recommendation:

That the RAMJO Board discuss the format of future meetings and adopt the format decided on in the meeting

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday 7 August 2026

9.2 Advocacy Brochure

Cr Cornwall McKean has submitted a Notice of Motion as follows:

"That RAMJO staff develop an advocacy brochure that utilises material from RAMJO's Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities and related subcommittee material to highlight key advocacy points for the upcoming state election with the final content of the brochure to be agreed by GMAC before the next RAMJO meeting."

With an upcoming state election on 13 March 2027 it will be useful for RAMJO Mayors and GMs to have a brochure available to provide to influential stakeholders involved in the electoral process.

This Notice of Motion directly relates to the role of RAMJO outlined in section 2.4 of the Charter, in particular parts (i), (iv) and (v), and the principal functions outlined in section 2.5.

Recommendation:

That RAMJO staff develop an advocacy brochure that utilises material from RAMJO's *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities* and related subcommittee material to highlight key advocacy points for the upcoming state election with the final content of the brochure to be agreed by GMAC before the next RAMJO meeting.

9.3 Regional Coordination Support Program- Advocacy to Extend Program

Please refer to report – **Attachment 9.3** regarding the Regional Coordination Support Program to be presented by Project Manager, Emma Avery.

Recommendation:

That the Board supports the proposed advocacy position on WaSM 2 funding

9.4 Murray Darling Basin Communities Advocacy Campaign

Please refer to report – **Attachment 9.4** regarding a proposal for a regional advocacy campaign regarding the Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review to be presented by Executive Officer.

9.5 Murray River Tourism - Skills Based Director Vacancy - Panel Nomination

Please refer to report by Executive Officer – **Attachment 9.5a**, regarding a request from Murray River Tourism for nomination to Skills Based Director Vacancy Panel – email attached **Attachment 9.5b**.

9.6 Policies for revision and/or adoption

Please refer to RAMJO Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy – **Attachment 9.6a** and the Flexible Working Arrangements Policy – **Attachment 9.6b** for endorsement. The former policy is due for renewal and the latter policy was adopted in February 2026 with the proviso that it would be revisited once Executive Officer and accommodations were confirmed.

Henceforth one or two policies will be submitted to each meeting for adoption or renewal, with a four year renewal where applicable.

Recommendation:

That the Board adopt the RAMJO Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy and the RAMJO Flexible Working Arrangements Policy

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday 7 August 2026



10 – REPORTS FOR NOTING

10.1 Draft Minutes of the ARIC Committee Meeting 11 February 2026

Please refer to the draft minutes of the Audit Risk Improvement Committee held 13 May 2026 – *Attachment 10.1*

10.2 Draft Minutes of General Managers Advisory Committee 17 April 2026

Please refer to the draft minutes of the General Managers Advisory Committee meeting held 17 July 2026 – *Attachment 10.2a* and the Executive Summary *Attachment 10.2b*

Recommendation:

That the Board note the reports provided in items 10.1 – 10.2.

11 – GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Call for General Business by the Chair.

12 – MEETING CLOSE

The next meeting of the RAMJO Board is proposed for 9am 16 October 2026 at Edward River Council. Venue to be confirmed.