

# BOARD MEETING

25 February 2022

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>RAMJO Board Meeting</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2022		
<b>TIME:</b>	9:30am – 12:30pm		
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Jerilderie		
<b>CHAIR:</b>	TBA		
<b>ZOOM:</b>	<a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83376083792?pwd=SzdabHNkRFpDZVEzTitYN3lwZUpjZz09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83376083792?pwd=SzdabHNkRFpDZVEzTitYN3lwZUpjZz09</a> Meeting ID: 833 7608 3792 Passcode: 579303		
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	<b>Council / Organisation</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>	<b>Non-Voting Member</b>
	Albury City Council	Cr. Kylie King	Mr. Frank Zaknich
	Berrigan Shire Council	Cr. Matthew Hannan	Ms. Karina Ewer
	Carrathool Shire Council	Cr. Darryl Jardine	Mr. Rick Warren
	Edward River Council	Cr. Peta Betts	Mr. Philip Stone
	Federation Council	Cr. Pat Bourke	Mr. Adrian Butler
	Griffith City Council	Cr. Doug Curran	Mr. Brett Stonestreet
	Hay Shire Council	Cr. Carol Oataway	Mr. David Webb
	Leeton Shire Council	Cr. Tony Reneker	Ms. Jackie Kruger
	Murray River Council	Cr. Chris Bilkey	Mr. Terry Dodds
	Murrumbidgee Council	Cr. Ruth McRae	Mr. John Scarce
	Narrandera Shire Council	Cr. Neville Kschenka	Mr. George Cowan
	Regional NSW		Mr. Giles Butler
	Office of Local Government		Mr. Cameron Templeton
<b>RAMJO STAFF</b>	Ms Nicola Gleeson Coopes –Executive Officer E: <a href="mailto:Nicola.GleesonCooopes@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">Nicola.GleesonCooopes@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a> M: 0408 498 534		
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>
	Ms Ally Dench	Office of Local Government	Executive Director

## MEETING AGENDA

Item	Topic	Time
	<b>OPENING</b>	9:30
1	Election of Chair for Initial Stage of meeting	9.31
2	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement of traditional custodians</li> </ul>	9:35
3	Apologies and Leave of Absence	9:36
4	Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons	9:37
5	Election of RAMJO Chair	9.38
6	Annual reimbursement to Chairperson	9.40
7	Election of RAMJO Deputy Chair	9.45
8	Matters arising from previous Board meetings	9:50
9	Minutes from previous Board meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 November 2021</li> </ul>	9:55
10	Introduction to Joint Organisations and RAMJO	9:56
	<b>BREAK</b>	10:30
11	<b>OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE</b> Mr. Cameron Templeton: Office of Local Government Update	10:45
12	<b>Update - Regional NSW</b> Mr Giles Butler : Director Riverina Murray of Regional NSW	10.50
13	<b>Guest Presenter –Ally Dench</b> - Office of Local Government	11:00
14	<b>GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14.1 Nicola Gleeson Coopes: Q2 2021-2022 Budget Report</li> <li>14.2 Nicola Gleeson Coopes: JO Review report and discussion</li> <li>14.3 Nicola Gleeson Coopes: Revised 2021-2022 forecast – Attachment D, Attachment E</li> <li>14.4 Nicola Gleeson Coopes: Member Fee guidance for local government budgets</li> <li>14.5 Nicola Gleeson Coopes : Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee</li> </ul>	11:15
15	<b>UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15.1 Sub Groups review and summary</li> <li>15.2 Cr. Chris Bilkey: Water Sub-Committee Update</li> <li>15.3 Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity Sub-Committee Update</li> <li>15.4 George Cowan: Energy Security Sub-Committee</li> <li>15.5 David Webb: Regional Freight Transport Plan</li> <li>15.6 John Scarce: Health Committee Update</li> <li>15.7 Revised Regional Strategic Priorities</li> </ul>	11:35

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Item	Topic	Time
16	<b>ADVOCACY</b> 16.1 Local Councils' Domestic Waste Charges Review 16.2 IPART rates peg for 2022-2023 16.3 Planning regime changes 16.4 One Basin CRC 16.5 Electric Vehicle charging stations 16.6 Southern Lights	11:55
17	<b>PROJECT UPDATES – information Only</b> <i>Written reports, taken as read.</i> 17.1 <b>Matthew Dudley:</b> Contaminated Land Management 17.2 <b>Kirstie Muntz and Andrea Baldwin:</b> Regional Waste Kerbside Contract & Waste Groups 17.3 <b>Nicola Gleeson Coopes :</b> Energy Audit and Strategy 17.4 <b>Karina Ewer :</b> Shared Services	12:05
18	<b>OPERATIONAL MATTERS</b> 18.1 General Managers and Engineers group minutes 18.2 Board dates and locations for 2022	12:15
19	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call for general business</li> </ul>	12:20
Meeting Close		12:30

## RAMJO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### AGENDA ITEM 1 – ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR INITIAL STAGE OF MEETING

The position of RAMJO Chairperson is currently vacant. The RAMJO Returning Officer is the Executive Officer Nicola Gleeson Coopes.

The Returning Officer invited nominations for the position of Chair to chair this meeting of RAMJO. Cr Ruth McRae was nominated by Cr Matthew Hannan and Cr Doug Curran, and was elected unopposed.

#### Recommendation:

- That nominations for the position of Chairperson for this meeting be accepted.
- That in the event of there being more than one nominee, the RAMJO Board determine by resolution, the method by which the election be conducted being: preferential ballot, ordinary ballot or open voting.
- That the Returning Officer conduct the election for the position of Chairperson for this meeting.

***Moved Berrigan, seconded Griffith***

Carried

### AGENDA ITEM 2 – WELCOME

Meeting Chair Cr Ruth McRae welcomed attendees and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the region.

Specific welcome was extended to new RAMJO board members :

- Cr Peta Betts, Mayor Edward River
- Cr Doug Curran, Mayor Griffith
- Cr Kylie King, Mayor Albury City
- Cr Carol Oataway, Mayor Hay Shire
- Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor Leeton Shire

Cr Ruth McRae spoke about the passing of former RAMJO board member Norm Brennan, and asked that Cr Peta Betts and Mr Phil Stone convey our deep sorrow to Edward River for his loss.

### AGENDA ITEM 3 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies:

Cr Pat Bourke, and Mr Adrian Butler (for part of the meeting). Cr Kylie King will be late to the meeting.

#### Recommendation:

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

***Moved Berrigan, seconded Narrandera***

Carried

### AGENDA ITEM 4 – DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST – BOARD MEMBERS / DESIGNATED PERSONS

## AGENDA ITEM 5 – ELECTION OF A NEW CHAIR

The Executive Officer acted as the Returning Officer, and announced that one nomination had been received, Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor of Berrigan Shire, nominated by Cr Doug Curran and Cr Tony Reneker. With only one nomination, Cr Matthew Hannan was elected unopposed as the Chair of RAMJO.

### Recommendation:

- That nominations for the position of Chairperson be accepted.
- That in the event of there being more than one nominee, the RAMJO Board determine by resolution, the method by which the election be conducted being: preferential ballot, ordinary ballot or open voting.
- That the Returning Officer conduct the election for the position of Chairperson.
- That the Chairperson hold office for a two-year period through to February 2024

*Moved Griffith, seconded Leeton*

**Carried**

The newly elected Chair took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

## AGENDA ITEM 6 – ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT TO CHAIRPERSON

Whilst there is no specific provision in the Joint Organisation legislation to make an annual payment to the Chairperson, up to now RAMJO has believed that an annual remuneration is appropriate, based on the additional workload placed on the Chairperson over and above their role as a Mayor, and in line with the legislative provisions that already apply to Mayors and County Council Chairpersons. The General Managers reviewed these payments at the January 2022 meeting and recommended to the Board that the payment remain \$10,000 per annum, paid monthly for the term of the two year Chairperson term. There remain no payment to the Deputy Chair.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board adopt that the annual remuneration for the Chairperson position is \$10,000 per annum, paid monthly for term of the two year Chairperson term. There remain no payment to the Deputy Chair.

*Moved Murray River, seconded Murrumbidgee*

**Carried**

## AGENDA ITEM 7 – ELECTION OF A DEPUTY CHAIR

The Executive Officer acted as the Returning Officer, and announced that one nominee had been received, for Cr Pat Bourke, Mayor of Federation Council, nominated by Cr Ruth McRae, and Cr Pat Bourke. With only one nomination, Cr Pat Bourke was elected unopposed as the Deputy Chair of RAMJO.

### Recommendation:

- That nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson be accepted.
- That in the event of there being more than one nominee, the RAMJO Board determine by resolution, the method by which the election be conducted being: preferential ballot, ordinary ballot or open voting.
- That the Returning Officer conduct the election for the position of Deputy Chairperson.
- That the Deputy Chairperson hold office for a two-year period through to February 2024

Carried

## AGENDA ITEM 8 – MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS RAMJO BOARD MEETINGS

ITEM	STATUS
Executive Officer to consider releasing joint media release with other JOs regarding Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement	IN PROGRESS
Invite Water NSW Director Vince Kelly to RAMJO Water Security Sub Committee meeting to seek clarity on planned infrastructure changes	IN PROGRESS
RAMJO to host a cross border workshop with the Murray Group of Councils to consider matters in common and seek opportunities for collaboration	IN PROGRESS
RAMJO to write in support of a feasibility study for Lake Coolah / Lake Mejum, to be sent to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce</li> <li>o Deputy Premier NSW, Paul Toole</li> <li>o Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley,</li> <li>o Chair National Water Grid Authority, Christopher Lynch</li> <li>o NSW Water Minister, Melinda Pavey</li> <li>o Federal Water Minister, Keith Pitt</li> <li>o Commonwealth Water Holder, Jody Swirepik</li> <li>o Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston</li> </ul> With a copy to any other agencies that emerge as relevant stakeholders.	IN PROGRESS

### Recommendation:

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

**Moved Murrumbidgee, seconded Leeton**

Carried

## AGENDA ITEM 9 – MINUTES OF 19 NOVEMBER 2021

- Draft Minutes of 19 November 2021 – **Attachment A**

### Recommendation:

- That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held 19 November 2021 be **received** and the recommendations therein be **adopted**.

**Moved Murrumbidgee, seconded Narrandera**

Carried

## AGENDA ITEM 10 – RAMJO AND JOINT ORGANISATIONS INTRODUCTION

Nicola Gleeson Coopes gave an overview of joint organisations and RAMJO's structure and work. The presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Nicola Gleeson Coopes.

**Moved Murrumbidgee, seconded Edward River**

Carried

## AGENDA ITEM 11 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Mr Cameron Templeton gave a verbal update from the Office of Local Government. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (old DPIE) is now Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). OLG has moved to a section with Cemeteries and Crematoria, Crown Lands, and Aboriginal Housing.

As the result of the JO review an interagency committee has been set up, including EPE, Resilience NSW, Housing, Transport. The intention is to raise the status of JOs within state government departments.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board note the briefing from the Office of Local Government

**Moved Leeton, seconded Narrandera**

Carried

## AGENDA ITEM 12 – PRESENTATION – REGIONAL NSW

Giles Butler, Director Riverina Murray of Regional NSW provided a presentation on the structure and aims of the Department of Regional NSW, and Regional Development.

There was a discussion about using the JO as a way to feed issues that arise through developing individual CSPs into state government, and engaging as a collective.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board note the presentation by Giles Butler.

**Moved Griffith, seconded Carrathool**

Carried

At 11am Mayor Kylie King joined the meeting.

## AGENDA ITEM 13 – GUEST PRESENTER – ALLY DENCH - OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ms Ally Dench was delayed in joining the meeting, this agenda item took place after Agenda item 15.2.

Ally Dench is the Executive Director Local Government at the Office of Local Government, she gave a presentation on OLG and its structure. She is responsible for implementing most of the outcomes of the JO review. She will conduct a listening tour for the JOs.

She welcomes contact from councils directly. Her email address is [ally.dench@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ally.dench@olg.nsw.gov.au), her mobile is 0408 652 923.

Mr Brett Stonestreet asked about the Community Services Plans and their links to state government, and Ms Ally Dench agreed there was a need to improve the links between state planning for regions and 'place based setting'.

Mr George Cowan raised concerns about the long term financial sustainability of councils, given the rate peg of 0.7%, and the underlying calculation methodology IPART is using. Ms Ally Dench let the board know the Local Government Minister is also concerned with these issues.

Mr Terry Dodds expressed concerns about the calculation of the growth factor in the rate peg, as for Murray River those numbers are materially incorrect. Ms Ally Dench will take on notice.



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Mr Frank Zaknich raised the upcoming ARIC framework for JOs was overly onerous. Ms Ally Dench will take on notice.

Mr Phil Stone raised that funding the entirety of the joint organisations while facing a low rate peg created financial strain.

Mr Brett Stonestreet asked if there was potential to look at the financial assistance grant formula, as it favoured metropolitan councils who had other avenues of revenue available to them. Ms Ally Dench will take on notice.

Mr John Scarce asked if it was time for a full review of the Local Government Act. Ms Ally Dench advised this was a possibility.

**Recommendation:**

- That the Board note the presentation by Ally Dench.

***Moved Carrathool, seconded Murrumbidgee***

**Carried**

## AGENDA ITEM 14 – GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

### 14.1: Quarterly Budget vs Spend Review Q2 2021-2022

Please find at **Attachment B** a spreadsheet documenting Q2 spend to date against budgeted items for FY2021-2022. As in previous quarter, the format has been changed slightly, to introduce a year to date cycled budget column, and a variance column against this cycled budget. The final two columns are the same, the full year budget, and a variance column for this full year budget against year to date actuals. No further changes will be made until the new budget with the new board. The budget has been cycled in line with actuals where this is known, otherwise quarterly evenly.

**Relating to income:**

- RAMJO budgeted to receive \$ 226,711 year to date, and \$ 325,199 has been received. This is due to the timing of receiving last year's Procurement Australia Rebate (\$61,325), and the unbudgeted Energy audit and strategy grant. a material variance.
- RAMJO has not recognised the \$150k from OLG NSW received in late June 2021 for capacity building funds yet, it is currently on the balance sheet as unearned income in advance.

**Relating to expenses:**

- RAMJO budgeted to spend \$296,938 year to date, and spent \$178,743 at the end of Q2.
- This variance is due to:
  - Salary and wages are \$99,752 less than budget, due to the resignation of the Executive Officer, and the office manager acting in this role at a lower rate, part time. Additionally, there has been no invoice from Albury City for the Stakeholder and Project Manager year to date. There will be an overall underspend in salaries due to this.
  - Timing differences due to even cycling, Q1 and Q2 have been quiet due to COVID meaning meetings are online.

**Recommendation:**

- That the RAMJO Board note the 2021-2022 Q2 budget versus spend report.

***Moved Murrumbidgee, seconded Edward River***

**Carried**



## 14.2: JO Review report and discussion

The JO review was released at the start of December 2021, and a summary from RAMJO's perspective is found at **Appendix C**.

The JO network continues to advocate on this issue, especially around funding implications. The JO review report was adopted by the previous Minister, the new Minister is revisiting, and submissions are encouraged.

The board felt a strong message needed to be sent to state government about ensuring the strength of the JOs. The language used in the recommendations around 'encouraging' state government agencies is not firm enough. The possibility of another layer of administration over the JO is disappointing.

The board would like the Premier to visit the regions, as well as the new Minister for Local Government.

### Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board receive and note the Joint Organisation Review summary.

**Moved Leeton, seconded Murrumbidgee**

Carried

## 14.3: Revised 2021-2022 forecast

On the basis of the previous two agenda items, a discussion of RAMJO's proposed revised end of year forecast is attached at **Attachment D**, with the detailed reforecast at **Attachment E**. The original budget had a deficit position of (\$252,872). This reforecast is currently a deficit of (\$76,890), before any further staffing changes.

The General Managers supported a new admin hire as requested in the report attached, continuing to support Southern Lights (separate agenda item 13.5), Increased consultancy for the Regional Strategic Priorities.

There is no current provision to meet ARIC requirements (Agenda item 14.5).

### Recommendation:

- That the Board approve the revised 2021-2022 RAMJO General Fund forecast, and the revision of the Office Manager position to a two year fixed term position shared with the Waste project.

**Moved Narrandera, seconded Murrumbidgee**

Carried

## 14.4: Member Fee guidance for local government budgets

As part of RAMJO's annual budget process, guidance on member subscription fees for the upcoming financial year should be provided to the Board in the February meeting of each year, to support member council budgeting. The full operational budget is brought to the Board for endorsement at its April meeting. It is proposed that fees be in line with 2021-2022 financial year, with any increase within the rate cap of 0.7%.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board notes the proposed fees for member councils for 2022-2023, for council budget purposes.

**Moved Griffith, seconded Murray River**

Carried

## 14.5: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

All RAMJO councils are currently compliant or working towards the changing Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) requirements.

JOs must appoint an ARIC from 4 June 2022, but this does not have to comply with the guidelines until 2027. JOs have until 2025 to establish a risk management framework and internal function. RAMJO has been following up the last submission made to OLG, and investigating options to be compliant through a shared committee with a member council.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board notes the upcoming requirements for RAMJO to have an Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.

**Moved Murrumbidgee, seconded Leeton**

Carried

## AGENDA ITEM 15 –STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

### 15.1: Sub Groups review and summary

As the strategic regional priorities will be reviewed after all councils have reviewed their Community Strategic Plans, RAMJO proposes that all sub group memberships remain the same– with the option of any new mayor to join or change groups as their interests and expertise lie.

**Attachment F** summarises Sub Groups, and seeks support for secretarial support for the groups move back to the host councils. Mr John Scarce will step down as the Chair of the Digital Connectivity sub committee, and Mr Phil Stone will take over this Chair.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board endorse the memberships and Chairs of strategic priority sub groups as they are, with the option of the new mayors joining groups they are interested in.
- That the Board endorse the secretarial support for the sub groups moves back to the host council wherever practicable, and catering costs remain with RAMJO.

**Moved Murrumbidgee, seconded Albury**

Carried

### 15.2 Cr. Chris Bilkey: Water

The water sub group is reviewing and updating the RAMJO Water Position paper in line with NSW Water Strategy, ACCC report. Cr Chris Bilkey, Chair of the Water Sub Committee, the EO, and George Cowan met with the incoming Minister of Water and Lands Kevin Anderson MP to brief him on RAMJO's Water Position Paper. Steph Cooke MP also attended the meeting.

There will be a renewed focus on quantifying the outcomes and achievements of the Water paper.

### 15.3 Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity

The grants with FSG are being followed up. A second round of grants are being applied for. Regional Connectivity Blackspot mapping rounds will open again soon. Mr John Scarce advised he had asked Telstra about the implications of their recent announced agreement with TPG for regional areas.

### 15.4: George Cowan: Energy Security

There is a regional visit by Lisa Miller from DPIE and Simon Wright, the energy subject matter expert 21-23 February. The aims of these meetings is :

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- To understand where each council is at with its energy thinking and actions.
- To understand respective needs in terms of direct support to accelerate transition to renewables.
- To explain potential approaches and turn DPIE's support into action plans over the next few months.

Progress on the regional strategy continues.

#### 15.5: David Webb: Regional Freight Transport Plan

Engineers have met to revisit the revised regional Freight Priorities. Brad Ferris will be in touch to follow up any outstanding council reviews. These priorities will be mapped and collated and brought back to the next General Managers' meeting.

#### 15.6 John Scarce: Health

The Health Sub Committee has not met since last Board meeting. Mapping is progressing on regional issues. Local MP Justin Clancy is now the Parliamentary Secretary for Health and has been open about his support for RAMJO.

#### 15.7 Revised Regional Strategic Priorities

To progress the RAMJO new Regional Strategic Priorities, as most councils are not expecting significant changes with their CSPs, RAMJO should start a series of workshops with member councils and the RAMJO Board.

#### Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the strategic priorities updates.

**Moved Murray River, seconded Leeton**

Carried

## AGENDA ITEM 16 – ADVOCACY

#### 16.1 Local Councils' Domestic Waste Charges Review

IPART is seeking feedback on a proposed 'benchmark' waste peg (similar to the rates peg), an annual report naming councils with increases greater than the peg, and standard pricing principles. Submissions are due by 29 April 2022.

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **delegate** the Domestic Waste Charges Review RAMJO submission to the General Managers.

**Moved Murrumbidgee, seconded Griffith**

Carried

#### 16.2 IPART rates peg for 2022-2023

There is concern at the base level 0.7% rate peg for the 2022-2023 financial year. RAMJO is making a submission, Board to delegate to the General Managers for finalisation by the due date of 7 March 2022.

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the IPART rate peg for RAMJO councils with concern, and **delegate** the RAMJO submission to the General Managers.

**Moved Narrandera, seconded Leeton**

Carried

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## 16.3 Planning regime changes

There have been a handful of planning changes with very short timeframes, which RAMJO is concerned by, and is seeking further information on. These include *Significant Agricultural Land, Discussion Paper: A New Approach to Rezoning*, and *Infrastructure Contributions System's Reform Program*. The Planning Officers Working Group will review and recommend a response from RAMJO.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board **delegate** the RAMJO submission/s on recent Planning changes to the General Managers.

**Moved Murrumbidgee, seconded Carrathool**

Carried

## 16.4 One Basin CRC

The ONE Basin CRC bid that RAMJO is a partner in has been successfully shortlisted for Stage 2 of the application process. There have been five other bids shortlisted (List is here: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/cooperative-research-centres-crc-grants>). The Stage 2 bid will be submitted before Feb 3 2022 and CRC Advisory Panel interview end of March.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the One Basin CRC bid update.

**Moved Murrumbidgee, seconded Edward River**

Carried

## 16.5 Electronic Vehicle charging stations

There is momentum and multiple funding streams related to Electronic Vehicles at the moment. The General Managers agreed there was value in working together at a RAMJO level. The Engineers working group will review and decide on RAMJO's action.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the Electronic Vehicle update.

**Moved Griffith, seconded Murrumbidgee**

Carried

## 16.6 Southern Lights

The next stage for the Southern Lights project is discussed at **Attachment G**, these recommendations were discussed and approved by the General Managers.

### Recommendation:

- RAMJO wind-back its involvement with Southern Lights to focus on the finalisation of the roll-out for the Member Councils and on addressing the performance issues which includes: Essential Energy Performance Reports, Public Lighting Code Reviews and Australian Energy Regulator Pricing Review.
- RAMJO continues to budget for contributions to expert consultant advice through Southern Lights, approximately \$5,000 per annum.
- Mr Brad Ferris, Deputy CEO Albury City remain the RAMJO delegate.

**Moved Albury, seconded Leeton**

Carried

## AGENDA ITEM 17 – PROJECT UPDATES

Written updates on each project currently being managed by RAMJO provided as attachments.

- 17.1: Contaminated Lands Management – **Attachment H**
- 17.2: Riverina Waste Group & Murray Waste Group – **Attachment I**
- 17.3: Energy Audits and Strategy – verbal update
- 17.4: Karina Ewer : Shared Services– verbal update

### Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **receive** and **note** the project updates.

**Moved Edward River, seconded Murrumbidgee**  
**Carried**

## AGENDA ITEM 18 – OPERATIONAL MATTERS

### 18.1 – General Managers Group Meeting Minutes

The General Managers met on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022, minutes can be found at **Attachment J**.

### 18.2 – Murray Regional Tourism

**Appendix K** has the report from Ms Karina Ewer on the latest meeting of MRT, to be taken as read.

### 18.3 Board dates and locations for 2022

The full calendar is at **Attachment L**, proposal is summarised below:

#### MEETING DATES 2022

GENERAL MANAGERS	RAMJO BOARD	BOARD MEETING LOCATION
Friday 28 January 2022	Friday 25 February 2022	Jerilderie
Friday 22 April 2022	Friday 13 May 2022	Griffith
Friday 22 July 2022	Friday 12 August 2022	Edward River
Friday 14 October 2022	Friday 11 November 2022	Leeton

Extraordinary board meeting –to sign 2021/2022 financial statements, Thursday 13 October.

The board decided on the board meeting locations for the year.

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Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO board **adopt** the meeting schedule for 2022.
- That the RAMJO Board **note** the operational updates.

***Moved Griffith, seconded Narrandera***

**Carried**

## AGENDA ITEM 19 – GENERAL BUSINESS

- JO review

Mr Phil Stone recommended that RAMJO respond strongly to the JO review, especially around funding. There was discussion about other ways to fund the JO, including grant administration.

- Australian Fuel Security

As evidenced by the recent issues with AdBlue shortages, Cr Neville Kschenka raised concerns about Australian Fuel Security.

- Crown Land

Interaction with Crown Land holder.

- MRT verbal update

The Murray Regional Tourism board meeting was held 24 February and Ms Karina Ewer gave a verbal update. Funding \$25-50k (in total) requested from the RAMJO group for funding application.

Destination Management plans are up for review, engagement sessions are upcoming. Ms Karina Ewer will circulate dates.

Possible gambling caps are coming to Vic, impact on NSW following.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.

## MEETING CLOSE