

BOARD MEETING

12 August 2022

MEETING:	RAMJO Board Meeting		
DATE:	Friday 12 th August 2022		
TIME:	9:30am – 12:30pm		
LOCATION:	Deniliquin		
CHAIR:	Cr. Matthew Hannan		
ZOOM:	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85913765927?pwd=cnJuV0hPZ0F5anQ0RU5CdzlWsktldz09 Meeting ID: 859 1376 5927 Passcode: 220012		
ATTENDEES:	Council / Organisation	Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
	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	
RAMJO STAFF	Ms Nicola Gleeson – Executive Officer E: Nicola.GleesonCoopes@alburycity.nsw.gov.au M: 0408 498 534		
	Ms. Carolyn Clancy – Office Manager E: carolyn.clancy@alburycity.nsw.gov.au		
	Mr Matthew Dudley – Project Manager Contaminated Land Capacity Building E: contaminatedlands@ramjo.nsw.gov.au M: 0419 181 014		
	Mr. Christian Malins - Resource Recovery Project Lead christian.malins@alburycity.nsw.gov.au M: 0439 630 612		
OTHER ATTENDEES	Name	Organisation	Role
	Mr Jonathan Wheaton	Regional NSW	Executive Director, Regional Development
	Ms Kirstyn Thronder	Hay Shire Council	Executive Officer

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	Mr Andrew McConville	Murray–Darling Basin Authority	Chief Executive
	Mr. Haydon Murdoch	Department of Planning and Environment	Manager, Local and Regional Planning
	Ms Dianna Somerville	Regional Development Australia Riverina	Board Chair

MINUTES

MEETING AGENDA

Item	Topic	Time
	OPENING	9:30
1	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of traditional custodians 	9:35
2	Apologies and Leave of Absence	9:36
3	Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons	9:37
4	Minutes from previous Board meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 May 2022 – Attachment A 	9:38
5	Matters arising from previous Board meetings	9:39
6	Correspondence - Attachment B	9.40
	GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE	
7	7.1 Ms Nicola Gleeson: Q4 2021-2022 Budget Report – Attachment C 7.2 Ms Nicola Gleeson: End of Financial Year 2021-2022 7.3 Ms Nicola Gleeson: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee – Attachment D, Attachment E, Attachment F	9:45
	UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	
8	8.1 Cr. Chris Bilkey: Water Sub-Committee Update 8.2 Mr Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity Sub-Committee Update 8.3 Mr George Cowan: Energy Security Sub-Committee 8.4 Mr David Webb: Transport Sub-Committee 8.5 Mr John Scarce: Health Sub-Committee Update 8.6 Ms Nicola Gleeson : Revised Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities	9:55
9	OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE Mr. Cameron Templeton: Office of Local Government Update	10:15
10	Update - Regional NSW Mr Jonathan Wheaton: Regional NSW Update	10.30
	BREAK	10:45
	PROJECT UPDATES	
11	11.1 Mr. Matthew Dudley: Contaminated Land Management – Attachment G 11.2 Ms Andrea Baldwin, Mr Christian Malins: Waste Groups – Attachment H 11.3 Mr Christian Malins: Regional Waste Strategy update 11.4 Ms Karina Ewer: Shared Services	11:00
	ADVOCACY	
12	12.1 ePlanning portal– Attachment I 12.2 RFS Assets – letter for support from Wagga council / AG's Report to Parliament - Rural Firefighting Equipment - Attachment J 12.3 Murray Darling Basin Plan advocacy 12.4 JO Review - Attachment K, Attachment L	11:30

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Item	Topic	Time
13	Guest presenter: Murray–Darling Basin Authority Mr Andrew McConville, Chief Executive Murray–Darling Basin Authority	12.00
14	Guest presenter: Riverina Murray Regional Plan Mr Haydon Murdoch Manager, Local and Regional Planning, DPE	12.15
15	OPERATIONAL MATTERS 15.1 General Managers’ meeting 22 July 2022 – <i>Attachment M</i> 15.2 Murray Regional Tourism report - <i>Attachment N, Attachment O, Attachment P</i> 15.3 Southern Lights - <i>Attachment Q</i> 15.4 Working Groups: 15.4.1 JO Chairs’ Forum - 28 March 2022 - <i>Attachment R</i> 15.4.2 RAMJO Engineers’ Forum - 5 May 2022 - <i>Attachment S</i> 15.5 Digital Restart Fund 15.6 Date of the next RAMJO Board meeting 15.7 RAMJO grant application - DRRF	12:30
16	GENERAL BUSINESS • Call for general business	12:40
Meeting Close		1:00pm

RAMJO BOARD MEETING AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair welcomed attendees and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the region and welcomed meeting guests.

- Ms Kristyn Thronder who is here on behalf of Mr David Webb
- Mr Jonathan Wheaton, Executive Director, Regional Development from Regional NSW, who will give the update from Regional NSW usually presented by Mr Giles Butler.
- Mr Christian Malins, from RAMJO Waste team.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies: Mr David Webb, Cr. Patrick Bourke, Cr Chris Bilkey.

Ms Dianna Somerville, Chair of RDA Riverina was joining as an observer in the agenda and was an apology.

Recommendation:

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

Moved Narrandera / Seconded Murrumbidgee

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST – BOARD MEMBERS / DESIGNATED PERSONS

AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF 13 MAY 2022

- Draft Minutes of 13 May 2022 – **Attachment A**

Recommendation:

- That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held 13 May 2022 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

Moved Leeton / Seconded Hay

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 5 – 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"> • Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce • Deputy Premier NSW, Paul Toole • Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley, 	COMPLETED

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair National Water Grid Authority, Christopher Lynch • NSW Water Minister, Melinda Pavey • Federal Water Minister, Keith Pitt • Commonwealth Water Holder, Jody Swirepik • Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston <p>With a copy to any other agencies that emerge as relevant stakeholders.</p>	
EO to review Digital Restart Funding to see if there are RAMJO projects that would be appropriate. Refer agenda item 15.5 for a summary.	COMPLETED
A regular agenda item as an update by Mr Cameron Templeton on progress of the JO Review action group.	COMPLETED
Board consider coordinating a regional list of events so councils are not competing with each other for attendances.	NOT STARTED
General Managers to send Mr Giles Butler a list of any grants that have had issues.	COMPLETED
The EO urgently seek a meeting with the Local Government Minister and the Planning Minister. The EO seek support from other affected JOs.	COMPLETED
The MDBA has offered to run Water Management training for RAMJO member councils' councillors. The EO will send out the invitation to Mayors and GMs, please circulate to your councillors.	COMPLETED

Recommendation:

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

Moved Edward River / Seconded Narrandera

Carried

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AGENDA ITEM 6 – CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER – ATTACHMENT B

CORRESPONDENCE SENT

Date	To	Subject	Action
16 May 2022	The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman The Hon. Anthony Roberts	NSW Planning portal concerns, request for meeting	None, meeting held with Local Government Minister and Planning Minister 9 th June 2022
17 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hon Richard Marles MP, Deputy PM The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Environment and Water The Hon. Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier NSW The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, NSW Minister or Lands and Water Air Chief Marshall Sir Angus Houston, MDBA Chair Jody Swirepik, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder 	Lake Coolah project, per Board resolution	No further action recommended
10 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen Dalton MP, Member for Murray Justin Clancy MP, Member for Albury The Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Regional NSW The Hon Sam Faraway MLC, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Member for Cootamundra The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Member for Farrer The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport Regional Development and Local Government 	Freight Priorities	No further action recommended

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CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Date	From	Subject	Action
1 June 2022	Lou-Anne Lind, Education and Programs, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Extension of the Council Regional Capacity Building (CRCB) Program	No action, contract will come in July, grant invoiced upon receipt of purchase order.
14 June 2022	Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor Wagga Wagga City Council	Performance Audit on the Planning and Managing of Bushfire Equipment – Rural Fire Services Assets	For consideration at Agenda item 11.2.
5 July 2022	Hon Kevin Anderson, Minister for Lands and Water (NSW)	Lake Coolah project	No action recommended.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the Correspondence update.

Moved Murrumbidgee / Seconded Edward River

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 7 – GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

7.1 Quarterly Budget vs Spend Review Q4 2021-2022

Note that this is an interim finance report, further year-end adjustments and processing will be completed before the financial statements are audited.

Please find at **Attachment C** a spreadsheet documenting Q4 spend to date against budgeted items for FY2021-2022. As noted above, year-end processing for the financial statements has not been completed.

Relating to income:

- RAMJO budgeted to receive \$ 353,210 year to date, and \$285,563 has been received. This predominantly due to the program admin fees for the EPA grants not being processed for the 2021-2022 yet.
- RAMJO has not recognised the \$150k from OLG NSW received in late June 2021 for capacity building funds, it is currently on the balance sheet as unearned income in advance.

Relating to expenses:

- RAMJO budgeted to spend \$601,076 year to date, and spent \$367,451 at the end of Q4.
- This variance is due to:
 - Salary and wages are \$204,140 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. The Governance officer and Media officer roles were budgeted for the full year but were not renewed when contracts concluded. Year-end salary accruals have not yet been posted, but there will be an overall underspend in salaries.
 - Travel and meeting costs lower than budget due to COVID impacts on travel and meetings have been predominantly online.
 - Provision for consultancy is higher than budget, due to \$17k profile.ID and economy.ID subscription.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the 2021-2022 Q4 budget versus spend report.

Moved Leeton, Seconded Griffith

Carried

7.2 End of Year Financial Reporting: GPFS & Audit

The audit of RAMJO's financial statements is booked the week 13th September. As in 2020-2021 RAMJO will be preparing the financial statements in house, and liaising directly with the auditor. The Executive Officer is a chartered accountant with experience in local government audit and it is not expected this will pose any issues.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the end of financial year status.

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Edward River

Carried

7.3 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

At **Attachment D** and **Attachment E**, RAMJO has received a service proposal from Albury City Council for the shared Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

As previously noted RAMJO as an entity must have 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. All

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correspondence with OLG by RAMJO, other JOs, and the JO network as a whole has suggested that no further revision to the guidelines for JOs is likely. Additionally at **Attachment F** is a letter shared from Central NSW JO reiterating the Minister does not intend to weaken or further delay ARIC requirements for Jos.

This proposal will ensure RAMJO is operating within the ARIC guidelines, but does not currently include further guideline changes, such as the internal audit framework. This proposal is in line with the budget estimate approved at prior board meetings.

The RAMJO Board continues to believe there is insufficient risk within the joint organisation to require a separate ARIC.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **accept** the proposal from Albury City regarding a shared Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

**Moved Griffith, Seconded Edward River
Carried**

AGENDA ITEM 8 –STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

8.1 Cr. Chris Bilkey: Water

The water subcommittee continues to review and update the Water position paper.

8.2 Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity

Met with FSG to discuss RAMJO grants.

8.3 George Cowan: Energy Security

The RAMJO Regional Energy Strategy Project Manager has been hired, and is working on progressing the regional strategy, and identifying key priorities.

8.4 David Webb: Transport

The RAMJO Regional Freight Priorities has been sent to various local members and ministers at both State and Federal level, with an acknowledgement been received for most (see outgoing correspondence).

A brief discussion was had with Sussan Ley, as well as, met with Catherine King at ALGA Conference with Cr's Hannan and Oatway, and Karina Ewer. These discussions were positive and felt like we were able to get our main points across and was understood.

It is suggested that the RAMJO Regional Freight Priorities are included in the REDs refresh currently being undertaken, and ask all Councils to provide this feedback to Regional NSW staff during the consultant phase.

8.5 John Scarce: Health

The Health Sub Committee has met since last Board meeting. The EO and Health Committee Chair met with MP Justin Clancy in July to discuss RAMJO's Health paper. Work continues on the position paper. The Rural Health Enquiry findings have been recommended to be implemented in full, and the Country Mayors have been working on Health additionally.

8.6 Revised Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities

The SSRP working group continues to meet in line with the project plan, and has undertaken a review of all RAMJO councils' CSPs, as well as other JO's existing SSRPs. The workshop held Thursday 11th August will form the basis of the work on the revised pillars.

Recommendation:

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

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Leeton

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Carried

AGENDA ITEM 9 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Mr Cameron Templeton gave an update of the work of the OLG, including an update on the progress of the JO Review action group. At **Attachment K, Attachment L** the draft JO Review committee is attached, and the Review is considered at Agenda item 12.4.

There was discussion of the Rural Fire Services assets. Cameron recommended that councils concerned about the Rural Fire Service assets make representation directly to the Hon Steph Cooke.

Cameron discussed the ARIC costs, discussion continues with the Auditor-General on those costs for Joint Organisations.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the briefing from the Office of Local Government, and update on the JO Review.

Moved Hay, Seconded Narrandera

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 10 –REGIONAL NSW UPDATE

Mr Jonathan Wheaton, Executive Director, Regional Development - Regional NSW gave an update on Regional NSW and the relevant funds administered by his team :

- Regional Growth Fund
- Stronger Country Communities
- Regional Tourism Activation Fund
- Business Case and Strategy Development Fund
- Activation of assets – Growth fund
- Regional Jobs Creation Fund

The Regional Leadership Executive ('RLE')-The Riverina Murray RLE is Chaired by Giles Butler and RAMJO's EO is a member. Functions as a peak body. There will be a review of the Shared Strategic Priorities, instead of each RLE having their own.

Senior Leader's tour will come through our region in September, bringing cluster departmental secretaries to see the region.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Mr Jonathan Wheaton.

Moved Edward River, Seconded Murrumbidgee

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 11 – PROJECT UPDATES

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

11.1 Contaminated Lands Management – Attachment G

Mr Matthew Dudley gave an update on the project extension from the original close of 30 June 2022. The project team is :

- Looking for another RAMJO Council to work with to finalise their model policy, please get in touch with CLM or the EO to nominate your council.
- Would like to workshop the model policy with councils before completion.

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11.2 Riverina Waste Group & Murray Waste Group – Attachment H

Update is in attachment.

11.3 Regional Waste Strategy update

Mr Christian Malins gave a presentation updating the Board on the Regional Waste Strategy. The proposed timeline is below:

No	Task	Timeframe
1	Internal peer review	Current
2	Representatives from Member Councils review Draft	15 th August – 29 th August
3	NSW EPA provided resource to produce and review Draft Strategy.	1 st September – 15 th September
4	Presentation to GMs and Mayors	October
5	Seeking endorsement	November board meeting
6	On endorsement	Develop Action Implementation Plan (AIP)

11.4 Karina Ewer: Shared Services

Mapping of demand is in progress, as below:

Council	Contact	Mapping scheduled / completed	Progress
Albury	Kate de Hennin, Service Leader Engagement Tracey Squires, Deputy CEO Business, Growth & Community	Mapping template completed and returned to RAMJO.	
Berrigan	Karina Ewer, GM	Mapping template completed and returned to RAMJO.	
Carrathool	Rick Warren, GM	Mapping template completed and returned to RAMJO.	
Edward River	Belinda Perrett, Executive Assistant	Template sent, initial meeting held, mapping being completed.	
Federation	Susan Appleyard, Director	Template sent, initial meeting held, mapping being completed.	
Griffith	Nick DeMartin, Workforce Planning Manager	Template sent, initial meeting held, mapping being completed.	
Hay	David Webb, GM.	Mapping template completed and returned to RAMJO.	
Leeton	Gary Taylor, Manager People & Organisation Development	Mapping template completed and returned to RAMJO.	
Murray River	Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services Sandy Paterson, Manager of Business Intelligence	Template sent, initial meeting held, mapping being completed.	
Murrumbidgee	Sarah Gurciullo, People and Culture Officer	Template sent and has been completed, being reviewed by GM.	
Narrandera	Michael Pieper, HR Manager	Template sent, initial meeting held, mapping being completed.	

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Additionally, this has been discussed at the Planning forum and the Engineers forum. The Northern Rivers JO is working on a business case for shared services for Planners specifically, and will share this.

Recommendation:

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

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Hay
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 12 – ADVOCACY

12.1 ePlanning Portal

Ms Karina Ewer gave a verbal update on the meetings held with the Planning and Local Government Ministers, the meeting with the Planning Department, and the project plan going forward.

The intention is to have a joint RAMJO project to complete the integration work funded by the recent \$80k API grants. The draft EOI is at Attachment I. The councils included in this are: Berrigan, Hay, Federation, Edward River, Murray River and Murrumbidgee, with in kind support provided by Albury City.

Albury City, Leeton, Griffith, Carrathool and Narrandera are not participating financially in the joint project but will keep abreast of the outcomes of this and their own works.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the joint API project using council's grant funds.

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Hay
Carried

12.2 RFSS Assets – letter for support from Wagga Council / Auditor General's Report to Parliament regarding Rural Firefighting Equipment

The Board received a letter from Wagga Wagga council (included in **Attachment B**) and all affected councils will have received correspondence related to Rural Firefighting Equipment (**Attachment J**).

Link to the Auditor General's detailed report is here: [Local Government 2021 | Audit Office of New South Wales \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/Local-Government-2021-Audit-Office-of-New-South-Wales)

This is an issue for many RAMJO councils, Board were happy to approve a RAMJO response to Wagga's letter.

Recommendation:

- That the Board support the request by Wagga Wagga council to write in support to the AONSW.

Moved Griffith, Seconded Leeton
Carried

12.3 Murray Darling Basin Plan advocacy

The GMs moved the motion below, regarding writing to the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water and Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, with a copy to Hon Kevin Anderson, MP, NSW Minister for Lands and Water. RAMJO Board was happy to approve the recommendation.

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Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Chair writes to the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water and Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, with a copy to Hon Kevin Anderson, MP, NSW Minister for Lands and Water, requesting:
 1. A commitment to the existing settings within the Murray Darling Basin plan
 2. A commitment not to re-introduce water buy-backs
 3. Confirmation from Murray–Darling Basin Ministerial Council that the 450GL ‘upwater’ will not be recovered without robust application of the neutrality test – no acquisition of water for South Australia from other states, including NSW, without ensuring there is no negative economic and social impact on local communities.

**Moved Edward River, Seconded Leeton
Carried**

12.4 JO Review

The JO Review Inter-Agency Working Group, which includes representatives of all the key State Government agencies regularly interacting with JOs. Since finalising the terms of reference (**Attachment K**), the group has expanded to include:

- Aboriginal Strategy and Outcome, Department of Planning and Environment
- Regional NSW
- Department of Planning and Environment
- Stakeholder Engagement, Department of Planning and Environment
- Crown Lands, Department of Planning and Environment
- Local and Regional Planning, Department of Planning and Environment
- Regional Water Strategies, Department of Planning and Environment RWS
- Destination NSW
- Water Sector Reform, Department of Planning and Environment
- Transport for NSW.

Draft Implementation plan at **Attachment L**.

There was discussion about representation of the joint organisations on the Inter-Agency Group, and seeking this representation on the group. There was frustration that RAMJO is functioning well, and a sense of being penalised regardless.

Mr Jonathan Wheaton committed to take this issue back to Regional NSW, to advocate for a JO voice, and seek a meeting between the JOs and the Inter-Agency Working Group.

There was a query about the Partnership Officer role, and how it was in compared to Mr Cameron Templeton’s role.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the progress of the JO Review Inter-Agency Group.
- That the Board **write** to Ms Ally Dench requesting RAMJO be a member of the Inter-Agency Group.

**Moved Carrathool , Seconded Murrumbidgee
Carried**

AGENDA ITEM 15.1 -15.2 MOVED TO BEFORE ITEM 13.

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AGENDA ITEM 13 – MURRAY–DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY

Mr Andrew McConville has been the Chief Executive of the Murray–Darling Basin Authority since June 2022. He gave an introduction to his work with the MDBA and the stages of the Basin Plan outlook, an update on the outstanding 17 of the 20 required NSW Water Resource Plans.

There was a question of Yanko Creek project, which was taken on notice. The update subsequent to the meeting was to circulate:

Publicly available Information on the funding arrangements with NSW to support projects at Yanko Creek are available online.

- Yanko creek Offtake <https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/stage-1-funding-sustainable-diversion-limits-sdl-adjustment-supply-and-constraints>
- Yanko creek modernisation <https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/accelerated-funding-nsw-supply-and-constraints-projects>

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update from Mr Andrew McConville.

Moved Griffith, Seconded Leeton

Carried

Recommendation:

- That RAMJO writes to the NSW Water Minister, the Honourable Kevin Anderson, to remind him of the region's significant contribution to drought proofing and feeding the nation, and to seek his support and commitment to :
 1. Re-affirm the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council's commitment to socio-economic neutrality testing prior to commencing any recovery of the 450GL 'upwater'
 2. Promote more realistic timing for the delivery of the full 605GL 'downwater' having regard to new science and improved opportunities and avoiding any further buybacks
 3. Ensure Water NSW and DPE Water provide comprehensive and timely updates to RAMJO on the SDLAM projects associated with the Murrumbidgee and Murray River systems between the dams and the RAMJO footprint, and allow for full and proper engagement with us.
- That RAMJO copies the above correspondence to the NSW Shadow Minister for Water, the Honourable Rose Jackson.

Moved Leeton, Seconded Griffith

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 14 – RIVERINA MURRAY REGIONAL PLAN

Mr Haydon Murdoch Manager, Local and Regional Planning, DPE gave an update of Riverina Murray Regional Plan, and input in the rest of the process. The presentation is included in the minutes.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update from Mr Haydon Murdoch.

Moved Leeton, Seconded Edward River

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 15– OPERATIONAL MATTERS

15.1 General Managers Group Meeting Minutes

The General Managers met on Friday 22 July 2022, minutes can be found at **Attachment M**

15.2 Murray Regional Tourism

Attachment N has the report from Ms Karina Ewer on the latest meeting of MRT, to be taken as read. **Attachment O** and **Attachment P** are the PowerPoints referred to in the report. An interim CEO has been appointed, and recruitment will begin soon for the next CEO.

15.3 Southern Lights

Attachment Q has a project update and forecast for Southern Lights.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **acknowledge** the change of budgeted cost from \$5,000 pa to \$12,000 pa.

**Moved Edward River, Seconded Murrumbidgee
Carried**

15.4 Working Groups

15.4.1 JO Chairs' Forum - 28 March 2022

Minutes attached at **Attachment R**. Meeting held in Sydney, Chair Matt Hannan was able to attend remotely. The forum was addressed by Minister Wendy Tuckerman, and had a workshop with OLG to review JO functionality and the outcomes of the JO Review.

15.4.2 Engineers Forum 5 May 2022

The RAMJO Engineers forum last met 5 May 2022, and minutes are **Attachment S**, they were not available to be circulated as a late paper to the last meeting.

15.5 Digital Restart Fund

The Digital Restart Fund is aimed at supporting NSW government digital, information and communication technology initiatives. It permits Local Government projects only where they are involved integration with the state.

Funded project must:

- contribute to the delivery of the Premier's Priorities,
- contribute to outcome budgeting plans (based on the 10 Clusters and 39 State Outcomes),
- be aligned with the NSW Customer & Digital strategy,
- be in cluster ten and three-year plans.

RAMJO reviewed project payments in 2020-2021 and only state departments were funded. A logical partnership might be with Dept of Planning, in the instance that the integration project requires additional funding, or projects are identified that would improve the portal in a way that benefited the state as well as councils. The Digital Restart fund doesn't cover where a project is fully funded, but shortfalls and additions may be included.

15.6 Next RAMJO Board meeting

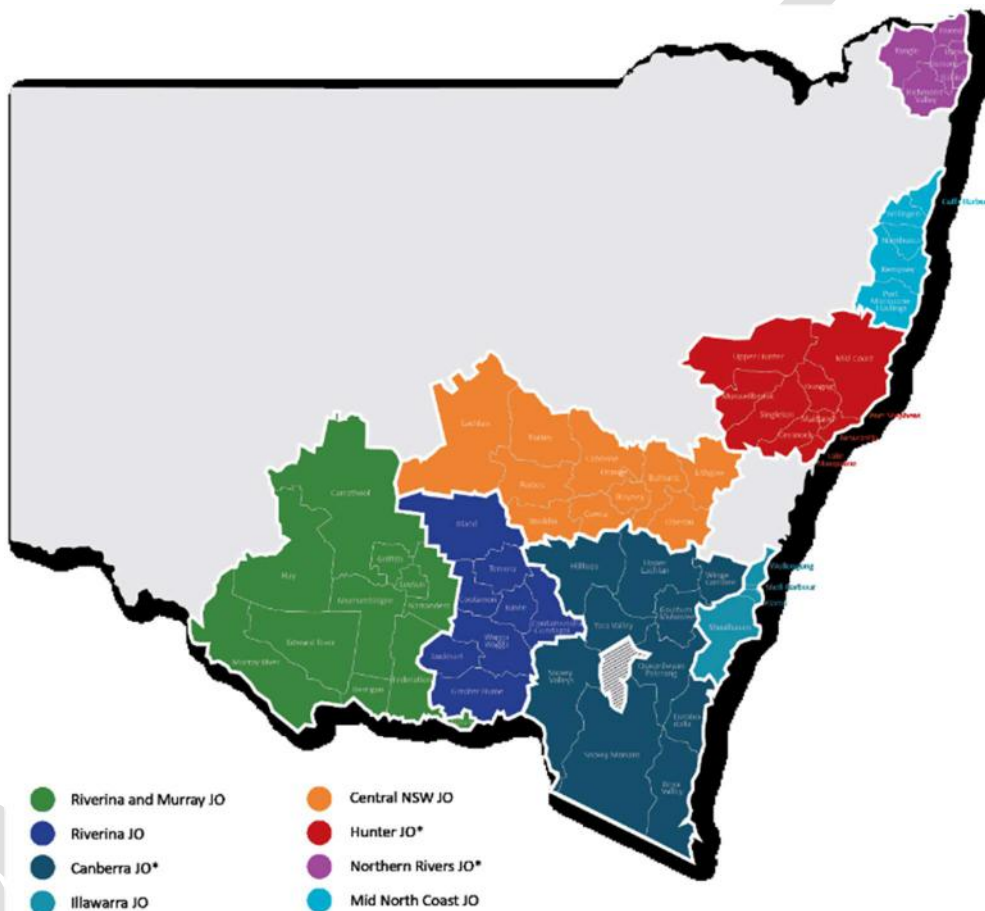
The calendar adopted at the first RAMJO Board meeting of the year had the fourth meeting on Friday 11th November in Leeton. This has subsequently been identified as an inappropriate choice as it falls on Remembrance Day and many Mayors have commitments in their own LGAs. A survey was sent to the RAMJO board to identify an appropriate change of date, which has been identified as Friday 18th November, with the Christmas dinner held the night before, Thursday

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17th November. It is not proposed to change the location from Leeton. As the Country Mayors' has changed to Friday 18th November, the EO needs to go back out to consult members. This was decided to be moved offline to find a new date.

15.7 RAMJO grant application - DRRF

RAMJO has one grant application currently open, with Resilience NSW's Disaster Risk Reduction Fund's Local and Regional Risk Reduction stream. The application is for a Regional Capability Officer – similar to the Contaminated Land project – that works across RAMJO councils to do a risk assessment / needs analysis to improve council and community risk preparedness. These priorities would be used to adapt and embed policy, systems and practices that are drawn from the work that have already been done by the Canberra and Hunter JO IP+R Disaster Resilience Projects. There is further opportunity to use the 4 Simtables at Hunter, Canberra and Mid North Coast JOs for modelling and use of the expertise of Simtable officers in these JOs. Lastly, work in strategic regional disaster risk / vulnerability analysis, in conjunction with the other JOs. This was an application in conjunction with the JOs below:



Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the operational updates.
- That the RAMJO Board **approve** the change of date by circular resolution out of session.

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Edward River
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 16 – GENERAL BUSINESS

A call for General Business items will be made by the Chair.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

12 August 2022

Action item : EO to see if there's a reference research document behind the Riverina Murray Regional Plan.

MEETING CLOSE AT 1.10PM

MINUTES