

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

25 November 2022

MEETING:	RAMJO Board Meeting		
DATE:	Friday 25 th November 2022		
TIME:	9:30am – 1:00pm		
LOCATION:	Zoom		
CHAIR:	Cr Patrick Bourke		
ZOOM:	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81230033295?pwd=YkRCUEttRjZtN0ZUci9sU1ZNNi81QT09 Meeting ID: 812 3003 3295 Passcode: 863368		
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		Ms Margaret O'Dwyer
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		
	Ms Narelle Martin – Regional Energy Strategy Project Manager narelle.martin@alburycity.nsw.gov.au		

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

25 November 2022

OTHER ATTENDEES	Name	Organisation	Role
	Mr Mitchell Hume	Transgrid	Stakeholder and Communications Manager, Major Projects
	Mr Brogan Finnerty	Charles Sturt University	Development Officer
	Ms Joanne Parrott	Transport NSW	Director Regional Community Partner, South Region
	Mr Mark Hannan	Transport NSW	Planning for Places Director, South and West Region
	Ms Wendy Greiner	Murray Regional Tourism	Chair
	Mr Will Flamsteed	Murray Regional Tourism	Interim CEO
	Mr Joe Ruuskanen	National Emergency Management Agency	Director
Ms Donna Argus	Resilience NSW	Director	

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"> 12th August 2022 – <i>Attachment A</i> Extraordinary meeting 13th October 2022 – <i>Attachment B</i> 	9:38
5	Matters arising from previous Board meetings	9:39
6	Correspondence - <i>Attachment C, Attachment D</i>	9:40
7	Transport NSW – Regional Transport Plan, Riverina Murray Ms Joanne Parrott, Mr Mark Hannan – Transport NSW	9:45
8	Transgrid Project update Mr Mitchell Hume – Transgrid, Mr Brogan Finnerty - Charles Sturt University	10:00
9	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Mr Joe Ruuskanen, National Emergency Management Agency, Ms Donna Argus, Resilience NSW	10:15
	BREAK	10:30
10	RAMJO Regional Energy Strategy Ms Narelle Martin, RAMJO Regional Energy Strategy Project Manager – <i>Attachment E, Attachment F</i>	10.40
11	GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.1 Ms Nicola Gleeson: 2022-2023 Q1 Quarterly Budget Review – <i>Attachment G</i> 11.2 Ms Nicola Gleeson: End of Financial Year 2021-2022 11.3 Ms Nicola Gleeson: Performance Statement 2021-2022– <i>Attachment H</i> 11.4 Ms Nicola Gleeson: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee 	10:50
12	UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12.1 Cr Chris Bilkey: Water Sub-Committee Update 12.2 Mr Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity Sub-Committee Update 12.3 Mr George Cowan: Energy Security Sub-Committee 12.4 Mr David Webb: Transport Sub-Committee 12.5 Mr John Scarce: Health Sub-Committee Update 12.6 Ms Nicola Gleeson : Revised Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities - <i>Attachment I</i> 	11:00
13	Murray Regional Tourism update Ms Wendy Greiner, Mr Will Flamsteed, Murray Regional Tourism	11:15
14	OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE Mr Cameron Templeton: Office of Local Government Update	11:30

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

25 November 2022

Item	Topic	Time
15	Update - Regional NSW Ms Margaret O'Dwyer: Regional NSW Update	11.40
16	PROJECT UPDATES 16.1 Mr Matthew Dudley: Contaminated Land Management – <i>Attachment J</i> 16.2 Ms Andrea Baldwin, Mr Christian Malins: Waste Groups – <i>Attachment K</i> 16.3 Mr Christian Malins : RAMJO Regional Waste Strategy Update 16.4 Mr Christian Malins : RAMJO Waste year in review update 16.5 Ms Andrea Baldwin : HalveWaste Education 16.6 Ms Karina Ewer: Shared Services	11:50
17	ADVOCACY 17.1 ePlanning portal 17.2 RFS Assets 17.3 IPART Review of the rate peg methodology	12:30
18	OPERATIONAL MATTERS 18.1 General Managers' meeting 14 October 2022 – <i>Attachment L</i> 18.2 Murray Regional Tourism report – <i>Attachment M</i> 18.3 JO Chairs' Forum - 28 March 2022 - <i>Attachment N</i> 18.4 RAMJO calendar 2023 - <i>Attachment O</i> 18.5 Administration of Councils' September 2024 elections 18.6 RAMJO grant applications 18.6.1 DRRF 18.6.2 Energy JO	12:40
19	GENERAL BUSINESS • Call for general business	12:50
Meeting Close		1:00pm

RAMJO BOARD MEETING AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chair welcomed attendees and acknowledgement of country. Welcomed meeting guests.

- Ms Margaret O’Dwyer, from Regional NSW, who is a proxy for Mr Giles Butler, who was an apology.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies: Cr Matt Hannan, RAMJO Chair, Mr Giles Butler, Mr Terry Dodds, Cr Daryl Jardine

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

No declarations were submitted.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Draft Minutes of 12th August 2022 – **Attachment A**
- Draft minutes of Extraordinary meeting 13th October 2022 – **Attachment B**

Recommendation:

- That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meetings held 12th August 2022 and 13th October 2022 be **received** and the recommendations therein be **adopted**.

Moved Murray River / Seconded Murrumbidgee
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
Board consider coordinating a regional list of events so councils are not competing with each other for attendances.	NOT STARTED
EO to see if there’s a reference research document behind the Riverina Murray Regional Plan.	COMPLETED

Recommendation:

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

Moved Narrandera / Seconded Murray River
Carried

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 6 – CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER – ATTACHMENT A, ATTACHMENT B

CORRESPONDENCE SENT – Attachment C

Date	To	Subject	Action
Q1 2022-2023			
16 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Margaret Crawford, Auditor-General NSW Copy to Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor Wagga Wagga City Council. 	Letter of support for Wagga Wagga City Council's position in RFS assets.	No action, per Board resolution 12 August 2022.
17 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr David Webb, GM Hay 	Letter of support for NSW Business Case & Feasibility Fund – For Hay Shire	No action, letter of support.
18 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Frank Zaknich, GM Albury City 	Acceptance of Albury City's ARIC proposal	No action, per Board resolution 12 August 2022.
18 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Ally Dench, OLG 	Letter seeking representation on the Interagency working group.	No action, per Board resolution 12 August 2022.
22 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program Manager, Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund 	Letter of support for NSW Business Case & Feasibility Fund – For AlburyCity	No action, letter of support.
24 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Adrian Butler, GM Federation 	Letter of support for NSW Business Case & Feasibility Fund – For Federation	No action, letter of support.
30 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Water Minister, the Hon Kevin Anderson Copy to NSW Shadow Minister for Water, the Hon Rose Jackson. 	Letter seeking assurance of engagement and water recovery.	No action, per Board resolution 12 August 2022.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date	To	Subject	Action
30 August 2022	The Hon Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Environment and Water Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Hon Kevin Anderson, MP, NSW Minister for Lands and Water	Letter re: environmental water / buybacks	No action, per Board resolution 12 August 2022.
2 September 2022	Mike Stewardson, CEO One Basin CRC	One Basin CRC Affiliate Partner Agreement	No action, agreement signed and returned.
5 September 2022	The Hon Wendy Tuckerman, NSW Minister for Local Government The Hon. Anthony Roberts, NSW Minister for Planning	Letter updating on the Planning Portal meeting progress	No action, outcome of in region meeting August 2022.
6 September 2022	NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change	Letter in support of development of (free) publicly available Technical Specifications for Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers.	No action, letter of support for EV standards.
6 September 2022	Minister of the Environment – The Hon James Griffin, MP Copy to NSW Environment Protection Authority	Letter in support of Contaminated Land extensions	No action, letter supporting CRCB project and seeking further extension of funding.
11 October	Simone Thomas Manager, Waste Contestable Grants Environmental Trust NSW	Reply Re: Community Recycling Centres – 2014/CRC/0033 Final Report, Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC) - Murray Waste Group Berrigan, Conargo, Corowa and Murray Shires Community Recycling Centres	Noted.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

25 November 2022

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - Attachment D

Date	From	Subject	Action
Q1 2022-2023			
16 August 2022	Mike Stewardson, CEO One Basin CRC	One Basin CRC : Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation Affiliate Partner Letter Agreement Review	No action, agreement signed and returned.
25 August 2022	Lou-Anne Lind, Director Education and Programs, NSW Environment Protection Authority	Regional Coordination Support Program five year funding deed	No action, deeds signed, returned to EPA and invoiced for 2022-2023.
13 September 2022	Ms Ally Dench, OLG	Letter explaining the Interagency working group, declining request for representation on the group.	Note
29 August 2022	The Hon Sam Faraway, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads	RAMJO's Freight Priorities Report	Note
7 October 2022	Ms Tina Bidese, Director Grants, The Environmental Trust (administered by the Department of Planning and Environment)	Community Recycling Centres – 2014/CRC/0033 Final Report Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC)	Reply in Correspondence outwards.
21 October 2022	Mr Dominic Lane, Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller, Executive Director, Local Coordination and Service Delivery, Resilience NSW	Pre-Event Recovery Plan	Note the Pre-Event Recovery Plan. Provided as attachment.
24 October 2022	Ms Lou-Anne Lind Director, Education and Programs EPA	Letter advising extension of agreement to 30 th June 2023.	No action, extension to funding.
14 November 2022	Mr Andrew McConville Chief Executive, MDBA	Stakeholder Letter	Note

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

25 November 2022

Recommendation:

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

Moved Narrandera / Seconded Murrumbidgee

Carried

Agenda Item 10 moved to before Item 7.

AGENDA ITEM 7 –TRANSPORT NSW - REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN, RIVERINA MURRAY

Ms Joanne Parrott, Director Regional Community Partner, South Region, and Mr Mark Hannan, Planning for Places Director, South and West Region gave a presentation on the Regional Transport Plan for Riverina Murray region, and opportunities for consultation and RAMJO input.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Ms Joanne Parrott and Mr Mark Hannan from Transport NSW.

Moved Narrandera / Seconded Leeton
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 8 –TRANSGRID PROJECT UPDATE

Mr Mitchell Hume, Stakeholder and Communications Manager - Major Projects from Transgrid, and Mr Brogan Finnerty, Development Officer from Charles Sturt University, gave an update on Transgrid projects in the RAMJO region, and a new civil engineering scholarship initiative recently launched.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Mr Mitchell Hume from Transgrid, and Mr Brogan Finnerty from Charles Sturt University.

Moved Murrumbidgee / Seconded Murray River
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 9 – DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Joe Ruuskanen, National Emergency Management Agency, and Ms Donna Argus, Resilience NSW gave an overview of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and their two agencies.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Mr Joe Ruuskanen, National Emergency Management Agency, and Ms Donna Argus, Resilience NSW.

Moved Murrumbidgee / Seconded Albury
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 10 – RAMJO REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY

Ms Narelle Martin, the Regional Energy Strategy Project Manager gave a review of the completed RAMJO Regional Energy Strategy, report attached at **Attachment E**, and draft Strategy is at **Attachment F**. The Energy Subcommittee and the RES Project Manager have done a significant amount of work to finalise this, and we are seeking Board endorsement of the Regional Energy Strategy.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **adopt** the Regional Energy Strategy.

Moved Murrumbidgee / Seconded Narrandera
Carried

Agenda Item 13 moved to before Item 11.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

11.1 Quarterly Budget vs Spend Review Q4 2021-2022

Attachment G is a spreadsheet documenting Q1 spend to date against budgeted items for FY2022-2023.

Relating to General Fund income:

- RAMJO budgeted to receive \$ 222,467 year to date, and \$226,157 has been received. This predominantly due to the increased interest income after rate increases on the \$1.2million term deposit.
- 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 General Fund expenses:

- RAMJO budgeted to spend \$128,793 year to date, and spent \$129,830 at the end of Q1, which is not a material variance.

The Energy Project is grant funded, and expenses relate to the Regional Energy Strategy Project Manager.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the 2022-2023 Q1 budget versus spend report.

Moved Griffith / Seconded Leeton
Carried

11.2 End of Year Financial Reporting: GPFS & Audit

The extraordinary meeting of RAMJO's board for signing the audited financial statements was held 13th October 2022. Subsequent to this meeting, the NSWAO advised that contrary to the previous advice, RAMJO would receive a management letter. This forms part of the correspondence register, and the Board is asked to receive and note this management letter.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **receive and note** the management letter received subsequent to the extraordinary meeting of 13th October 2022.

Moved Leeton / Seconded Albury
Carried

11.3 Performance statement 2021-2022

The RAMJO Performance Statement for 2021-2022 is at **Attachment H**, this was endorsed for Board approval at October 2022 General Managers' meeting. This will be published on the website and submitted to the Office of Local Government.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **adopt** the 2021-2022 performance statement.

Moved Griffith / Seconded Albury
Carried

25 November 2022

11.4 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (“ARIC”)

Executive Officer gave a verbal update on meetings held with Albury City ARIC, and outlined that Albury City’s proposal accepted by the Board had had assumptions about the fees charged by Albury City’s independent ARIC members that were significantly lower than those proposed by the members in individual negotiations. RAMJO undertook a benchmarking exercise across all joint organisations, and the proposed meeting fees are disproportionately higher than other JOs, noting the number of JOs who are not compliant with the ARIC regulations and do not intend to be. RAMJO has discussed with OLG and indicated the board continues to believe the financial cost is out of proportion with the risk of the organisation. There was discussion among the Board about impacts of non compliance, the total annual cost of the current compliance, and the risk profile of the organisation. There was a unanimous belief that the compliance cost of the ARIC is disproportionate and the Board supports moving slowly on the ARIC and seeing if the landscape changes over the next year.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the progress on the ARIC.
- That the RAMJO Board **accept** the risk of a management letter point in remaining non-compliant with the ARIC regulations and progress slowly on the RAMJO ARIC function.

Moved Albury / Seconded Murrumbidgee
Carried

Agenda Item 15 moved to before Item 12.

AGENDA ITEM 12 –STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

12.1 Cr Chris Bilkey: Water

Water subcommittee has not met since the last GMs meeting, work updating the paper has continued. RAMJO Chair, Water subcommittee Chair and EO attended the recent Murray Darling Association conference.

12.2 Mr Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity

No further activity in this space.

12.3 Mr George Cowan: Energy Security

The RAMJO Regional Energy Strategy has been completed and is on the agenda today for endorsement.

12.4 Mr David Webb: Transport

As noted in the Correspondence Register, responses to advocacy in the updated Regional Priorities have been received, and discussions with NSW Transport has been productive. NSW Transport will attend the November Board meeting to discuss how RAMJO can input into the upcoming Regional Transport plan.

12.5 Mr John Scarce: Health

The Health Sub Committee met since last meeting, work continues on the paper.

Recommendation:

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

Moved Murrumbidgee / Seconded Griffith
Carried

12.6 Revised Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities

The draft Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities is at **Attachment 1** for the Board’s review and endorsement. Thanks to the SSRP working group of Mayor Kylie King, Mr George Cowan, Mr Brett Stonestreet, Mr Giles Butler, and the GM group who have reviewed and provided input into the draft.

25 November 2022

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **adopt** the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities for 2022-2026.

Moved Murrumbidgee / Secoded Leeton

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 13 – MURRAY REGIONAL TOURISM

Ms Wendy Greiner, Chair Murray Regional Tourism and Mr Will Flamsteed, Interim CEO Murray Regional Tourism gave an overview of Murray Regional Tourism and upcoming strategic projects.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Ms Wendy Greiner and Mr Will Flamsteed from Murray Regional Tourism.

Moved Albury / Secoded Griffith

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 14 – 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.

Recommendation:

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

Moved Leeton / Secoded Griffith

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 15 –REGIONAL NSW UPDATE

Ms Margaret O'Dwyer, Deputy Director, Riverina Murray, Regional Development - Regional NSW gave an update on Regional NSW.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Ms Margaret O'Dwyer and Mr Adam Young.

Moved Leeton / Secoded Murrumbidgee

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 16 – PROJECT UPDATES

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

16.1 Contaminated Lands Management – Attachment J

Taken as read.

16.2 Riverina Waste Group & Murray Waste Group – Attachment K

Taken as read.

16.3 Regional Waste Strategy update

Mr Christian Malins gave a presentation updating the Board on the Regional Waste Strategy and pathway for adoption.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

25 November 2022

16.4 Regional Waste Program update

Mr Christian Malins gave a presentation updating the Board on the projects undertaken by the Waste team this year.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Mr Christian Malins.

Moved Narrandera / Secoded Hay

Carried

16.5 Halve Waste Education program

Ms Andrea Baldwin gave a presentation on plans for the Halve Waste Education program roll out across the RAMJO region.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Ms Andrea Baldwin and approve \$55,000 funding allocation.

Moved Leeton / Secoded Hay

Carried

16.6 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	Robyn Beveridge	Template sent, meeting not booked, staff member has left.	
Griffith	Annie Featherstone, Workforce Planning Administrator	Template returned.	
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 returned.	
Narrandera	Michael Pieper, HR Manager	Template sent, initial meeting held, mapping being completed.	

25 November 2022

Additionally, this has been discussed at the Planning forum and the Engineers forum. A presentation is being prepared by a consultant who worked on the Northern Rivers JO's shared services proposal on how we can use the mapping most effectively.

Recommendation:

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

Deferred to next Board Meeting on 24th February 2023

AGENDA ITEM 17 – ADVOCACY

17.1 ePlanning Portal

Ms Karina Ewer will give a verbal update on the meetings held with the Planning Department staff, project team, and the project plan going forward.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update on the ePlanning portal project.

Deferred to next Board Meeting on 24th February 2023

17.2 RFS Assets

RAMJO, member councils and other JOs have put out media related to the ongoing RFS assets issue. Board to consider if further advocacy is needed in this issue.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **consider** if further advocacy is required related to RFS assets.

Deferred to next Board Meeting on 24th February 2023

17.3 IPART Review of the Rate Pegging Methodology

RAMJO has made representation to the IPART review, and urges councils to attend the November workshops with IPART to continue to advocate.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the IPART review process.

Deferred to next Board Meeting on 24th February 2023

AGENDA ITEM 18 – OPERATIONAL MATTERS

18.1 General Managers Group Meeting Minutes

The General Managers met on Friday 14 October 2022, minutes can be found at **Attachment L**.

18.2 Murray Regional Tourism

Attachment M has the report from Ms Karina Ewer on the latest meeting of MRT, to be taken as read.

25 November 2022

18.3 JO Chairs' Forum - 4 August 2022

Minutes attached at **Attachment N**. The most recent meeting (minutes not yet available) was held 17th November 2022, the new JO Chairs' convenor elected was Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick of Bega Valley Shire Council, Chair of Canberra Region JO. Deputy Convenor is Mayor Paul Harmon of Inverell Shire Council, Chair of New England JO.

18.4 RAMJO Calendar for 2023

Draft calendar for RAMJO's meetings for the Board and the GMs is at **Attachment O**. RAMJO Councils will approve their calendars for 2023 end of 2022 / start of 2023, and RAMJO will update accordingly and seek adoption for the full meeting schedule at the first meeting in 2023. We are seeking confirmation of the date and location of the first Board meeting of 2023, which is proposed to be Friday 24th February 2023, in Leeton as the meeting 25th November has been moved from Leeton to online.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **adopt** the date for the next meeting be Friday 24th November 2023, in Leeton.

Moved Griffith / Seconded Narrandera
Carried

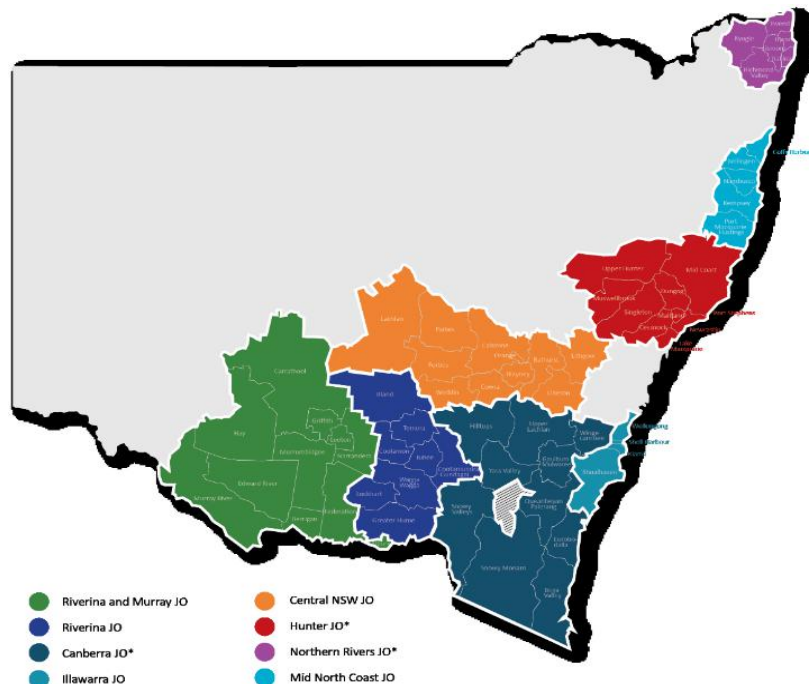
18.5 Administration of Councils' September 2024 Elections

Ms Karina Ewer will speak to the OLG Circular 22-35 "Councils' decisions on the administration of their September 2024 ordinary elections" regarding Administration of Councils' September 2024 Elections.

18.6 RAMJO grant applications

18.6.1 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 **move into confidential**

Deferred to next Board Meeting on 24th February 2023

The RAMJO EO gave an update on the DRRF grant application.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the update on the DRRF grant.
- That the RAMJO Board **move** out of confidential.

Deferred to next Board Meeting on 24th February 2023

18.6.2. Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Grant

The Office of Energy and Climate Change is piloting a grant program for JOs and ROCs to apply for \$155k for one year to “support local governments in regional NSW to save energy and money, reduce emissions, and set a path to net zero”. The JO network intends to work together as with the DRRF grant process to apply for this grant, and seeks the Board’s approval for this application.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **approve** the grant application for the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Grant.
- That the RAMJO Board **note** the operational updates.

Deferred to next Board Meeting on 24th February 2023

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

25 November 2022

AGENDA ITEM 19 – GENERAL BUSINESS

A call for General Business items was made by the Chair.

MEETING CLOSE

MINUTES