

# BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday 29 October 2025



<b>MEETING</b>	<b>RAMJO Board Meeting</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday 29 October		
<b>TIME</b>	10:00am – 1:30pm		
<b>LOCATION</b>	Barooga Sporties, Burkinshaw Street Barooga		
<b>CHAIR</b>	Cr. Ruth McRae		
<b>ONLINE LINK</b>	<b>Microsoft Teams</b> <a href="#">Join the meeting now</a> Meeting ID: 493 994 545 103 Passcode: Hm6vA34y		
	<b>Council / Organisation</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>	<b>Non-Voting Member</b>
	Albury City Council	Cr. Kevin Mack	Mr. Frank Zaknich
	Balranald Shire Council	Cr. Louie Zaffina	Mr. Peter Bascomb
	Berrigan Shire Council	Cr. Julia Cornwell-McKean	Mr. Mark Dupe
	Edward River Council	Cr. Ashley Hall	Mr. Jack Bond
	Federation Council	Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mr. Adrian Butler
	Griffith City Council	Cr. Shari Blumer	Mr. Scott Grant
	Leeton Shire Council	Cr. George Weston	Mrs. Jackie Kruger
	Murray River Council	Cr. John Harvie	Mrs. Stacy Williams
	Murrumbidgee Council	Cr. Ruth McRae	Mr. John Scarce
	Narrandera Shire Council	Cr. Neville Kschenka	Mr. Timothy Coote
	Wentworth Shire Council	Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mr. Ken Ross
	<b>Associate Members (non-voting)</b>		
	Wagga Wagga City Council	Cr. Dallas Tout	Mr. Peter Thompson
	<b>RAMJO Staff</b>		
	Mr. Brett Stonestreet	Interim Executive Officer	
	Mrs. Susan Escott	Administration Officer	
	Dr. Emily Sharp	Disaster Resilience Project Manager	
	<b>PRESENTERS</b>		
	Mr. Giles Butler	<i>Director, Regional Coordination - South, Delivery &amp; Engagement</i> <b>NSW Premier's Department</b>	
Mr. Cameron Templeton	<i>Council Engagement Manager - Riverina and Far South-West</i> <b>NSW Office of Local Government</b>		
Mr. Simon Wallace-Pannell	<i>Manager Sustainable Councils - Climate Change and Strategy</i> <b>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</b>		
Mrs. Lisa Miller	<i>Senior Project Officer - Climate Change and Strategy</i> <b>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</b>		
Ms Louise Taylor	<b>NSW Office of Local Government</b>		

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## MEETING AGENDA

Item	Topic	Time
<b>MEETING OPEN</b>		
1	<b>WELCOME</b> Acknowledgement on Country	10.00
2	Apologies and Leave of Absence	10.01
3	Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons	10.02
4	<b>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</b> 15 August 2025 Board meeting – <i>Attachment 4.1</i>	10.03
5	Matters and action items arising from 16 May Board meeting	10.04
6	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b> <b>6.1 Importance of Disaster Resilience Planning and Land Use Planning &amp; Critical Infrastructure</b> <i>Dr. Emily Sharp - RAMJO Disaster Resilience Project Manager (Additional report provided - Attachment 6.1)</i>	10.15
	<b>6.2 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</b> <i>Mr. Simon Wallace-Pannel and Mrs. Lisa Miller</i>	10.40
7	<b>FOR DISCUSSION: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES &amp; ADVOCACY</b> <b>7.1</b> Structure of sub-committee under new Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRPs) <i>Attachments 7.1a, b &amp; c</i>	11.20
	<b>7.2</b> JO and ROC Comparative Analysis – <i>Attachment 7.2</i>	
	<b>7.3</b> Community Benefits Sharing from Energy Projects <i>Attachment 7.3</i>	
	<b>7.4</b> Progress and status of sub-committee's and working groups	
8	<b>FOR DISCUSSION: GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS</b> <b>8.1</b> 24/25 FY General Purpose Financial Statements – <i>Attachment 8.1</i>	11.50
	<b>8.2</b> 25/26 Q1 FY operational budget review - <i>Attachment 8.2</i>	
	<b>8.3</b> 24/25 OLG Annual Performance Statement	
	<b>8.4</b> Update on Associate Membership Status	
	<b>8.5</b> Updates to RAMJO charter	
	<b>8.6</b> Tabling of Returns of Interest – <i>Attachment 8.6</i>	
9	<b>UPDATE FROM OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b> <b>9.1</b> Ms Louise Taylor	12.20
10	<b>UPDATE FROM NSW PREMIERS DEPARTMENT</b> <b>10.1</b> Mr. Giles Butler	12.45
11	<b>REPORTS FOR NOTING: GENERAL UPDATES</b> <b>11.1</b> Regional Resource Recovery Projects Update	1.10
	<b>11.2</b> Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program - <i>Attachment 11.2</i>	
	<b>11.3</b> ARIC general update - <i>Attachment 11.3</i>	
	<b>11.4</b> Draft Policy - Code of Meeting Practice – <i>Attachment 11.4</i>	
	<b>11.5</b> Draft Minutes of General Managers Advisory Committee on 10 October - <i>Attachment 11.5</i>	
12	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> <b>12.1</b> Murray Regional Tourism – Board Nomination	1.15
	<b>12.2</b> 2026 Meeting Dates	
	<b>12.3</b> Save Mulwala Action Group Inc.	
	<b>12.4</b> Call for general business by the Chair	
13	<b>MEETING CLOSE</b>	1.30

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## AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chair to welcome attendees and acknowledgement of country.

## AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies have been received from Mr Cameron Templeton, Mr Peter Thompson, Cr Doug Curran Cr Kevin Mack

**Recommendation:**

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

## AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST

Attendees to note any declarations.

## AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Tabling of Draft minutes of 15 August 2025 as per *Attachment 4.1*

**Recommendation:**

- That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held 15 August 2025 be **received** and **noted**.

## AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS RAMJO BOARD MEETINGS

### ACTIONS ARISING FROM 16 AUGUST MEETING

ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
<b>7.1 RAMJO Future Directions/Capacity and Executive Officer Recruitment</b>	Mayors to consider JO v ROC model and send responses to the Chair (via the EO).	<b>Complete</b> Two responses received
	EO tasked with undertaking an investigation into the advantages and disadvantages of converting from a Joint Organisation to a Regional Organisation of Councils.	<b>Complete</b> Noted on Agenda for discussion
	Cr. Mack to investigate any opportunities for a meeting with the Minister for Local Government during his visit to Albury.	<b>Complete</b> Cr. Mack to provide a update
<b>7.5 Progress and status of sub-committee's and working groups</b>	<i>Investigate Councillors not receiving invites for committee meetings.</i>	<b>Complete</b> Susan updated the invite list
<b>8.1 Updates to RAMJO Charter</b>	<i>GMAC chair to draft Associate Membership categories and any fees associated, for the boards consideration and subsequent adoption.</i>	<b>In progress</b> Previous updates changed per board endorsements  Awaiting direction from GMAC chair on Associate Membership categories and associated fee's, rules, proposal, etc

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<b>8.2 24/25 FY Operational Budget Review</b>	<i>EO to circulate the 2024/2025 adopted operational budget.</i>	<b>Complete</b> Circulated with minutes
<b>8.3 Engagement of a new accounting service provider</b>	<i>EO to query Jennifer Lang Australia on their appetite for a 6-month contract in the first instance, with a review thereafter, in consideration of RAMJO's financial position to continue engaging the service.</i>	<b>Complete</b> Jen Lang engaged on a 6 month basis
<b>11.3 Call for General Business by the Chair</b>	<i>Cr Ashley Hall to share/develop media response and/or other materials relating to this issue</i>	<b>Update required</b>
	<i>Move board meetings to Wednesdays at 10am</i>	<b>Completed</b>
	<i>Explore logistics of an annual meeting once a year in Sydney, leveraging off-of Country Mayors commitments.</i>	<b>In progress</b> For discussion in meeting

## ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
<b>8.1 Office of Local Government Update</b>	<i>Cameron to seek clarification regarding the sustainability review process whether the minister is looking to give the final decision with respect to the permanent rate variation back to the elected Councilors or is it remain with IPART?</i>	<b>Completed</b> Cameron Templeton advised that IPAT will retain final decision with respect to all special rate variation applications and expenditure review outcomes
	<i>RAMJO and individual councils to further advocate for an increase to the Financial Assistance Grants and its methodology, as soon as possible.</i>	<b>Completed</b> For attention by individual Councils and RAMJO as opportunities arise
	<i>EO to continue liaising with other JO's and ROCs on OLGs overall position on JO/ROC status.</i>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>10.1 2025/2026 Operational Budget</b>	<i>Cameron to investigate validity of remuneration of Chair through remuneration tribunal.</i>	<b>Completed</b> No directive in place from OLG - Current remuneration formula to continue
<b>6.1 ARIC Update</b>	Ensure a board member or their suitable representative, attend RAMJO ARIC meetings going forward	<b>Completed</b> Cr Ruth McRae attending meeting
<b>10.1 NSW Premiers Department – General Update</b>	Giles to provide update on Engaging Regional Communities program and Regional Impact Statements regarding policy and legislation being included in framework.	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>8.1 Update on sub-committees and working groups</b>	Pursue the motion relating to Water sub-committee and development of an economic impact statement for each RAMJO LGA.	<b>Ongoing</b> Update to be provided

### Recommendation:

That the Board:

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

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## AGENDA ITEM 6 – PRESENTATIONS

### 6.1 Importance of Disaster Resilience Planning and Land Use Planning & Critical Infrastructure:

Dr. Emily Sharp - RAMJO Disaster Resilience Project Manager will present an update on the project, Attachment 6.1 report to GMAC also included

### 6.2 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water:

Mr. Simon Wallace-Pannel and Mrs. Lisa Miller

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

- **note** the presentations from Dr. Emily Sharp and DCCEEW.

## AGENDA ITEM 7 – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ADVOCACY

### 7.1 Structure of sub-committee under new Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRPs)

The newly compiled Statement of Strategic Priorities (*Attachment 7.1a*) is attached for viewing. This is subject to a few more tweaks before publishing. Also attached are two further documents for viewing and discussion.

- The Capacity Building Programs (*Attachment 7.1b*)
- Advocacy Document (*Attachment 7.1c*)

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

1. **adopt** the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029 as per attachment 7.1a subject to any amendments by the Board.
2. **adopt** the Capacity Building Programs document as per Attachment 7.1b subject to any amendments by the Board.
3. **adopt** the Advocacy Document as per Attachment 7.1c subject to any amendments by the Board.

And that a Review of the RAMJO Committee Structure be undertaken during 2026 to ensure it aligns with the revised Regional Statement of Strategic Priorities 2025-2029.

### 7.2 JO and ROC Comparative Analysis

A Comparative Analysis has been provided by the former EO on the JO vs ROC proposal as *Attachment 7.2*

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

1. await the outcome of the OLG's formal JO Model review following which included a cabinet submission, prior to making any decision concerning the disbanding of the JO into a ROC.
2. That the EO further investigate the implications of a JO to a ROC change on RAMJO's existing contractual obligations across our various State agency partners, including the impact on existing RAMJO staff; and
3. Under a new Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities, continue benchmarking against other JO's including Central NSWJO and Hunter Region JO while further building RAMJO's organisational capacity.

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## 7.3 Community Benefits Sharing from Energy Projects

Letter dated 12 August 2025 from NSW Joint Organisation Chair's Forum 7 August 2025. *Attachment 7.3*. For discussion, RAMJO's participation in a co-ordinated effort to pursue Community Benefit Sharing activities and outcomes across the wider JO network, led by the JO Chairs Forum.

### Recommendation:

That the Board

1. **provide** in-principal support to the NSW Joint Chair's Forum for a collaborative approach to:
  - understanding & applying the new benefit-sharing guideline for large-scale energy developments; developing council policies and procedures for negotiating community benefits-sharing arrangements and; advocating for clear planning processes, additional guidelines and retrospective arrangements to ensure net community benefit for regional host communities for all energy developments.
2. **note** that the NSW Joint Organisation Joint Chair's may seek a financial contribution toward this work in the future. Any financial contribution by RAMJO will be subject to a further report to the Board for consideration.

## 7.4 Progress and status of sub-committee's and working groups

A verbal update will be provided by Chairs of sub-committees.

### Recommendation:

That the Board

- **note** the reports provided by the Chairs of RAMJO sub-committees

## AGENDA ITEM 8 – GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

### 8.1 24/25 General Purpose Financial Statements

Please refer to *Attachment 8.1* as 24/25 General Purpose Financial Statements, as provided by Jennifer Lang, a verbal update will be provided by the Interim EO.

### Recommendation:

*That the board:*

1. **Note** the draft General Purpose Financial Statements year ended 30 June 2025. As per Attachment 8.1.
2. **Note** that the Office of Local Government has approved an extension of time to lodge the final General Purpose Financial Statements year ended 30 June 2025 to 30 November 2025.
3. Upon sign off of the Financial Statements by the NSW Audit Office, **authorise** the EO (in consultation with the Chair) to schedule an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of RAMJO Board (via Teams) during November 2025 for the purpose of adopting the final General Purpose Financial Statements year ended 30 June 2025.

### 8.2 Q1 25/26FY Operational Budget Review

Please refer to *Attachment 8.2* in support of a verbal update of the Q1 FY operational budget.

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The attached report will be replaced before the meeting if possible with the title and headings updated to reflect the 25/26 financial year. The budget figures are reliant on completion of 24/25 General Purpose Financial Statements and therefore not available as yet.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

- **note** the Q1 operational budget review update.

### 8.3 Draft OLG Annual Performance Statement 24/25 FY

The OLG required Annual Performance Statement for the 24/25 FY is not completed as yet and will be provided to the Board at that same time as the 24/25 General Purpose Financial Statements for adoption.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board:

- **Defer** the adoption of the OLG Performance Statement for 2024/25 (OLG Compliance Calendar) to November and submit to the Office of Local Government by 30 November 2025.

### 8.4 Update on Associate Membership Status

That the discussion regarding the Associate Membership Status to be deferred to the next Board meeting for consideration.

RDA Riverina have been contacted on 2 occasions seeking an update as to when the draft MOU can be signed and returned to RAMJO. The CEO advises that a response will be sent to RAMJO soon.

**Recommendation:**

*That the Board:*

- **Defer** discussion regarding the Associate Membership Status to the next Board meeting.

### 8.5 Updates to RAMJO Charter

Mr John Scarce was to provide an updated, in his absence it is recommended that this be deferred to the next Board meeting.

**Recommendation:**

*That the Board:*

- **Defer** this matter to the next Board meeting for further consideration

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## 8.6 Tabling of Returns of Interest

*Attachment 8.6* is the Returns of Interest as provided by the Member Councils

**Recommendation:**

*That the Board:*

- **Acknowledge** the tabling of Returns of Interest as required to meet Office of Local Government Requirements

## AGENDA ITEM 9 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

### 9.1 Office of Local Government Update

Ms Louise Taylor will give an update on the work by Cameron Templeton, Council Engagement Manager - Riverina and Far South-West, in his absence, and will discuss current focuses of the Office of Local Government.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board:

- **Note** the update provided by Ms Louise Taylor of Office of Local Government

## AGENDA ITEM 10 – NSW PREMIERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

### 10.1 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.

## AGENDA ITEM 11 – REPORTS FOR NOTING

### 11.1 Regional Resource Recovery Projects

A verbal update will be provided by the Interim EO

### 11.2 Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program – *Attachment 11.2*

### 11.3 ARIC General Update – August Minutes and Agenda + OLG correspondence – *Attachment 11.3*

As the meeting was only conducted late last week the minutes will be provided once completed

### 11.4 Draft Minutes of the General Managers Advisory Committee held 24 October – *Attachment 11.4*

As the meeting was only conducted late last week the minutes will be provided once completed. Interim EO to provide a verbal update on any pressing matters and respond to questions from the floor.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

- **note** the reports provided item 11.1 – 11.4

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## 11.5 Draft Policy – Code of Meeting Practice – Attachment 11.5

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

- **adopt** the Code of Meeting Practice as per Attachment 11.5

## AGENDA ITEM 12 – GENERAL BUSINESS

### 12.1 Murray Regional Tourism Board (MRTB) – RAMJO Representative Nomination

For Discussion: This item has been added at the request of the MRTB. Discussion to continue following the RAMJO Board decision in August to nominate two mayors (Murray River and Albury). The MRTB continues to seek the nomination of a General Manager (not a Mayor) from RAMJO.

Further to this Murray Regional Tourism held their Annual General Meeting Thursday 23 October 2025. Mayor John Harvie attended the meeting as RAMJO nomination to the Board. Cr. Kevin Mack also attended the meeting as RAMJO's alternate delegate. Cr Harvie or Cr. Mack may wish to comment regarding deliberations and decisions at that meeting.

### 12.2 2026 Meeting Dates and Locations

Item from the General Manager Advisory Committee Meeting held 24 October 2025.

General Managers noted that at the last meeting of the RAMJO Board held Friday 15 August 2025 it was decided that the next meeting of the Board would be held Wednesday 29 October 2025.

Several General Managers expressed the view that the preferred day for future Board meetings would be on a Friday. It was also suggested that one Board meeting per year be held in Sydney to coincide with a meeting of the NSW Country Mayors Association. CMA Meeting dates 2026 not available until confirmed at their meeting Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October and will therefore be forwarded separately prior to the meeting.

Two options are provided for discussion:

**Option 1. Recommended.**

- Friday 13 February 2026
- Friday 15 May 2026
- Friday 14 August 2026
- Friday 16 October 2026.

**Option 2. Not recommended.**

- Wednesday 11 February 2026
- Wednesday 13 May 2026
- Wednesday 12 August 2026
- Wednesday 14 October 2026.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

- **Adopt** the following dates for 2026 Board meetings:
  - Friday 13 February 2026
  - Friday 15 May 2026
  - Friday 14 August 2026
  - Friday 16 October 2026.

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## Recommendation:

That the Board

- **Determine** its support (or otherwise) to reschedule one Board meeting during 2026 to be held in Sydney while attending a meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW

## 12.3 Save Mulwala Action Group Inc.

The Save Mulwala Action Group Inc (SMAGI) is seeking support for fair, transparent, and regionally consistent approaches to flood risk management affecting Mulwala and similar communities across the Basin.

This will be up to the individual councils to pursue engagement with SMAGI

RAMJO to play a 'conduit' role and can disseminate relevant info to members

Dr Emily Sharp able to share through DRF where it relates to LUP

## 12.4 Call for General Business by the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 13 – MEETING CLOSE