

BOARD MEETING

13 May 2022

MEETING:	RAMJO Board Meeting		
DATE:	Friday 13 th May 2022		
TIME:	9:30am – 12:30pm		
LOCATION:	Griffith		
CHAIR:	Cr. Matthew Hannan		
ZOOM:	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87840663801?pwd=bGxlbjErSElWSEdJKzZEMkFNTlI5QT09 Meeting ID: 878 4066 3801 Passcode: 949319		
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		
OTHER ATTENDEES – VIRTUAL	Name	Organisation	Role
	Ms Ally Dench (9.45-10.30)	Office of Local Government	Executive Director
	Mr. Mark Lamb	Murray Darling Association	CEO
	Mr. Alex Kitchen	Resilience NSW	Director Strategy, Risk and Insights
	Ms Susan Appleyard	Federation Council	Director of Development and Environmental Services

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"> 25 February 2022 – <i>Attachment A</i> 	9:38
5	Matters arising from previous Board meetings	9:39
6	NSW State Resilience Strategy Mr. Alex Kitchen – Resilience NSW	9:40
7	Office of Local Government Ms Ally Dench - Office of Local Government	9:50
8	RAMJO Freight Priorities - Attachment B Mr David Webb - Chair of RAMJO Transport Sub Committee	10.10
9	Draft RAMJO Water Paper - Attachment C Cr. Chris Bilkey – Chair of RAMJO Water Sub Committee	10.20
	BREAK	10:30
10	GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.1 Ms Nicola Gleeson: Q3 2021-2022 Budget Report – <i>Attachment D</i> 10.2 Ms Nicola Gleeson: 2022-2023 Draft Budget – <i>Attachment E, Attachment F, Attachment G</i> 10.3 Ms Nicola Gleeson: Statement of Revenue Policy – <i>Attachment H</i> 10.4 Ms Nicola Gleeson: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee 	10:45
11	OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE Mr. Cameron Templeton: Office of Local Government Update	11:00
12	Update - Regional NSW Mr Giles Butler : Director Riverina Murray of Regional NSW	11.10
13	UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1 Cr. Chris Bilkey: Water Sub-Committee Update 13.2 Mr Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity Sub-Committee Update 13.3 Mr George Cowan: Energy Security Sub-Committee 13.4 Mr David Webb: Transport Sub-Committee 13.5 Mr John Scarce: Health Sub-Committee Update 13.6 Ms Nicola Gleeson: Revised Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities – <i>Attachment I</i> 	11:20
14	Murray Darling Association Mr Mark Lamb, CEO Murray Darling Association	11.40

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Item	Topic	Time
15	ADVOCACY 15.1 Local Councils' Domestic Waste Charges Review – <i>Attachment J</i> 15.2 IPART Rate peg 2022-2023 – <i>Attachment K</i> 15.3 ePlanning portal and Planning Regime changes – <i>Attachment L</i> 15.4 Parliamentary Committee into Rural Health 15.5 Electric Vehicle Regional Strategy 15.6 Federal / NSW election priorities	12:00
16	PROJECT UPDATES – information Only <i>Written reports, taken as read.</i> 16.1 Mr. Matthew Dudley: Contaminated Land Management – <i>Attachment M</i> 16.2 Ms Andrea Baldwin: Regional Waste Kerbside Contract & Waste Groups – <i>Attachment N</i> 16.3 Ms Nicola Gleeson : Energy Audit and Strategy 16.4 Ms Karina Ewer : Shared Services	12:15
17	OPERATIONAL MATTERS 17.1 General Managers' meeting 29 th April 2022 – <i>Attachment O</i> 17.2 Murray Regional Tourism report - <i>Attachment P</i> 17.3 Industry Advisory Committee – <i>Attachment Q</i> 17.4 NSW Water Customer Advisory Group representative – Murrumbidgee / Murray 17.5 Working Groups : 17.5.1 JO Chairs' Forum - 28 March 2022 - <i>Attachment R</i> 17.5.2 RAMJO Engineers' Forum - 5 May 2022 17.5.3 RAMJO Planners' forum- 21 April 2022 - <i>Attachment S</i> 17.6 Murray and Murrumbidgee Regional Water strategies 17.7 Staffing update	12:30
18	GENERAL BUSINESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for general business 	12:45
Meeting Close		1:00pm

RAMJO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies: Mr. Adrian Butler.

Recommendation:

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

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Narrandera
Carried

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

AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF 22 FEBRUARY 2022

- Draft Minutes of 22 February 2022 – **Attachment A**

Recommendation:

- That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held 22 February 2022 be **received** and the recommendations therein be **adopted**.

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Griffith
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, 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 With a copy to any other agencies that emerge as relevant stakeholders.	IN PROGRESS

RAMJO Board delegated to the General Managers the RAMJO Submission to Councils' Domestic Waste Management charges. Submitted to IPART, Attachment J	COMPLETED
RAMJO Board delegated to the General Managers the RAMJO Submission regarding the IPART Rate Peg 2022-2023. Submitted to IPART, Attachment K	COMPLETED
RAMJO Board delegated to the RAMJO Planners' forum the RAMJO response to recent multiple Planning regime changes. Discussed at Agenda item 15.3.	COMPLETED
RAMJO Board delegated to the RAMJO Engineers' forum a RAMJO wide response to an Electric Vehicles Strategy. The Engineer's forum was to review and decide on RAMJO's action. The forum met 4 th May 2022 and decided that this was not a local government issue, that this should be solved by private industry.	COMPLETED

Recommendation:

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

Moved Albury, Seconded Leeton
Carried

Meeting agenda revision – Agenda item 5 was before Agenda item 6.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – NSW STATE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Mr Alex Kitchen, Director Strategy, Risk and Insights at Resilience NSW gave an update on the development of the first NSW State Resilience Strategy. Resilience NSW are seeking input, advice and expertise from a range of different stakeholders across government, business, councils, NGOs to help inform state-wide outcomes and priorities for future investment in risk mitigation and capability development for a safer and more resilient NSW. There will be a formal engagement process, but they're looking to do some pre-engagement the Board agreed will be part of the next Board meeting.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Mr. Alex Kitchen.

Moved Hay, Seconded Federation
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 7 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director Local Government at the Office of Local Government, gave an update on OLG's work, and the staffing issues facing a complex department. The interagency group looking at the JO review has met twice, bringing together state agencies, and developed a terms of reference.

There were questions from the Board around :

- Companion animal regulations – no guidelines are likely to be issued by OLG imminently, councils will develop their own implementation guidelines.
- Metrics for local government, clarification on which performance ratios will be focused on is unclear, given the Performance Team at OLG has been depleted.
- How OLG differentiates between Rural and Regional councils should be clearer.
- Issues with RFS assets and the NSW Audit office – OLG is working with NSWAO.
- Essential Services Levy – the increase has been approved, this is not sustainable going forward.

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- NSW Audit Office fees for council audits have increased unsustainably for councils, higher than the rate peg. OLG are aware of this and working with NSW AO.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Ms Ally Dench.

**Moved Hay, Seconded Federation
Carried**

AGENDA ITEM 8 – RAMJO FREIGHT PRIORITIES

Mr David Webb, Chair of the Transport Sub Committee presented the draft RAMJO Freight Priorities, developed by the RAMJO Engineers' forum, and reviewed and recommended to the Board by the Transport Sub-committee and the GMs forum. The priorities include 4 freight and 3 intermodal. This is a starting point, not a fixed document. It will be revised as projects are funded or completed, and will be a live document that continues to be periodically updated. Thanks to Mr Brad Ferris and his team at AlburyCity for their significant work developing the document.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **adopt** the RAMJO Freight Priorities.

**Moved Federation, Seconded Edward River
Carried**

AGENDA ITEM 9 – DRAFT RAMJO WATER PAPER

Cr Chris Bilkey, Chair of the Water Sub Committee presented the draft revised RAMJO Water paper, explaining the work that has been undertaken. Case studies and references are still being updated, including as new ABS data is available. Key focusses are :

- National Leadership
- Indigenous Flows
- South Australian entitlement to water
- Metrics used for water monitoring and the penalty regime
- Hubs

There was discussion around advocacy steps with the paper, and readiness for any potential new ministers under the federal and upcoming NSW and VIC state elections. The water sub-committee will be looking at an advocacy plan as a next step.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the progress of the water paper.

**Moved Federation, Seconded Albury
Carried**

AGENDA ITEM 10 – GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

10.1: Quarterly Budget vs Spend Review Q3 2021-2022

Please find at **Attachment D** a spreadsheet documenting Q3 spend to date against budgeted items for FY2021-2022. As in previous quarter, the format has been changed 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

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against year to date actuals. No further changes will be made until the new budget. The budget has been cycled in line with actuals where this is known, otherwise quarterly evenly.

Relating to income:

- RAMJO budgeted to receive \$231,712 year to date, and \$284,069 has been received. This is due to the timing of receiving last year's Procurement Australia Rebate (\$61,325).
- The unbudgeted Energy audit and strategy grant has been moved from the General Fund to a project line, to better reflect the nature of the grant.
- 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 \$432,532 year to date, and spent \$362,437 at the end of Q3.
- This variance is due to:
 - Salary and wages are \$76,150 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. There will be an overall underspend in salaries due to this.
 - Timing differences due to even cycling, Q1 -Q3 has been quiet due to COVID meaning meetings are 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 Q3 budget versus spend report.

Moved Albury, Seconded Narrandera
Carried

10.2: Draft 2022-2023 Budget

The budget is attached at **Attachment E**, proposed Council contributions at **Attachment F**, with a discussion document at **Attachment G**.

Likely unrestricted cash at the end of 2021-2022 financial year will be \$362,080. The current deficit budgeted for 2022-2023 is (\$26,736), before ARIC requirements.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **approve** the 2022-2023 RAMJO budget.

Moved Albury, Seconded Edward River
Carried

10.3: Draft Statement of Revenue Policy 2022-2023

The Draft Statement of Revenue Policy is at **Attachment H**, and is different from prior year only in that it increases the contributions paid by member councils from 2021-2022 by 0.7%, in line with the base rate peg. Some councils have no increase as the cap is \$10,000, in line with prior year, and some increase by more than this due to population growth. There is no methodology change proposed. If councils were increased by their total rate cap amount, this would be an additional \$581 to

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RAMJO, and if a generic CPI of 2% was increased, then this would be an additional \$2,433. These approaches are not proposed as the difference is not material.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **approve** the 2022-2023 Statement of Revenue Policy.

Moved Edward River, Seconded Leeton

Carried

10.4: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)

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 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.

RAMJO has obtained a copy of the service proposal between Namoi Unlimited (encompassing Gunnedah Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council) and Tamworth Regional Council. This has been shared with Albury City, who have drafted a similar proposal for the Albury City ARIC to accept and recommend to Albury City Council for approval. This will be provided to the Board as soon as it is cleared by Albury City. As a high level concept, the ARIC are open to what the guidelines refer to as a “shared” committee with the JO.

There is a risk that this will not be finalised by the deadline of 4th June 2022, but within the JO network there are a number of other JOs that are unable or unwilling to comply with the guidelines, so it's suggested the implications of short term noncompliance while we work with goodwill and intent towards compliance will be minimal.

ARIC costs are not currently included within the budget. They are likely to be approximately \$10k-\$15k as a shared committee.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the progress on the ARIC

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Hay

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 11 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Mr Cameron Templeton gave an update of the work of the OLG. Cameron advised there should be no anxiety over the future of JOs, the Deputy Premier presented to RivJO 12th May and assured that JOs were the way forward.

Cameron was successful in obtaining Smart Beaches funding for another council area which came with a funded Project Manager position. There will be a third round of Digital Restart funding, advised sub committees should be considering if this funding pool is appropriate for any RAMJO projects, given this has the Project Manager included. This funding stream needs a state government partner, OLG was the state partner so has experience in this now.

ACTION : EO to review Digital Restart Funding to see if there are RAMJO projects that would be appropriate.

ACTION : A regular agenda item as an update by Mr Cameron Templeton on progress of the JO Review action group.

Recommendation:

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

**Moved Federation, Seconded Edward River
Carried**

AGENDA ITEM 12 –REGIONAL NSW UPDATE

Mr Giles Butler, Director Riverina Murray of Regional NSW gave an update on the work of Regional NSW.

From the \$200m Regional Recovery Package, aimed at regional stimulus post COVID, the \$25m Community Events Program is now out for application, closing Friday 24th June. Councils should have received an advisory letter. There was discussion about ticketed / free events.

Link is here : [Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events Program | NSW Government](#)

ACTION : Board consider coordinating a regional list of events so councils are not competing with each other for attendances.

Regional Economic Development Strategies are being refreshed, councils have been invited to webinars.

Intention to focus on regional areas without further an “overheated market” for contractors and building costs.

There will be funding / assistance available to help business case development.

- Query – some councils are experiencing significant time lags between being advised of a grant and formal documentation, which is holding up the project timeline as councils are unable to commit to works without assurance the grant will be paid. This is leading to issues with project costs increasing.

ACTION : GMs to send to Giles a list of grants that have had issues.

- Comment – Trend for Federal government operational and capital grant payment in arrears of up to six months, which affects council cash flows, and is functioning as a form of cost shifting.
- Comment – Leeton does not seem to have received full amount of Stronger Country Communities Fund grants, breakdown of funding details is not available.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Giles Butler.

**Moved Albury, Seconded Leeton
Carried**

AGENDA ITEM 13 –STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

13.1 Cr. Chris Bilkey: Water

The water subcommittee has met to review and update the Water position paper, as discussed in Agenda Item 9. The next step will be an advocacy plan.

13.2 Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity

Meeting with FSG to discuss RAMJO grants, FSG undertook a regional tour in April 2022. Blackspot funding will be available. Telstra and TPG have advised they have set up a partnership for network sharing.

Essential Energy met with Albury City to discuss fibre roll out on their poles. Mr Frank Zaknich will send detail to the EO for circulation with the minutes.

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13.3: George Cowan: Energy Security

Energy Subcommittee met to progress the regional strategy, and identify key priorities. The Energy Subcommittee will take on the Electric Vehicle Strategy after the Engineers have met and reported back it is not a priority for them.

13.4: David Webb: Transport

Engineers and Transport subcommittee have met to revisit the revised regional Freight Priorities, per agenda item 8.

13.5 John Scarce: Health

The Health Sub Committee has not met since last Board meeting. The EO and Chair met with MP Justin Clancy in March to discuss RAMJO's support for the Albury Base Hospital. Note that there is a regional health committee being set up. The report from the Parliamentary Committee into Rural Health has been released and circulated to the Health Committee. Cr Kylie King updated the board on the work of the Community Committee "Better Border Health" advocating for the Albury Base Hospital, including a rally Sunday 15th May.

13.6 Revised Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities

The paper at **Attachment I – Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities** sets out the proposed process for RAMJO to refresh its SSRP. The Board agreed the working group will be Mr Brett Stonestreet, Mr George Cowan, Cr. Kylie King. Mr Giles Butler to consider if he or a member of his team is appropriate to join this committee as well.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the strategic priorities updates.
- That the RAMJO Board **note** :
 - the proposed timetable
 - the proposed budget
- The board **approve** the proposed approach to the Revised Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities, and **nominate** a working group.

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Murray River
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 14 – MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION

Mr Mark Lamb has been the CEO of the Murray Darling Association since December 2021, and gave an update on the MDA's work and priorities.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation from Mr. Mark Lamb, CEO of the Murray Darling Association.

Moved Edward River, Seconded Griffith
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 15 – ADVOCACY

15.1 Local Councils' Domestic Waste Charges Review

At the last board meeting the Board delegated the RAMJO response to the IPART review to the General Managers' Forum. Response submitted at **Attachment J**.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the Domestic Waste Charges Review RAMJO submission.

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Moved Murray River, Seconded Griffith
Carried

15.2 IPART rates peg for 2022-2023

At the last board meeting the Board delegated the RAMJO response to the IPART rate peg for 2022-2023 to the General Managers' Forum. Response submitted at **Attachment K**.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the IPART Rate peg RAMJO submission.

Moved Albury, Seconded Edward River
Carried

15.3 ePlanning portal and Planning regime changes

RAMJO has previously made representation to DPE Planning about issues with the planning portal. The RAMJO Planners Forum met recently and the majority of RAMJO councils continue to have serious issues with the ePlanning portal. Ms Susan Appleyard gave a presentation which was circulated to the Board as a late paper.

The Board agreed an urgent meeting with the Planning Minister and the Local Government Minister was appropriate, noting previous attempts to rectify the situation.

ACTION : The EO urgently seek a meeting with the Local Government Minister and the Planning Minister. The EO seek support from other affected JOs.

The recommendation was revised to be more specific.

Recommendation:

- That the Board urgently seek a meeting with the Planning Minister and the Local Government Minister to set out the significant issues experienced by member councils using the Planning portal, and seek the ability to opt in / out of using the planning portal, or assistance with the Planning Portal issues.

Moved Federation, Seconded Murrumbidgee
Carried

15.4 Parliamentary Committee into Rural Health

Most RAMJO member councils made submission to the enquiry into Rural Health. The Parliamentary Committee into Rural Health issued its report 5th May 2022. The Government response is expected 7th November 2022. Report link here : [Report \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au)

The Country Mayors' forum is having a workshop on this issue, this will be revisited after further review.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the Parliamentary Committee into Rural Health report and determine further advocacy representation.

Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Hay
Carried

15.5 Electric Vehicle Regional Strategy

The RAMJO Board delegated the response for a RAMJO Electric Vehicle Regional Strategy to the General Managers' forum, who recommended the Engineers' forum consider it. The Engineers' forum has met and recommend that there be no RAMJO wide strategy, that it remain a matter for private industry. The Energy Sub Committee will take on the strategy, so the recommendation was not put up to the Board.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update from the Engineers' forum and consider if this is an appropriate response.

Not put to Board for consideration.

15.6 Federal / NSW Election priorities

The federal election is rapidly approaching, RAMJO has not considered it appropriate to advocate formally during this period. 2023 New South Wales state election will be held on 25 March 2023, and RAMJO should consider a key election advocacy strategy before this period. This will be deferred to a future meeting, as part of the development of Regional Priorities.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **discuss** the key advocacy strategy for the 2023 NSW state election.

**Moved Murrumbidgee, Seconded Federation
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 M**

- Likely extension of the CRCB project from 30 June 2022 is now uncertain. The 'politics' in Sydney appears to have shifted on SEPP55, and
- soil contaminants (asbestos et al) 'capacity resources' to be developed in collaboration with LGNSW and all other CRCB projects.

16.2: Riverina Waste Group & Murray Waste Group – **Attachment N**

Mr Christian Malins is the new Resource Recovery Project Lead at Albury City, starting 25 April 2022.

16.3: Energy Audits and Strategy – verbal update

There is a fortnightly meeting with DPE, the EO, and the Chair of the Energy Sub Committee. There is ongoing communication between the DPE staff and member council staff regarding progressing energy audit action items and alerting them to grant possibilities.

16.4: Karina Ewer : Shared Services– verbal update

First meeting Friday 21st January. Mapping has begun, as below :

Council	Contact	Mapping scheduled / completed
Albury	Kate de Hennin, Service Leader Engagement Tracey Squires, Deputy CEO Business, Growth & Community	Initial scoping meeting taken place, template sent, meeting to book.

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Berrigan	Karina Ewer, GM	Initial scoping meeting taken place, template sent, meeting to book.
Carrathool	TBA	
Edward River	Belinda Perrett, Executive Assistant	Template sent, meeting not booked
Federation	Robyn Beveridge	Template sent, meeting not booked, staff member leaving.
Griffith	Nick DeMartin, Workforce Planning Manager	Template sent, meeting booked, rescheduled due to COVID.
Hay	David Webb, GM.	Template completed and returned.
Leeton	Gary Taylor, Manager People & Organisation Development	Template sent, meeting booked
Murray River	Stephen Fernando, Director Corporate Services Sandy Paterson, Manager of Business Intelligence	Template sent, meeting to be scheduled
Murrumbidgee	Sarah Gurciullo, People and Culture Officer	Template sent, meeting to be scheduled
Narrandera	George Cowan, GM (+directors)	Template sent, meeting to be scheduled

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 Edward River, Seconded Albury
Carried**

AGENDA ITEM 17 – OPERATIONAL MATTERS

17.1 – General Managers Group Meeting Minutes

The General Managers met on Friday 29th April 2022, minutes can be found at **Attachment O**

17.2 – Murray Regional Tourism

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

17.3 – Industry Advisory Committee

Attachment Q has the report from Ms Karina Ewer on the latest meeting of IAC, taken as read.

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17.4 – NSW Water Customer Advisory Group representative

Mayor Paul Maytom was previously the RAMJO representative for the Murrumbidgee Customer Advisory Group. RAMJO has previously not had a representative on the Murray group. Ms Jackie Kruger has been nominated by Leeton and Mr David Webb has been nominated by Hay for Murrumbidgee, and there has been no nomination for the Murray group. Murray councils are suggested to nominate to be on the Murray group.

17.5 - Working Groups

17.5.1 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.

17.5.2 Engineers Forum 5 May 2022

Engineers' forum met 5 May 2022, and minutes will be circulated when they are received. They will not be a late paper to this meeting.

17.5.3 Planners Forum 21 April 2022

The RAMJO Planners forum has restarted, chaired by Ms Susan Appleyard, Director Federation, and will meet quarterly. Minutes are at **Attachment S**.

17.6 –Murray and Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategies

From 11 April to 22 May the draft Murray and Murrumbidgee regional water strategies will be on public exhibition. Is further submission or joint response needed. Webinar and public information sessions are available, through the RAMJO footprint.

17.7 –Staffing update

Ms Carolyn Clancy will commence on a two year fixed term contract as the RAMJO Office Manager on Monday 16th May, working across RAMJO operational and project work.

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the operational updates.

Moved Federation, Seconded Narrandera

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 18 – GENERAL BUSINESS

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

- Timing of Board meeting start

It was suggested the meetings start later in the morning to enable members to travel up the morning of the meeting, but as the next meeting will be held with a workshop the previous day, this was not taken further.

- MDBA Water Management training for Councillors

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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.

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