

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

12 May 2023

MEETING:	RAMJO Board Meeting		
DATE:	Friday 12 th May 2023		
TIME:	9:30am – 1:00pm		
LOCATION:	Tocumwal Aviation Museum		
CHAIR:	Cr. Matthew Hannan		
ZOOM:	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83717190379?pwd=TU9iZ2hRUIRscUUxWUVOSHVpN3FMUT09 Meeting ID: 837 1719 0379 Passcode: 549400		
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 (absent)	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. Yvonne Lingua – Executive Officer		
	Ms. Carolyn Clancy – Office Manager		
	Mr. Christian Malins - Resource Recovery Project Lead		
OTHER ATTENDEES	Name	Organisation	Role
	Ms. Wendy Grainger	Murray Regional Tourism	Chair
	Mr. Cameron Sutton	Murray Regional Tourism	Chief Executive Officer
	Mr. Matthew Beggs	Landcom	Executive GM for Business Dev.
	Mr. Peter Drivas Ms. Liz Collyer		

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"> 24 February 2023 – <i>Attachment A</i> 	9:38
5	Matters arising from previous Board meetings	9:39
6	Correspondence - <i>Attachment B</i>	9:40
7	Guest presentation – Mr. Matthew Beggs, Executive General Manager for Business Development, Landcom	9:41
8	Guest presentation – Beyond Buyback Campaign – Ms. Claire Miller, CEO NSW Irrigators’ Council - <i>Attachments C1, C2, C3</i>	10:10
	GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE	
9	9.1 Ms Yvonne Lingua: 2022-2023 Q3 Quarterly Budget Review – <i>Attachment D</i> 9.2 Ms Yvonne Lingua: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee – <i>Attachment E1, E2</i>	10:30
	BREAK	10:40
	UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	
10	10.1 Cr. Chris Bilkey: Water Sub-Committee Update 10.2 Mr Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity Sub-Committee Update 10.3 Mr George Cowan: Energy Security Sub-Committee 10.4 Mr David Webb: Transport Sub-Committee 10.5 Mr John Scarce: Health Sub-Committee Update 10.6 Mr. Brett Stonestreet: Housing Sub-Committee	10:55
11	OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT Mr Cameron Templeton: Office of Local Government Update	11:15
12	REGIONAL NSW Mr Giles Butler : Regional NSW Update	11:30
	PROJECT UPDATES	
13	13.1 Mr Matthew Dudley: Contaminated Land Management – <i>Attachment F, Attachment G</i> 13.2 Mr Christian Malins: Waste Groups – <i>Attachment H</i> 13.3 Ms Karina Ewer: Shared Services Project <i>Attachment I</i> 13.4 Ms Yvonne Lingua: Disaster Risk Reduction Fund – <i>Attachment J</i> 13.5 Ms Narelle Martin: Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration – <i>Attachment K</i>	11:45
	ADVOCACY	
14	14.1 ePlanning portal – <i>Attachment L</i> 14.2 Country University Centre – <i>Attachment M</i>	12:15

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Item	Topic	Time
	14.3 Emergency Services Levy – Attachment P	
15	GUEST PRESENTATION – Murray Regional Tourism – Ms. Wendy Greiner, Chair & Mr. Cameron Sutton, CEO	12:30
	OPERATIONAL MATTERS	
16	16.1 General Managers’ meeting 21 April 2023– Attachment N 16.2 Executive Officer’s Performance Development Plan – Attachment O	12:45
17	GENERAL BUSINESS <ul style="list-style-type: none">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. Welcome meeting guests.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies: Cr. Patrick Bourke

Recommendation:

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

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

None declared.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Draft Minutes of 24 February 2023– **Attachment A**

Recommendation:

- That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meetings held 24 February 2023 be **received** and the recommendations therein be **adopted**.

Griffith/Murrumbidgee

AGENDA ITEMS 5 - MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS RAMJO BOARD MEETINGS

ITEM	STATUS
Invite Water NSW Director Vince Kelly to RAMJO Water Security Sub Committee meeting to seek clarity on planned infrastructure changes.	IN PROGRESS
Board to consider coordinating a regional list of events so councils are not competing with each other for attendances.	NOT STARTED
Item 14.4 (From February 2023) Decide on further advocacy or action regarding Country University Centre's within the RAMJO footprint.	IN PROGRESS - FOR DISCUSSION
Item 9.2 Request that the EO advance the development of a <i>RAMJO Risk Appetite Statement</i> at the next Board Meeting (August) – Councils to assist RAMJO in developing a risk management framework.	IN PROGRESS
Item 16.2 Matthew Hannan, Karina Ewer, George Cowan, Ruth McRae and Pat Bourke to review in July/August.	COMPLETED
Item 17 RAMJO prepare a letter to the Minister for Local Government calling for greater support for regional and rural councils to aid the planning process	COMPLETED

Recommendation:

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

Moved / Seconded

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AGENDA ITEM 6 – CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

CORRESPONDENCE SENT – ATTACHMENT B

Date	To	Subject	Action
31 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen Dalton – Member for Murray Justin Clancy – Member for Albury Steph Cooke – Member for Cootamundra The Hon Ron Hoenig – Minister for Local Government The Hon. Jennifer Aitchison – Minister for Regional Transport and Roads The Hon. John Graham – Minister for Roads, the Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism The Hon. Tara Moriarty – Minister for Regional NSW, Agriculture and Western NSW 	<p>Congratulatory correspondence sent to MP’s following the March 2023 State Election, seeking opportunities for collaboration and discussion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting held with Justin Clancy, RAMJO Chair and EO on 26 April

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Nil

Recommendation:

The Board **note** the Correspondence update.

Murrumbidgee/Edward River

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AGENDA ITEM 7 – LANDCOM PRESENTATION

Mr. Matthew Beggs, Executive General Manager for Business Development at Landcom gave a presentation to the board.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by the Landcom.

Griffith / Murray River

AGENDA ITEM 8 – BEYOND BUY BACK CAMPAIGN - ATTACHMENTS C1, C2, C3

Ms. Claire Miller, CEO NSW Irrigators' Council presented to the board.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation.
- RAMJO Water Sub-Committee to engage with NSW Irrigator's Council and other interest groups in the first instance, to ensure alignment between RAMJO Policy and the Irrigator's Council and other interest groups.

Murray River / Murrumbidgee

AGENDA ITEM 9 – GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

9.1 Quarterly Budget vs Spend Review Q3 2022-2023

Please find at **Attachment D** a spreadsheet documenting Q3 spend to date against budgeted items for FY2022-2023.

Relating to General Fund income:

- No major items to note
- Assessment currently being done on RAMJO's income streams from projects, looking for potential savings as we head towards EOFY.

Relating to General Fund expenses:

- Comments for items are noted in the comments section of attachment D
- Some savings had by hosting GM's/CEO's and sub-committee meetings online

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the 2022-2023 Q3 budget versus spend report.

Murrumbidgee / Hay

9.2 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee ("ARIC")

Following the GM's/CEO's meeting on 21 April and a discussion surrounding the need to advance progress on RAMJO's ARIC requirements, Albury City Council's original proposal has been re-considered.

Please see attached report and proposal as at 5 May as **Attachments E1, E2** for more detail.

Recommendation:

- That the Board accept the revised quote from Albury City Council to provide three independent ARIC members to RAMJO, for a set fee.
- Request that the EO advance the development of a *RAMJO Risk Appetite Statement* at the next Board Meeting (August).

12 May 2023

- Councils to assist RAMJO in developing a Risk Management Framework.

Albury / Narrandera

AGENDA ITEM 10 – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

10.1 Cr. Chris Bilkey: Water

- The Water subcommittee met on 6 April 2023. An updated Water Position Paper will be finalised in late June and aims to be ready for distribution and advocacy by July 2023.

10.2 Mr Phil Stone: Digital Connectivity – Verbal Update

- 3G network to be discontinued on 24 June 2023 – telecommunications services are conducting some community support to aid the transition and have engaged with some councils
- Sub-committee seeking opportunities to advance progress

10.3 Mr George Cowan: Energy Security – Verbal Update

- The next Energy sub-committee meeting is scheduled for 15 May
- RAMJO's Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (**JONZA**) Project Manager has been employed and is working in advancing RAMJO's Regional Energy Strategy, with assistance from funding secured from Sustainable Councils and the JONZA pilot program
- A presentation on JONZA project will be delivered further in the meeting

10.4 Mr David Webb: Transport – Verbal Update

- The Transport sub-committee last met on Tuesday 2 May, advancing work on updating RAMJO's Freight Priorities Report
- Correspondence to relevant incoming Ministers was recently sent, seeking opportunities for engagement and advocacy

10.5 Mr John Scarce: Health – Verbal Update

- A draft Health Position Paper is ready for review by the Health sub-committee, with a meeting being scheduled ASAP

10.6 Housing Sub Committee – Verbal update

- The Housing Sub Committee met for the first time on 12 April
- RAMJO to commence work on developing a document that will assist interested member councils in developing their councils Housing Strategy

Recommendation:

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

Edward River/Murrumbidgee

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AGENDA ITEM 11 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Mr Cameron Templeton gave an update of the work of the OLG.

Recommendation:

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

Edward River/ Albury

AGENDA ITEM 12 –REGIONAL NSW UPDATE

Mr Giles Butler Director, Riverina Murray, Regional Development - Regional NSW gave an update on Regional NSW.

Recommendation:

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

Narrandera / Albury

AGENDA ITEM 13 – PROJECT UPDATES

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

13.1 Matthew Dudley: Contaminated Lands Management – Attachments F, G

Taken as read with presentation.

Recommendation:

- That RAMJO endorse the Contaminated Land Management Policy.

Leeton / Murrumbidgee

13.2 Christian Malins: Riverina Waste Group & Murray Waste Group – Attachment H

Taken as read with presentation.

13.4 Karina Ewer: Shared Services – Attachment I

Taken as read with verbal update.

13.5 Yvonne Lingua: Disaster Risk Reduction – Attachment J

Taken as read with verbal update.

13.6 Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration – Attachment K

Taken as read with presentation.

Recommendation:

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

Murrumbidgee / Edward River

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AGENDA ITEM 14 – ADVOCACY

14.1 ePlanning Portal

Karina Ewer gave an update on the ePlanning API project - **Attachment L**

14.2 Country University Centre

RAMJO Board to discuss ongoing advocacy regarding additional Country University Centres in the RAMJO footprint.
Please see **Attachment M**.

14.3 Emergency Services Levy

RAMJO Board to discuss advocacy regarding Emergency Services Levy – **Attachment P**

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update on the ePlanning portal project and advocacy discussion on Country University Centres.

Murray River / Albury

AGENDA ITEM 15 – PRESENTATION – MURRAY REGIONAL TOURISM

Ms. Wendy Greiner, Chair and Mr. Cameron Sutton, CEO presented updates of key strategic items.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by Ms. Wendy Greiner and Mr. Cameron Sutton.

Not moved or seconded

AGENDA ITEM 16– OPERATIONAL MATTERS

16.1 General Managers' meeting 21 April 2022

The General Managers met on Friday 21 April 2023, draft minutes can be found at **Attachment M**.

16.2 Executive Officer's Performance Development Plan

The EO's proposed Performance Development Plan can be found at **Attachment N**.

Matthew Hannan, Karina Ewer, George Cowan and Pat Bourke to review in August 2023.

AGENDA ITEM 17 – GENERAL BUSINESS

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

Daryl Jardine requested the Board to consider writing a letter to our new minister asking given that his maiden speech in parliament he mentioned that he was passionate about planning and said that only local experts including councillors and local members should be making planning decisions, not bureaucrats, when is he going to make this happen for rural and regional councils, if that could be prioritised and if he would consider formulating a state funding contribution to rural council land set aside for housing to cover power and water infrastructure costs.

Recommendation:

- That RAMJO prepare a letter to the Minister for Local Government calling for greater support for regional and rural councils to aid the planning process, specifically:
 - State funded contributions be put aside and prioritised for power, water and other housing related infrastructure for rural and regional councils
 - Highlight the road-blocks councils face in planning development and seek support to address this
 - Request a timeframe as to when this will be addressed

Carrathool / Hay

MEETING CLOSE