

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025

<b>MEETING</b>	RAMJO Board Meeting		
<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday 29 October		
<b>TIME</b>	10:00am – 1:00pm		
<b>LOCATION</b>	Barooga Sporties, Burkinshaw Street Barooga		
<b>CHAIR</b>	Cr. Ruth McRae		
	<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. Terry Dodds
	Berrigan Shire Council	Cr. Catherine Healey	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 y	Disaster Resilience Project Manager	
	<b>PRESENTERS</b>		
	Mr. Giles Butler	Director, Regional Coordination - South, Delivery & Engagement <b>NSW Premier's Department</b>	
	Mr. Cameron Templeton	Council Engagement Manager - Riverina and Far South-West <b>NSW Office of Local Government</b>	
Mr. Simon Wallace-Pannell	Manager Sustainable Councils - Climate Change and Strategy <b>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</b>		
Mrs. Lisa Miller	Senior Project Officer - Climate Change and Strategy <b>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</b>		
Ms Louise Taylor	<b>NSW Office of Local Government</b>		

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025

## 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><u>FOR DISCUSSION:</u> 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><u>FOR DISCUSSION:</u> 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> 9.1 Ms Louise Taylor	12.20
10	<b>UPDATE FROM NSW PREMIERS DEPARTRMEN</b> 10.1 Mr. Giles Butler	12.45
11	<b><u>REPORTS FOR NOTING:</u> 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.	

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025

ITEM	TOPIC	TIME
	12.4 Call for general business by the Chair	
13	MEETING CLOSE	1.30

## AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chair to welcome attendees and acknowledgement of country.

Cr Catherine Healy from Berrigan Shire Council provided welcome and acknowledgement of country.

## AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies have been received from Cr Doug Curran, Cr Julia Cornwell McKean, Cr Kevin Mack, Cr Louie Zaffina, Mr Peter Thompson, Mr Terry Dodds, Mr Ken Ross, and Mr Cameron Templeton

**Recommendation:**

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

Moved Wentworth / Seconded Federation

*Carried*

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

Attendees to note any declarations. nil

## 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**.

Moved Murray River / Seconded Federation

*Carried*

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025

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

ACTIONS ARISING FROM 15 AUGUST MEETING		
ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
7.1 RAMJO Future Directions/Capacity and Executive Officer Recruitment	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 provided a update
7.5 Progress and status of sub-committee's and working groups	<i>Investigate Councillors not receiving invites for committee meetings.</i>	<b>Complete</b> Susan updated the invite list
8.1 Updates to RAMJO Charter	<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 Welcome further input to Brett or Ruth to ensure open accountability any ideas welcome
8.2 25/26 FY Operational Budget Review	<i>EO to circulate the 2025/2026 adopted operational budget.</i>	<b>Complete</b> Circulated with minutes
8.3 Engagement of a new accounting service provider	<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
11.3 Call for General Business by the Chair	<i>Cr Ashley Hall to share/develop media response and/or other materials relating to this issue</i>	<b>In progress</b> No result as yet
	<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

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025

ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS		
ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
8.1 Office of Local Government Update	<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>
10.1 2025/2026 Operational Budget	<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
6.1 ARIC Update	Ensure a board member or their suitable representative, attend RAMJO ARIC meetings going forward	<b>Completed</b> Cr Ruth McRae attending meeting
10.1 NSW Premiers Department – General Update	Giles provided update on Engaging Regional Communities program and Regional Impact Statements regarding policy and legislation being included in framework.	<b>Ongoing</b>
8.1 Update on sub-committees and working groups	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.

Moved Griffith City / Seconded Murray River

*Carried*

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025

## 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 presented an update on the project, her report to GMAC also included as Attachment 6.1

*Emily left meeting at 10.30am*

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

Mr. Simon Wallace-Pannel and Mrs. Lisa Miller presented on the Cassora Emissions Reporting Platform

The platform includes free licences for all JO councils for at least the first year. If not able to provide continued sponsorship it is estimated that the cost ongoing will be around \$3,000 per council per annum.

*Simon and Lisa left the meeting at 11.12am*

#### Recommendation:

That the Board

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

**Moved Berrigan / Seconded Federation**

*Carried*

## 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*) was reviewed along with:

- 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.
2. **adopt** the Capacity Building Programs document as per Attachment 7.1b.
3. **adopt** the Advocacy Document as per Attachment 7.1c.
4. **Review** the RAMJO Committee Structure during 2026 to ensure it aligns with the revised Regional Statement of Strategic Priorities 2025-2029.

**Moved Federation / Seconded Albury City**

*Carried*

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025



## 7.2 JO and ROC Comparative Analysis

Interim EO provided a summary of Comparative Analysis provided by the former EO on the JO vs ROC proposal as *Attachment 7.2* and feedback sought from Board.

Questions placed to OLG regarding the removal of two councils and the addition of Wentworth and Balranald with Wentworth noting the onerous cost of continuing to fund inactive JO. Comments taken on board by OLG.

### 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. **monitor** benchmarking against other JO's, including Central NSWJO and Hunter Region JO, while further building RAMJO's organisational capacity under a new Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities.

**Moved Wentworth / Seconded Murray River**

*Carried*

## 7.3 Community Benefits Sharing from Energy Projects

Interim EO discussed letter dated 12 August 2025 from NSW Joint Organisation Chair's Forum 7 August 2025. *Attachment 7.3*, and 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.

Agreed that some councils are more advanced than others so those venturing now able to learn from example. Some Councils have gained greater benefits than others and some are finding themselves to be disadvantaged by the residential arrangements established for REZ workers. No visible community benefit during works nor afterwards. Suggested to invite EnergyCo to the next Board meeting to gain their input on how to best manage REZ arrangements.

**ACTION ITEM:** invite EnergyCo to attend meeting

### 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.
3. **3 Invite** EnergyCo to attend next board meeting

**Moved Murray River / Seconded Edward River**

*Carried*

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025



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

A verbal update was provided by Chairs of sub-committees.

Water - Jackie Kruger has arranged an extraordinary meeting for next Monday, all members invited to attend. DPIRD to discuss Round 2 progress and National Irrigators council will also presenting.

Digital Connectivity – Jackie Kruger informed that Gerard Simms from Leeton provided report to GMAC and working with Telstra to finalise proposal.

**ACTION ITEM:** New Chairs for Housing and Energy Committee to be voted on at next Board meeting, members sought for all committees.

**ACTION ITEM:** Gerard Simms presentation to GMAC to be distributed to all Board members.

### Recommendation:

That the Board

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

Moved Federation / Seconded Leeton

*Carried*

## AGENDA ITEM 8 – GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

### 8.1 24/25 General Purpose Financial Statements

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

These are currently under review by the Audit Office as interpretation of unused grant funding is in question. An extension has been granted and adoption of these will be conducted via an extraordinary meeting in November on Teams once Jennifer Lang has confirmation from the Audit Office of the accepted preparation of financial statements.

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

A verbal explanation of the Q1 FY operational budget *Attachment 8.2* was provided by the interim EO.

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

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

### 8.4 Update on Associate Membership Status

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

RDA Murray are signed on and in attendance. RDA Riverina have been contacted on two 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.

**ACTION ITEM:** Associate Member status to be an item of discussion in next Board meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** interim EO to follow up with RDA Riverina on MOU

### 8.5 Updates to RAMJO Charter

This matter to be deferred to the next Board meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** RAMJO Charter to be an item of discussion in next Board meeting.

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025

## 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** and adopt the items 8.1 through to 8.6

**Moved Federation / Seconded Murray River**

*Carried*

## AGENDA ITEM 9 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

### 9.1 Office of Local Government Update

Ms Louise Taylor provided an update from the Office of Local Government in the absence of Cameron Templeton, Council Engagement Manager - Riverina and Far South-West.

#### 1. Fresh Start Program

- Three rounds of grant funding have been completed.
- Over 1,000 new apprentice and trainee positions approved this year, with 60% in regional areas.
- Roles include early childhood educators, civil engineers, and waste/water support.
- 92 positions approved across RAMJO councils: 33 apprentices, 50 trainees, 9 cadets.
- Demographics: 70% under 25, 12% Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander, 5% with disability, 40% female.
- A potential fourth round will depend on uptake by February next year.
- Speaker praised the program's success as both a parent and official.

#### 2. Code of Meeting Practice Review

- Two webinars recently held with strong attendance; recordings available online for councillors.
- Updated FAQs and guidance are in progress but not yet published.
- Ms Taylor declined to answer questions on the new Code of Meeting Practice until official updates are released.

#### 3. Code of Conduct Framework Review is ongoing - no fixed timeline.

#### 4. Local Government Amendment (Elections) Bill

- Changes proposed to how vacancies are filled after councillor resignations and to remove private election providers.
- Passed the Legislative Assembly (22 October), now before the Legislative Council.
- Discussion raised about concerns that "next-in-line" replacements may not want the position; preference expressed for by-elections in some cases.

#### 5. OLG Participation in LG NSW Conference

- OLG, including senior staff and engagement managers, will attend and be available for consultation.

#### Discussion

- Councillors raised concerns about automatic replacement of councillors after resignations versus holding by-elections. Some suggested councils should retain flexibility to choose.
- It was noted that previous council experiences showed by-elections can be costly but more democratic.

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025

## Recommendation:

That the Board:

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

Moved Griffith / Seconded Wentworth

*Carried*

Chair – Leaving the meeting early - thank you to Brett for stepping in as Interim EO – we will advertise in the new Year. Thank you to both Brett and Susan for work undertaken during transition

*Break for five minutes at 12.00pm*

*Chair Cr Ruth McRae left the meeting 12.01*

*Meeting resumed 12.05pm*

*Cr Cheryl Cook stepped in to position as chair 12.05pm*

## AGENDA ITEM 10 – NSW PREMIERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

### 10.1 NSW Premiers Department Update

Mr Giles Butler, Director - Regional Coordination South, Delivery & Engagement, provided an update and discuss current focuses of the NSW Premiers Department.

- **Strategic Regional Collaboration:** emphasising the importance of strategic, coordinated work across regions to avoid reliance on constant grant applications. Departments are seeking more integrated approaches to planning and housing. Suggested the board engage further with Kalina Koloff, Cross Border Commissioner, noting she is now part of the NSW Premiers Department. Also suggested to engage with Jill Ludford, Chief Executive of Murrumbidgee Local Health District
- **New Housing Coordination Group:** A new senior-level group chaired by Secretary Simon Draper has been established to better coordinate housing responsibilities across agencies.
- **Engagement Encouraged Despite Silos:** board members advised to bring forward ideas regardless of departmental silos, noting that the Department is open to discussions on funding, programs, and housing outcomes.

#### Discussion

- **Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program (REDCIP):** Members requested an explanation of the funding announcements and advised REDCIP funding with DPIRD and oversubscribed so decisions are being staggered via region. DPIRD may be able to announce that next week at Water meeting.
- Members voiced significant difficulties engaging with Crown Lands, including delays in ministerial meetings and barriers related to land leasing reforms that impede housing progress. Mr Butler acknowledged these concerns, noting:
  - Long-standing issues (e.g., native title, Treasury policies on land transfer returns).
  - Current efforts to re-examine Crown land activation and reform processes.
- **Youth Crime Approach:** Questions were raised regarding whether youth crime initiatives would focus only on high-profile areas or also support smaller regional communities. Mr Butler indicated:
  - Priority areas are still being defined. Agencies (Justice, Police, Education) are working to improve early prevention and intervention, not just crisis response.

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025



Members highlighted success in previous mental-health-focused prevention initiatives where communities were consulted directly about their needs. Emphasis was placed on:

- Localised, community-specific solutions.
- The importance of service mapping and strengthening connections for young people.

**ACTION ITEM:** Invite Jill Ludford, Chief Executive of Murrumbidgee Local Health District to attend the next Board Meeting

**ACTION ITEM:** Invite Kalina Koloff, NSW Cross Border Commissioner, to attend future meetings as per OLG and Premiers Department representatives.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

- note the update provided by Mr Giles Butler of the NSW Premiers Department.

Moved Murray River / Seconded Wentworth

*Carried*

## AGENDA ITEM 11 – REPORTS FOR NOTING

### 11.1 Regional Resource Recovery Projects

The Interim EO provided a verbal update, confirming revised grant deeds have been signed off and executed, and the project will be moving forward under RAMJO from 10 November with the commencement of Emma Avery as Project Manager and Sami Campbell as Project Officer

### 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

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

- note the reports provided item 11.1 – 11.3

Moved Griffith City / Seconded Berrigan Shire

*Carried*

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

Minutes presented for noting as per *Attachment 11.4*. Interim EO provided a verbal update on any pressing matters.

Ms Jackie Kruger highlighted two resolutions from the GMAC meeting:

**Cyber Security, SIEM & SOC Proposal:** – Mr Gerard Simms, Chair of the Digital Connectivity Working Group, presented a report to the GMAC with a recommendation to board endorse a three tier proposal for procurement of SIEM and SOC services across RAMJO.

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

- **endorse** the joint procurement of SIEM and SOC Services, to be undertaken by RAMJO, on the understanding that no Council is obligated to join, and those currently committed elsewhere are able to opt in at a later stage.

Moved Leeton / Seconded Albury City

*Carried*

**Digital Connectivity Project:** Mr Gerard Simms presented a report to GMAC regarding \$43M proposal for 26 towers across the Murray region in both Victoria and NSW with majority of funding from State and Federal Governments with individual Councils to decide on level of support.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board

- **endorse** the digital connectivity project and approve Chair of Digital Connectivity Working Group and RAMJO Board Chair to advocate for State Funding

Moved Murray River / Seconded Leeton

*Carried*

## 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

Moved Murray River / Seconded Edward River

*Carried*

## 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 advised that a motion was raised stating nominees should be chosen on skills and qualifications and knowledge of Murray Regional Tourism rather than limiting to General Managers or senior directors. This was voted against 6 to 4 with MRTB emphasising that this is an MRTB decision and not RAMJO choice.

**ACTION ITEM:** EO to write to MRTB Chair Mr Paul Geyer inviting to meet with RAMJO to discuss position

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025



## 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

Country Mayors Association dates for 2026 are as follows with LGNSW Workshops the day prior and Regional Summit 7 May 2026:

- 27 March 2026
- 8 May 2026
- 28 August 2026
- 13 November 2026

### Recommendation:

That the Board

**Endorse** the following dates for 2026 Board Meetings.

- Friday 13 February 2026 Wentworth
- Friday 15 May 2026 Albury
- Friday 14 August 2026 Balranald
- Friday 16 October 2026. Deniliquin

Meeting times to return to 9.00am to allow travel time in the afternoon and dinner to be arranged the night prior.

**Moved Griffith City / Seconded Leeton**

*Carried*

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025



## 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.

### Recommendation:

That the Board

Invite the Cross Border Commissioner to attend meetings of the Board in an advisory position.

**Moved Wentworth / Seconded Murray River**

*Carried*

## AGENDA ITEM 13 – MEETING CLOSE

*The meeting closed at 1.05pm*

The next quarterly Board meeting to be held 9am on Friday 13 February 2026 at Wentworth, with an Extraordinary Meeting to adopt the Financial and Operational Reports to be conducted in November via Teams.