



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION  
HELD IN THE IAN GILBERT ROOM OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup>  
NOVEMBER 2018 AT 10.00 AM**

**PRESENT**

**VOTING BOARD MEMBERS**

Cr Kevin Mack	Mayor Albury City Council
Cr Daryll Morris	Deputy Mayor Berrigan Shire Council
Cr Norm Brennan	Mayor Edward River Council
Cr John Dal Broi	Mayor Griffith City Council
Cr Paul Maytom	Mayor Leeton Shire Council
Cr Peter Laird	Mayor Carrathool Shire Council
Cr Patrick Bourke	Mayor Federation Council
Cr Bill Sheaffe	Mayor Hay Shire Council
Cr Chris Bilkey	Mayor Murray River Council
Cr Neville Kschenka	Mayor Narrandera Shire Council

**NON VOTING BOARD MEMBER – NSW GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr James Bolton	Regional Director Riverina Murray – Department of Premier and Cabinet
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**OTHER NON VOTING BOARD MEMBERS – COUNCIL GENERAL MANAGERS**

Ms Tracey Squire (Acting GM)	Albury City Council
Ms Amanda Spalding	Hay Shire Council
Mr Adam McSwain	Edward River Council
Mr Brett Stonestreet	Griffith City Council
Mr John Scarce	Murrumbidgee Council
Ms Jackie Kruger	Leeton Shire Council
Mr Robert Rayner (Acting GM)	Carrathool Shire Council
Mr George Cowan	Narrandera Shire Council

**MEETING OBSERVERS**

Ms Marg Couch	RDA Riverina
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**MEETING PRESENTERS**

Mr Andrew Lewis	TransGrid - Manager Governance and Stakeholder Engagement
Mr Mitchell Hume	TransGrid - Manager Public Relations, Policy and Corporate Affairs

**INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Mr Ray Stubbs
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**AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME**

The Chairperson welcomed Board Members and guests to the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 - APOLOGIES**Voting Board Members

Cr Ruth McRae (Mayor Murrumbidgee Council) and Cr Matthew Hannan (Mayor Berrigan Shire Council)

Non-Voting Board Members

Des Bilske (General Manager Murray River Council), Adrian Butler (General Manager Federation Council) and Rowan Perkins (General Manager Berrigan Shire Council)

**RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted and that leave of absence be granted.  
(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Bourke)**

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST – BOARD MEMBERS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests lodged at the meeting by Board Members or other Designated Persons

**AGENDA ITEM 4 - MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING – HELD AT JERILDERIE ON 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held at Jerilderie on 5<sup>TH</sup> September 2018 be confirmed  
(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Maytom)**

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 BOARD MEETING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – JAMES BOLTON DP&C REGIONAL DIRECTOR RIVERINA MURRAY**

Regional Director James Bolton addressed the Board in relation to current matters in relation to DP&C and Joint Organisations. A copy of James' presentation slides to be distributed with the Minutes

**AGENDA ITEM 7 – CHAIRPERSON'S PRESENTATION – ALBURY WODONGA REGIONAL FOODSHARE PROGRAM**

Chair Cr Kevin Mack delivered a powerpoint presentation in relation to the scope and activities of the Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare (AWRFS) Program, which provides services to needy persons in a number of towns across the RAMJO region. He advised that ongoing operational funding to maintain the effectiveness of the program is urgently required and that RAMJO can support the service by way of representations to Federal and State Government proposing the provision of adequate funding.

**RESOLVED** that the Chair and Executive Officer further liaise with AWRFS with a view to preparing a co-ordinated response to Federal and State Governments stressing the importance of maintaining ongoing and effective operation within the RAMJO region and the urgent priority for Governments' financial support

**(Moved Cr Laird and seconded Cr Bourke)**

**AGENDA ITEM 8 – MINUTES OF JOINT ORGANISATIONS CHAIRS FORUM MEETING 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018 AND SUMMARY OF JOINT ORGANISATIONS' STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

Consideration was given to a report by the Interim Executive Officer in relation to the outcomes of the Joint Organisations Chairs Forum meeting held in Albury on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and a request for RAMJO to indicate which strategic priorities can be delivered collaboratively by JOs with State Government support.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Minutes of the Joint Organisations Chairs Forum meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 in Albury be received and noted**
- 2. That the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Local Government and the JO Chairs Forum be advised that RAMJO considers that the highest strategic priorities to be pursued collaboratively by Joint Organisations with the State Government are as follows:-**
  - Water
  - Energy
  - Transport, Freight and Infrastructure
  - Digital Connectivity
  - Economy

**(Moved Cr Morris and seconded Cr Maytom)**

**AGENDA ITEM 9 - SOUTHERN LIGHTS STREET LIGHTING PROJECT – UPDATE REPORT BY BRAD FERRIS RAMJO'S REPRESENTATIVE ON PROJECT WORKING GROUP**

The Board received update reports from Mr Ferris regarding the Southern Lights Street Lighting Project, arising from the 8<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November meetings of the Project Working Group, with Essential Energy and the Project Consultant Next Energy.

**RESOLVED** that the update reports submitted by RAMJO's Street Lighting Representative Brad Ferris be received and noted

**(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Brennan)**

**AGENDA ITEM 10 - DRAFT RAMJO STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES – TO BE SUBMITTED TO OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

The final draft of the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) was submitted for consideration by the Board, which identifies the following key strategic regional priorities:-

1. Improve our Water Security
2. Improve our Energy Security and Affordability
3. Improve Transport Connectivity
4. Improve Digital Connectivity
5. Better Match Health Services to our Changing Needs
6. Boost out Industry/Workforce/Jobs

The meeting also considered the establishment of Pillar Priority Sub Committees to address each of the key strategic priorities and the appointment of Councils' Mayors and General Managers to each of those Sub Committees.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) be formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website;
2. That the SSRP document be professionally designed and printed and submitted to the NSW Premier and Deputy Premier, Minister for Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Office of Local Government;
3. That a one page summary document be developed for external distribution to other Joint Organisations, Councils, community organisations, State and Federal Government Ministers, Departments and Agencies and other identified RAMJO stakeholders ;
4. That the following Council Mayors and/or General Managers be appointed as members of the various Pillar Priority Sub-committees to progress the development of strategies and action plans:-
  - Water Security - Leeton, Murray River, Berrigan and Edward River Councils
  - Energy Security and Affordability - Hay, Narrandera, Berrigan and Albury Councils
  - Transport Connectivity - Griffith, Narrandera, Edward River, Murray and Leeton Councils
  - Digital Connectivity - Murrumbidgee, Griffith, Murray River and Edward River Councils
  - Health Services - Hay, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Leeton, Carrathool and Edward River Councils
  - Industry/ Workforce/Jobs – Albury, Griffith, Murray River and Leeton Councils
5. That the Executive Officer facilitate and service the work of each of the sub-committees and be authorised to engage external expertise and co-opt specialist Council Officer assistance as required from time to time;
6. That the action taken to engage ID Consulting Pty Ltd to carry out RAMJO region population forecasts commencing in early 2019 be endorsed;
7. That an approach be made to Riverina JO and DP&C, to gauge the level of interest in expanding the ID Forecast population analysis to include all Councils within the whole of the designated NSW Riverina and Murray region.

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Kschenka)

**AGENDA ITEM 11 – PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL, REGIONAL AND REMOTE NSW**

The Interim Executive Officer reported on the meeting of a significant number of Councils held in Albury on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and hosted by Gwydir Shire Council, to discuss concerns relating to problems experienced in the attraction and retention of doctors across regional, rural and remote areas of NSW. At the present time there are some 277 doctor position vacancies in regional and rural areas.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the letter, meeting minutes and associated documentation received from Gwydir Shire Council be received and noted;
2. That Gwydir Shire Council and other Joint Organisations be informed that Health Services is an identified Priority in RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities and that a range of strategic actions are proposed, including the establishment of a Health Alliance across all three levels of government to improve health service provision in the RAMJO region;
3. That Member Councils encourage their residents to sign the petitions which are intended to be presented to the Federal and NSW Parliaments;
4. That RAMJO and Member Councils also forward letters to the relevant Ministers through the local Federal and State Members stressing the critical importance of attracting and retaining medical practitioners in regional and rural areas.
5. That RAMJO issue an appropriate Media Release to the region's TV, radio and newspaper outlets.

6. That the potential strategies identified in discussion at the Board meeting be referred to the RAMJO SSRP Health Services Sub-Committee for further consideration, these potential strategies to include the removal of impediments and the provision of additional incentives and allowing overseas trained doctors to practice in regional and rural areas for specified minimum periods of time.

(Moved Cr Sheaffe and seconded Cr Laird)

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12 - RAMJO EXECUTIVE OFFICER - RECRUITMENT PROCESSES**

Albury City Council, which is co-ordinating the EO recruitment process, provided an update report on the timetable for advertising, interview and appointment and has proposed that the Working Panel established at the September RAMJO Board meeting be now delegated authority to proceed through to appointment.

**RESOLVED** that the report from Albury City be adopted and that the RAMJO Board delegate authority to the Working Panel to undertake the recruitment process through to selection of a preferred candidate; and then for the Chair Cr Kevin Mack and Deputy Chair Cr John Dal Broi to negotiate contract term and conditions to finalise the appointment of the RAMJO Executive Officer.

(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr Bilkey)

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13 - MURRAY REGION TOURISM BOARD REPORT**

The Chair of MRT Wendy Greiner has written acknowledging the services of RAMJO's former representative on the MRT Board Tracey Squire and welcoming the new representative Adam McSwain. A copy of the MRT's October 2018 update has also been provided for information of Councils and the Board.

**RESOLVED** that the MRT letter and the October 2018 MRT update be received and noted

(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr Bourke)

#### **AGENDA ITEM 14 - DESTINATION RIVERINA MURRAY - THRIVE REPORTING TO RAMJO ARRANGEMENTS**

Leeton Shire Council has raised the importance of THRIVE (formerly Riverina Tourism) having a designated person to report regularly to the RAMJO Board and has proposed that the Council's Manager Communications and Marketing and THRIVE Board Member Brent Lawrence be approved as the contact person.

**RESOLVED** that Brent Lawrence Manager Communications and Marketing Manager at Leeton Shire and a Board Member of THRIVE (formerly Riverina Tourism) be approved as the contact person to report to RAMJO on THRIVE's ongoing tourism activities for the Riverina tourism region

(Moved Cr Bourke and seconded Cr Maytom)

#### **AGENDA ITEM 15 - DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - SUPPORTING SEVERELY DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

The Interim Executive Officer reported on the matter of RAMJO Councils deciding on whether to provide funding donations to be made to the current drought assistance programs across New South Wales.

**RESOLVED** that it be left to each Council to make its decision in relation to making a drought relief donation, with donations by Councils able to be channelled via RAMJO as a regional initiative.

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Brennan)

**AGENDA ITEM 16 - NSW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME (CDS) - LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF REVENUE GENERATED BY MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRFS)**

The Interim Executive Officer reported on negotiations between a number of RAMJO Councils and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operators Cleanaway and Kurrajong Recyclers.

**RESOLVED that the written and verbal reports by the Interim Executive Officer be received and noted (Moved Cr Bourke and seconded Cr Dal Broi)**

**AGENDA ITEM 17 - MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Officer in relation to the following Basin Plan matters:-

- Representations seeking the availability of environmental water during severe drought conditions to augment food and fodder production;
- Productivity Commission's Draft Report on the 5 year assessment of the Basin Plan implementation;
- Infrastructure efficiency Measures — 450 GL "upwater" – the socio-economic neutrality criteria

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the report by the Interim Executive Officer be received and noted**
- 2. That the RAMJO submission to the Productivity Commission be noted and endorsed**
- 3. That RAMJO offer its strong support to the representations being made by the Murray Regional Strategy Group to the Federal Water Minister and the Basin Plan Ministerial Council**
- 4. That RAMJO work collaboratively with the Murray Regional Strategy Group and offer to participate in future meetings and delegations.**

**(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Bourke)**

**AGENDA ITEM 18 - RAMJO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

Consideration was given to the 2018-2019 RAMJO Financial Statements for the quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018, in respect of the General Account, the Murray Waste Group Account and the Riverina Waste Group Account.

**RESOLVED that the RAMJO Financial Statements for the quarterly period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be received and noted;**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that RAMJO Member Councils be requested to advise of their position in relation to the re-contribution of the surplus RAMROC funds back to the new Joint Organisation (Moved Cr Morris and seconded Cr Dal Broi)**

**AGENDA ITEM 19 - RAMJO WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

The Board considered the Minutes of the following RAMJO Working Groups:-

- 19.1 Engineers Group Meeting — 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018
- 19.2 Development Services Group Meeting — 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- 19.3 General Managers Group Meeting — 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**RESOLVED that the Working Group Minutes be received and noted (Moved Cr Bourke and seconded Cr Maytom)**

**AGENDA ITEM 20 - PRESENTATION BY TRANSGRID REPRESENTATIVES MITCHELL HUME AND ANDREW LEWIS -ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION NETWORK RAMJO REGION**

The Board received a powerpoint presentation (to be distributed with the Minutes) by the TransGrid officials, the background information being as follows:-

"TransGrid is the manager and operator of the high-voltage electricity transmission network in NSW and the ACT, including 104 bulk supply substations and more than 13,000 kilometres of high-voltage transmission lines and cables, including assets in the Council areas of Hay, Edward River, Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Berrigan, Narrandera, Griffith and Leeton.

Across NSW the energy system is experiencing a transformation as technology and economic forces encourage investment in large-scale renewable energy, including significant interest developing in solar farms, wind farms and hydro-electric facilities in or near south-western New South Wales. TransGrid provided information about how existing and potential electricity infrastructure projects in the region will stimulate investment, employment and economic growth in the region while contributing to low-cost, reliably energy supplies"

**RESOLVED that the TransGrid presentation be received and noted  
(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Brennan)**

**AGENDA ITEM 21- GENERAL BUSINESS MATTERS**

**21.1 — Water NSW Community Advisory Groups**

Cr Maytom reported on his role as the RAMJO representative on the Water NSW Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the Murrumbidgee River system. There is also a CAG for the Murray River system and Cr Maytom suggested that Mr Vince Kelly from NSW Water be invited to address a future meeting of the RAMJO Board.

**RESOLVED that Vince Kelly from Water NSW be invited to make a presentation to the February 2019 RAMJO Board Meeting  
(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Brennan)**

**21.2 — Police numbers and operational hours in country towns**

Cr Kschenka advised of the ongoing concerns about insufficient police numbers and station opening hours in Narrandera, Leeton and other similar sized country communities. He referred to previous and ongoing representations made to the State Government in the matter .

The Chair advised that he would discuss these concerns with the Minister for Police the Hon Troy Grant MP and/or Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys APM.

**21.3 — Appreciation of RAMROC and RAMJO Services by Executive Officer Ray Stubbs**

Board Members expressed their appreciation of the services provided since April 2004 by the Executive Officer Ray Stubbs and wished him well in his retirement.

**There being no further business, the RAMJO Board meeting concluded at 12.50 pm.**