



20th June 2012

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The meeting of the Council will be held at

RIVERINA WATER COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
91 HAMMOND AVENUE, WAGGA WAGGA

on

WEDNESDAY, 27TH JUNE 2012 at 1.30 pm

and your attendance is requested accordingly

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G J Haley", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

G J Haley
GENERAL MANAGER



* AGENDA *

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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

20th June 2012

The Chairperson and Councillors:

1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – LIST OF INVESTMENTS

RECOMMENDED that the report detailing Council's external investments for the months of April and May 2012 be received.

In accordance with the provisions of Clause 19(3) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1993, I report details of the Council's external investments as at 30th April and 31st May 2012 as follows:

Monthly Investment Report as at 30/4/12

a) Council's Investments as at 30/4/12

Investment	Inception Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	S&P Rating	Interest Rate (%)	Performance Benchmark	Benchmark Rate	Percentage of Portfolio	Principal Value	Market Value
Term Deposits										
IMB	19/03/2012	87	14/06/12	A-2	5.85	BBSW	4.33	14.344%	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
ME Bank	4/04/2012	90	03/07/12	A-2	5.72	BBSW	4.33	14.344%	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
								28.687%	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Cash Deposit Account										
T Corp				A-1+	5.05	Cash Rate	4.25	23.563%	\$821,383.55	\$821,383.55
AMP				A-1	5.10	Cash Rate	4.25	47.749%	\$1,664,474.72	\$1,664,474.72
								71.313%	\$2,485,858.27	\$2,485,858.27
TOTAL INVESTMENTS								100.000%	\$3,485,858.27	\$3,485,858.27
Cash at Bank										\$322,865.66
TOTAL FUNDS										\$3,808,723.93

b) Application of Investment Funds

Restricted Funds	Description	Value
Externally Restricted		
		\$0.00
Internally Restricted		
	Employee Leave Entitlements	\$702,000.00
	Mains Replacement	\$500,000.00
	Loan Funds	\$1,500,000.00
	Sales Fluctuation	\$0.00
		\$2,702,000.00
Unrestricted Funds		\$1,106,723.93
TOTAL FUNDS		\$3,808,723.93

* Externally & Internally Restricted Reserve figures are subject to final adjustment and external audit at 30 June each year.

Figures shown above are estimate only.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that all the above investments have been made in accordance with the provision of Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the regulations thereunder.

M. L. Curran

M Curran

FINANCE / ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Monthly Investment Report as at 31/5/12

a) Council's Investments as at 31/5/12

Investment	Inception Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	S&P Rating	Interest Rate (%)	Performance Benchmark	Benchmark Rate	Percentage of Portfolio	Principal Value	Market Value
Term Deposits										
IMB	19/03/2012	87	14/06/12	A-2	5.85	BBSW	4.13	8.277%	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
ME Bank	4/04/2012	90	03/07/12	A-2	5.72	BBSW	4.13	8.277%	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Community CPS	10/05/2012	90	08/08/12	Unrated	5.61	BBSW	4.13	16.554%	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Bendigo & Adelaide	10/05/2012	90	08/08/12	A-2	5.36	BBSW	4.13	16.554%	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
								49.661%	\$3,000,000.00	\$3,000,000.00
Cash Deposit Account										
T Corp				A-1+	5.01	Cash Rate	3.75	21.958%	\$1,326,474.26	\$1,326,474.26
AMP				A-1	4.60	Cash Rate	3.75	28.381%	\$1,714,474.72	\$1,714,474.72
								50.339%	\$3,040,948.98	\$3,040,948.98
TOTAL INVESTMENTS								100.000%	\$6,040,948.98	\$6,040,948.98
Cash at Bank										\$215,007.28
TOTAL FUNDS										\$6,255,956.26

b) Application of Investment Funds

Restricted Funds	Description	Value
Externally Restricted		
		\$0.00
Internally Restricted		
	Employee Leave Entitlements	\$702,000.00
	Mains Replacement	\$500,000.00
	Loan Funds	\$2,850,000.00
	Sales Fluctuation	\$0.00
		\$4,052,000.00
Unrestricted Funds		\$2,203,956.26
TOTAL FUNDS		\$6,255,956.26

* Externally & Internally Restricted Reserve figures are subject to final adjustment and external audit at 30 June each year.

Figures shown above are estimate only.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that all the above investments have been made in accordance with the provision of Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the regulations thereunder.

M. L. Curran

M Curran

FINANCE / ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

2. DETERMINATION OF REMUNERATION FEES FOR COUNCILLORS AND CHAIRPERSON 2012/2013

RECOMMENDED that the fees for 2012/2013 be set at:

- i. Councillors \$5,118, and
- ii. Additional fee for chairperson \$8,400

Section 241 of the Local Government Act 1993, states that the annual fees to be paid for each of the categories Councils, as determined under section 239, to Councillors and Chairperson, during the period 1st July 2012 to 30th of June 2013 are determined as follows:

	\$	\$	\$	\$		
Principal City	23,250	34,100	142,250	187,180		
Major City	15,490	25,580	32,940	74,530		
Metropolitan Major	15,490	25,580	32,940	74,530		
Metropolitan Centre	11,640	21,700	24,700	57,660		
Metropolitan	7,740	17,060	16,480	37,320		
Regional Rural	7,740	17,060	16,480	37,320		
Rural	7,740	10,220	8,220	22,310		
County Council - Water	1,540	8,530	3,300	14,000		
County Council - Other	1,540	5,100	3,300	9,310		

* This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor/Member (s.249 (2))

The annual fee is paid in monthly instalments in arrears.

Riverina Water County Council Fees for 2011/2012 are: Chairperson \$8,186 and Councillor \$4,992.

Council's Resolution (07/39) of 27th June 2007, in respect of Councillor Fees, was that Councillors' and Chairperson's annual fee be set at 60% of the maximum allowable, as determined annually by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal, pursuant to section 242 of the Local Government Act 1993.

3. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS TO DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2012/2013

RECOMMENDED that the following changes be made to Council's Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2012/13:-

- 1) On Page 28, item 13.8.1, in the table when referring to "*Lots (not prepaid) existing prior to 1/1/1994 and 2nd or subsequent services (only when availability fees are being paid*", replace \$3,700 with \$3,800.
- 2) On page 34 insert the following "*NOTE: water used for fire fighting purposes will not be charged. If applicable, it is the responsibility of the customer to notify Council, in order for the necessary billing adjustments to be made.*"
- 3) On page 34 insert the following "*NOTE: with regard to Industrial Tariffs, referred on the previous page, Consistent use is deemed to be when individual monthly consumption is between .75 and 1.25 times the average monthly consumption based on the previous 12 month rolling average*".
- 3) On Page 35 change the interest rate on overdue accounts in 2012/2013 from 9% to 10%.

No public submissions were received in relation to the public exhibition of the Draft Operational Plan 2012/13. A number of minor changes to the Operational plan are suggested by staff as follows:

- 1) A typographical error was discovered on page 28 in item 13.8.1. It should refer to a 2nd service costing \$3,800 NOT \$3,700.
- 2) A change is suggested to clarify that water used for fire fighting purposes is not to be charged. This is in line with Local Government Regulations.
- 3) A definition is needed to clarify which large scale industrial users qualify for Council's Special Industrial tariff. This definition was included in Council's Management Plan in earlier years, but has been missed in the last 2 years.
- 4) The Division of Local Government have recently issued a circular increasing the maximum interest that Councils can raise for overdue Rates and Charges from 9% to 10%.

4. ADOPTION OF DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2012/2013

RECOMMENDED that the Draft Operational Plan 2012/13, as exhibited as amended in the previous item, following close of public comments, be adopted as Council's Operational Plan for 2012/2013.

5. SETTING OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR 2012/2013

RECOMMENDED that the rates and charges be set for 2012/2013, as outlined in the Operation Plan 2012/13.

6. REPORT ON THE CONTRACTUAL CONDITIONS OF SENIOR STAFF

RECOMMENDED that the Report on the Contractual Conditions of Senior Staff be received and noted.

In accordance with section 339 of the Local Government Act, the General Manager is required to report annually to Council on the contractual conditions of senior staff.

During the year 2011/2012 Council has employed two senior staff, the General Manager, Mr Graeme Haley and the Director of Engineering, Mr Greg Finlayson. The General Manager commenced a five-year contract on 17 January 2011. The Director of Engineering is employed on a five-year contract commencing on 29 June 2009. The Director of Engineering and the General Manager are both employed under the Current Standard Contract for Senior Staff, issued by the Division of Local Government.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONGRESS 2012

RECOMMENDED that the report on the Local Government Managers Australia National Congress 2012 be received.

The General Manager attended the Local Government Managers Australia National Congress in Perth from Sunday 20th May on to Thursday 24th May, 2012.

A summary of the proceedings follows:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONGRESS 2012

The Hon G.M. Castrilli MLA Minister for Local Government (WA) provided an official welcome to the 2012 National Congress and outlined progress with the reform of local government in Western Australia.

Response to the London Riots: A Chief Executive's Perspective

Mr Kevin Crompton Chief Executive of the London Borough of Haringey, outlined what happened in London in August 2011, when young residents of Tottenham, an area in the London borough of Haringey, rioted and destroyed much of the High Street in that area. Mr Crompton provided a professional perspective on the riots and their cause. He also discussed his team's ongoing program of regeneration in the area. The aim of this regeneration is to improve the amenity of the area and provide a more attractive place for people to live and reduce the social tensions that had previously been in place.

From Stewardship to Leadership

Ms Jude Munro AO, Chair Queensland Urban Utilities, former CEO City of Brisbane and member of the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel gave an impressive talk about striking a balance between stewardship and leadership. She stated this is one of the greatest challenges of local government, discerning what needs to be preserved in order to maintain the essence of a community, regardless of what's happening in the political scene.

From Myths to Quotas

Ms Catherine Fox, Deputy Editor of AFR Boss Magazine, gave an informative and interesting talk about women in local government and in leadership positions in society in general. Ms Fox spoke about the 2010 Year of Women in Local Government. She also stated that the level of representation of women in executive management ranks in local

government is still poor. Ms Fox discussed the assumptions and myths that continue to fuel gender discrimination in all kinds of workplaces.

Regional Libraries: Inspiring People, Engaging Communities, Enriching Lives.

Jan Richards, Manager of the Central West Libraries and Robert Knight, Executive Director Riverina Regional Library, gave a very interesting talk about the progress of regional libraries in rural New South Wales and the delivery of services to various isolated and separate communities.

Models for Shared Services

A group discussion was held between Mr Greg Winton, General Manager of both Circular Head Council and Waratah-Wynyard Council in North West Tasmania and Ms Julie Briggs, Executive Officer Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils and Melissa Gibbs Assistant Director Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government. This interactive session discussed different models for sharing services and how they occur in the area of Tasmania of Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard and The Local Government without Borders Program by REROC.

Regional Futures, The USA Perspective

Robert J O'Donnell, Executive Director of International City/County Management Association USA (ICMA) explored the ways in which US cities form alliances and collaborate to achieve a greater range of benefits for their communities

The Australian Government Approach to Regional Futures

Stephanie Foster PSM, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government Arts and Sport, outlined her department's approach to regional development and discussed on how federal, state and local governments can work together with regional development organisations to further economic and social outcomes across Australia's various regions.

Regional Cooperation Panel Session

A panel session comprising Mr Chris Adams, Chief Executive Pilbara Cities Office, Mr Chris Morrison KPMG, Mr Brad Smith CAM Management Solutions and Mr Bob O'Neil, Executive Director ICMA USA explored and dissected the role of collaboration and cooperation between local government authorities in building organisational and community capacity.

Move Over Baby Boomers - it's not all about you

Mr Ivan Motley, founder Informed Decisions, looked at how today's local governments are dealing with the ageing population, migration and the current baby boom. Despite the hint in the title, this session was not a baby boomer bashing exercise. It gave valuable insights into how society is dealing with the ageing population, the current mini baby boom, and the implications of such changes in society's demographics.

Sustainable Sydney 2030

Monica Barone, CEO City of Sydney, outlined the Sustainable Sydney 2030 program and discussed how the Sydney City Council is trying to change the way that Sydney-siders live work and play in the city, now and in the future.

Reframing Local Futures

Phillip Adams AO, prominent Australian broadcaster, outlined his views on Local Government and expressed his belief that 'all politics is local'. Mr Adams spoke about the sometimes negative perceptions of local government in the community and the confusion about the role and responsibilities of councils. He suggested ways that Councils could change the perceptions of the community and educate them about the roles and responsibilities of Local Government.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS AUSTRALIA (NSW) FORUM 2012

RECOMMENDED that the report on the Local Government Managers Australia (NSW) Forum 2012 be received.

Chairperson Cr. Rod Kendall and Deputy Chairperson Cr. John McInerney, together with the General Manager attended the Local Government Managers Australia NSW Forum in Sydney on Monday, 4 June 2012.

A summary of the proceedings follows:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS AUSTRALIA (NSW) FORUM 2012

Don Page MP Minister for Local Government

Spoke about the outcomes of the Dubbo Destination 2036 Forum held in 2011.

Emphasized that he is the Minister for Local Government, not against Local Government.

The Destination 2036 Action Plan will be released at the Shires conference on 5th June.

The Independent Local Government Review Panel has been appointed, comprising Prof Graham Sansom, Jude Munro (Former CEO Adelaide and Brisbane Councils) and Glen Inglis (former GM Parry and Tamworth Councils). The Independent Review Panel will look at and identify governance, financial sustainability and boundary models. The panel will report to the State Government in July 2013.

A formal announcement will soon be made into a review of the Local Government Act. The first cut of the revised Planning legislation is due out later this month or early next month. The review of the Local Government Act must take into account the planning legislation, the Independent Review Panel and the Destination 2036 Action Plan, so it must come in behind these other actions.

A new State plan was released at the last budget. Regional Action Plans are now being finalized.

An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the State Government and local government is being looked at. Don believes the West Australian IGA is a good simple document and may be a good basis for an IGA between local government and the NSW Government.

The Minister stated that he believes the Regional Organisations of Councils are doing a good job and believes their operation should be embraced.

Local Government & Land And Property Information Tackling The Issues Together.

Stephanie Hall, Carl Ginger, Land and Property Information spoke about:

- Relationships
- Leadership
- Fundamental Information
- Technology and innovation
- Property Addressing.

The property addressing program is aimed to have a centralised web accessible single property identifier.

Business Regulation Benchmarking: The Role of Local Government as a Regulator.

Dr Warren Mundy, Presiding Commissioner, Productivity Commission.

Dr Mundy advised that the study into Business Regulation Benchmarking is not a witch hunt on local government. The initial conclusion is that the role of the State need to be looked in regards to excessive burden. There was no data about regulatory activities of local government. This is therefore, the first piece of work that looked at local government as a regulator.

Local Government has expressed a number of concerns including resources, environmental issues, state regulations and lack of prioritisation and relevance to the local community.

A small business survey indicated that they understand that the local council is burdened by lack of funding for the regulatory requirements and their major concerns relate to the time taken and the uncertainty of outcomes. 76% of respondents were satisfied. The conclusion is that the relationship can be improved, but the wheels have not fallen off. The relationship is not too bad.

The Small Business Commissioner was generally finding that the requirements of local government are generally fair.

Observations:

- The role of local government has expanded without commensurate resources.
- There are many areas where local government has conflicting roles.
- Cost and benefits are not aligned so councils do not take into account the wider impacts
- Fees and charges are highly variable and it appears they often do not collect the full cost of administering regulations
- Councils are given little guidance on how to regulate or on State priorities.
- Leading practices for institutional framework are being looked at.
- The States should give more support to local government and improve regulatory capacity.
- The States should also:
 - Maintain registers of local laws,
 - Monitor and review performance
 - Develop low cost graduated dispute handling
 - Extend red tape reductions to LG
 - Provide assistance in writing local laws
 - Undertake appropriate impact analysis.
 - Develop best practice principles
 - Use Risk management and response enforcement
 - Promote consistency.
 - Improve discipline on delays
 - Provide access to low cost review mechanisms.

The draft report was released a few months ago and submissions have closed but late submissions may still be accessed at www.pc.gov.au

LGMA Update.

Annalisa Haskell gave an update on activities. The presentation included a video presentation that had a series of member feedback comments.

Local Government Reform-Putting the Pieces Together

Ross Woodward, CEO Division of Local Government

Ross gave an overview on progress to date.

We are currently at a unique point and are at a position for the first time to build a genuine partnership.

Wisdom of the group- the philosophy states that the wisdom of the group is greater than the wisdom of any individual no matter the level of expertise of the individual or the crowd.

Immediate Priorities were discussed and include staff sharing program, flexible delivery models, identifying barriers to inter-council arrangements, enhancing skills in rural and regional areas.

Graham Sansom, Chairman Independent Local Government Review Panel

The panel is independent and will not necessarily agree with the State Government or Local Government. He warned that there may be a fine line between the wisdom of the crowd and the lowest common denominator.

Terms of Reference for the Panel:

- Improve strength and effectiveness
- Identify options for governance models, structural arrangements and boundary changes.

Key Factors

- Differing needs of communities

- Efficient and effective service delivery
- Financial sustainability
- Local representation and decision making

Barriers and incentives for voluntary boundary changes, Panel's approach

- Genuine independence
- Highly consultative, must be evidence based.
- 2-3 rounds of consult July 2012 to May 2013.
- Back ground paper in late June or July.
- Build on previous reviews e.g. Allan review and especially Destination 2036
- Links with related reviews e.g. LG Act and Planning Act.

Early Reflections

- The terms of ref envisage a broad package of measures
- Must look at LG system as a whole
- Need for a fresh start and innovative, long-term thinking
- Governance includes the way Councils work, internal structures, and quality management.

A panel discussion was then held that gave the views of Graham and Ross to many questions.

Paul Lambert, Local Government Superannuation

Outlined the current state of affairs with the economy and the uncertainty that is being reflected in the returns, especially in equities. The conservative investments (bonds and cash) have performed well. The Reserve Bank will most likely reduce rates further. There are quite moves within China to give some stimulus to that economy. This will reflect well in our economy.

The Liability for the Defined Benefits Fund is most likely back to the 10 year program of loan repayment, i.e. the extra contribution will continue (most likely) for another 7 years.

The LGFS court case has essentially been completed. The verdict will be brought down later this year or early next. No out of court settlement was agreed on.

The Business of Climate Change - Are you ready?

Matthew Bell, Executive Director, Climate Change and Sustainability Services, Ernst and Young

If you have a land fill or a waste water treatment facility you will most likely be affected.

Matthew spoke about compliance, commercial risk management and strategy optimisation.

National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting lessons

- Materiality and accuracy is key
- Not sole responsibility of Environmental Manager
- No time to come up to speed
- Keep record and prepare a basis of reporting document.

9. SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

RECOMMENDED that the report on the Shires Association of New South Wales Annual Conference 2011 be received.

Chairperson Cr. Rod Kendall and Deputy Chairperson Cr. John McInerney, together with the General Manager attended the Shires Association of New South Wales Annual Conference in Sydney from Monday, 4 June to Wednesday, 6 June 2012.

A summary of the proceedings follows:

SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Full details of papers and presentations to the conference can be obtained on the LGSA web site: www.LocalGovernmentsa.org.au.

President of the Association, Councillor Ray Donald

The opening speech by the President of the Association, Councillor Ray Donald, acknowledged the role of local government. He asked the premier to recognise the value of local government and the influence that state budget and legislation has on local government. He also asked the Premier to continue working on the improvement to the relationship between the State Government and local government. The impending vote on the formation of one Association will determine the future platform of local government in its representation and relationships with Government.

Cost shifting and rate pegging remain an issue for local councils. Ray thanked the Premier for no new cost shifting. We need a new Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) to ensure that new roles and duties are adequately identified and compensated. Ray argued that rate pegging is no longer required given the legislative requirements for strategic planning and the role of IPART in the setting of rates.

A review of the Local Government Act must be prioritised. We ask for communication not regulation. The President acknowledged the work by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Don Page. He outlined his dismay at the way the Electoral Commission has conducted itself in regards to Councils running elections. The increased regulation in regards to the election process is scaring candidates away. The review of the Code of Conduct has been welcomed. The three page summary is a welcome addition.

The recently announced Independent Review of Local Government has long been needed. Ray asked them to travel extensively together to gain a full understanding of the role that local government should play.

The recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution is important. Modification to section 96 is requested and he asked that the State Government review their current stance, which differs from its pre-election position. The value of direct funding to Councils, such as Roads to Recovery Program, cannot be put in jeopardy.

A new web site for the Local Government and Shires Association was officially launched at the conference.

Premier of NSW, the Hon Barry O'Farrell M.P.

The Hon Barry O'Farrell M.P., Premier of NSW acknowledged the role of local government during the recent flood emergencies. There will be an increase in the SES budget to make sure that service is well funded. The Premier outlined The Minister for Local Government's role in repairing the relationship between local government and the State. The destination 2036 conference was the start of a significant review of the future of local government and will largely map the future.

In March the Independent Panel to review local government was announced. The panel has started its work and will report by July 2013. The Premier stated that looking forward is important, if we are to go forward and give the communities a local government system that will best serve its communities.

The Premier advised that The Minister for Planning's review of Planning Legislation will be instrumental in renewing the partnership between local government and the State and ensure that this State's needs are met going forward. A merit based, easily understood, planning framework will be well accepted. Recognising that there are differing conditions throughout the state is a key critical issue in the review. There will be a transition stage in the implementation of any new system.

Other critical issues include:-

- Recognising the value of all areas not just the 3 major population areas
- The Strategic Lands Policy
- Regional Planning focus
- The State is determined that regional areas get their share of infrastructure renewal funding. This is driving the State's asset sales.
- Restart NSW fund - one third is set aside for the regions.
- Rebuilding trust and establishing partnerships with the State.

The Murray Darling Basin Plan, as it stands, is not supported by the State Government. There has been no Federal Government Infrastructure spending to date, and this is essential.

AR Bluett Awards and Outstanding Service Awards

Outstanding Service Awards were presented to a number of Councillors. In this region they included Councillors Paul Braybrooks, Peter Spears, Nigel Judd and Robert Menzies.

The AR Bluett awards for 2011 were awarded to Willoughby City Council and Tweed Shire Council.

Minister for Local Government the Hon Don Page M.P.

The Minister acknowledged all Councillors' work and thanked them for their contribution. He advised that the State Government is keen to decentralize decision making and it is important that Councils be as strong as possible.

How to move forward? He got councils together in Dubbo, put together a steering committee and produced an outcomes report. The draft action plan was released. The differences between councils are recognized, there is a need for appropriate governance and financial plans and there must be collaborative arrangements and joint ownership of the outcomes. The action plan is to be released today on the Division of Local Government website. Reference groups will be consulted.

The Independent Review Panel has been implemented and will report to the State Government by the middle of 2013. The Local Government Act will be reviewed in conjunction with, but behind the Review Panel and the Planning Act review.

The infrastructure renewal loan scheme has been oversubscribed.

The State Plan was reviewed with last year's budget and local government gets a mention for the first time. Regional Action Plans are currently being finalized and these will be used to set priorities and to justify future budget allocations.

The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) needs to be modified. The West Australian IGA may be a good start. It is very simple and basically both sides agree to consult.

State current policy is to continue rate pegging. This will not be altered pending the panel outcomes and recommendations.

Mr Bill Bristow, Angel Flight

Mr Bristow spoke about the voluntary charity Angel Flight Australia. Angel flight provides the coordination of travel via light plane for non-emergency transport flights related to essential medical treatment travel. He emphasised that Angel Flight does not cross over the work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service or the Air Ambulance in any way.

One Association.

The Secretary General of the Associations advised that on Tuesday 12th June there is a formal hearing on this issue at Fair Work Australia. It is then anticipated they will order a vote be taken by members of both associations.

Motions.

The following motions directly affect Water County Councils:

Motion 54: *That the Shires Association of NSW make urgent representation to the NSW State Government for the removal of the "Trading Undertaking" classification applied to all NSW Local Water Utilities (LWU) which currently is an impediment to any LWU in accessing emergency disaster funding where Natural Disaster Declarations have been made in the Local Government Areas covered by the LWU.*
CARRIED

The effect of this motion is to request access for Local Water Utilities to Disaster Funding.

Motion 58: *That:*
i). The Shires Association call on the State Government to carry out an audit of current commitments under the Country Towns Water & Sewer Scheme as well as backlogs to obtain an accurate assessment of the current status of this important infrastructure in country areas.
ii). The results of this audit be made widely available to Local Government with a view to seeking commitment from the State Government to reinstate and adequately fund this essential program for rural communities.
CARRIED.

This motion requested an audit of the Country Towns Water Sewer Scheme

Motion 64: *That the Shires Association of NSW lobby the NSW Government to undertake a review of the legislation applying to utilities in NSW with a view to granting utility providers comparable rights and protection to other service providers.* CARRIED.

This motion was moved by RWCC. The effect of the motion is to ask that all utility and service providers operate on an equal footing.

Murray Darling Basin Plan

Ms Louise Burge, Executive Officer, Southern Riverina Irrigators, made a presentation on her perspective on the proposed environmental flows of the Murray Darling Basin Plan. Louise outlined the historic management of the river system and concluded that the recent drought management resulted in good comparative outcomes. She questioned if South Australia's desired outcomes are the outcomes that are in the interest of the whole basin.

We have seen decades of misinformation and institutional planning.

Traditionally the Coorong was a wet land area. River regulation and barrages have all altered the natural flows. The Barrages are a very major impact and alteration to the original flows, especially tidal flow scouring and cleansing. The issue with the barrages was identified in 1903 when it was concluded that almost the whole river flow would be required to keep the river mouth open. The natural water supply to the Coorong was from the south east of South Australia. These were largely intercepted by drainage works in the south eastern corner of South Australia.

How natural is the environment that is going to be the major beneficiary of the Basin Plan?

The conclusion is that the lower lakes and the Coorong have been modified almost beyond recognition.

Louise believes that an adaptive solution is required to cope with extreme drought and that a purely freshwater solution is the major issue. The basin plan must result in a balance. Infrastructure improvements must be part of the basin plan.

The proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan put the cart before the horse. Faults have not identified and there is no delivery plan. Third party impacts have not been done.

David Dreverman, Executive Director River Management, Murray Darling Basin Authority made a presentation outlining some of the issues that the Basin Authority had to contend with.

Growth in diversions from the mid 1950's to the mid 1980's was extreme, especially in NSW following the completion of the Snowy scheme.

The aim of the Murray Darling Basin Pan is to achieve a healthy working basin which

- protects and improves key environmental assets
- critical drinking water needs be met

- rivers are connected to creeks and billabongs and flood plains
- healthy ecosystem
- sufficient flows to flush the system
- sustainable production growth

There will be impacts around the basin:

- Long term - Small effect
- Short term - small communities with high reliance are at most risk.

Suggested Strategies:

- Investment in water recovery
- Identify environmental needs within catchments as well as downstream
- Transition period extended to 2019
- review in 2015

The Barrages:

There have been a lot of operational improvements. The Barrages are part of the system going forward.

Impacts on Landholders:

No capacity to stop big floods but we have eliminated the small floods. The return of these small floods is part of the plan.

John Robertson MP Leader of the NSW Opposition.

John Robertson stated that he is very much aware that local government is the backbone of the local community. Councils must have a productive relationship with Government. There must be a clear Inter-Governmental Agreement. Investment through partnerships is a must.

What has the Premier been doing? Borrowing money but not spending it on the State. He espoused a plethora of spin.

The Labor Party has a new policy on coal seam gas. They believe the pause button should be pushed. Jobs must be created in the regions.

Contestability of road maintenance contracts threatens the lifeblood of rural Councils. Barry O'Farrell promised change. The changes being delivered are not the required changes. He stated that he looks forward to creating a new relationship with local government

Ministerial Panel: Keeping the Local in Local Government

The Ministerial Panel, with Julie McCrossin as Facilitator comprised:

- Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Minister for Primary Industries
- Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning
- Hon Steve Whan MLC, Shadow Minister for Resources and Primary Industries

Discussion was held on a variety of issues including land use planning, coal seam gas mining, and affordable housing. Mining is a vital part of the state economy into the future. The balance between mining and farming is often difficult.

Infrastructure, Sydney airport and the MDBP were discussed and views aired.

SES Planning and Operations.

Michael Gallacher MLC, Minister for Police and Emergency Services outlined the significant number of wide spread events that have occurred, giving details of the extent of interagency work and coordination. He acknowledged the fundamental role of local government in these situations.

A State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment was recently undertaken. The assessment focused on cross hazards and the ability to manage those risks. The report was finalised in Nov 2011 and the focus is now on the development of an implementation plan.

The Minister announced a review of the emergency services levy. All stake holders will be consulted. Current funding comes from the insurance industry, local government and the State Government. The SES vehicle fleet will be standardised over the next 5 years.

Discussion of the Transport Master Plan

This included addresses from Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Minister for Transport and Hon Duncan Gay MP, Minister for Roads and Ports.

They advised that the State Government has embarked on the preparation of a comprehensive transport master plan. The number of agencies has been reduced from 14 to 4.

A program of major upgrades has been made to transport access plans. All new initiatives will be based on the customer. This philosophy is behind the separation of city rail and the state rail. The Mantra is to make NSW number one again.

A significant backlog in works was inherited. A record roads budget has been adopted. Funds from the lease of Port Botany will go to major highway upgrades and critical major regional road requirements

NSW is not getting its share of the Federal road budget and the GST revenue.

What has been delivered?

- The Transport agency has created 20 year freight and port strategy, including intermodal hubs. Critical grain lines have been upgraded and more will follow.
- The Department of Roads and Maritime Services says that 25% of bridges need upgrading or replacing.
- Bridges to the bush submission has been made with infrastructure NSW.
- A livestock loading scheme, compatible with other states, is proposed but will still have some restrictions not imposed in other states.

Attended by and submitted by Cr Rod Kendall, Cr John McInerney and Graeme Haley, GM.

10. WATER USED FOR FIRE FIGHTING PURPOSES

RECOMMENDATION that Council resolve to amend the fees and charges section of the 2012/13 Operational Plan to include the provision that water used by property holders for the purposes of fire fighting may be used without charge.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Reg 142 Fire Hydrants states that Council may authorise people to use water without charge for the purpose of extinguishing fires.

Developers are offered the choice of either: 1) separate metered connection and independent unmetered fire service, or 2) combined metered and fire service connection.

In the situation where the fire service is combined with the metered service, any water used for fire fighting purposes will be included in the meter reading as water usage. To ensure consistent treatment for customers with combined meter and fire service, it is recommended Council make adjustments to the customer's account for water used for the purpose of fire fighting based on historical usage

11. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Author: Naomi Stuart

Director: Graeme Haley

RECOMMENDATION: That Council receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 3 May 2012 and endorse the recommendations contained therein.

Report

The Audit and Risk Committee Meeting was held on 3 May 2012. Minutes of the meeting are attached.

All members of the Audit and Risk Committee received induction training covering Workplace Health and Safety, Code of Conduct, Code of Meeting Practice and the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

Budget

N/A

Policy

Audit and Risk Committee Charter

MINUTES of the MEETING of AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

held at 91 HAMMOND AVENUE, WAGGA WAGGA,

on THURSDAY, 3rd MAY 2012 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Clr. W. Geale OAM, Michael Cummins and Steve Watson (Independents).

Ms Naomi Stuart (Manager Internal Audit Services), Graeme Haley (General Manager), Ms Michele Curran (Finance Administration Manager) and Daryl Ryan (H&S Coordinator) were in attendance.

Naomi Stuart welcomed all to the Riverina Water County Council's first Audit & Risk Committee, made introductions and gave a general outline of proceedings and went through Code of Conduct. M/s Stuart advised that Daryl Ryan will speak on Health and Safety.

Daryl Ryan left meeting 10.30 am.

Graeme Haley Acting Chairperson during the election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary interest received.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

The Acting Chairperson called for nominations for the position of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. An open ballot was undertaken.

One nomination for the office of Chairperson was received, being Steve Watson, and he was declared elected. One nomination for the office of Deputy Chairperson was received, being Michael Cummins, and he was declared elected. These positions are in place until September 2012.

Steve Watson took the position of Chairperson at this stage.

Peter King entered meeting 11.35 am

2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, 2011 MANAGEMENT LETTER AND 2012 INTERIM MANAGEMENT LETTER

RESOLVED on the motion of Clr. Geale OAM and Mr. Cummins that the Audit and Risk Committee receive and note:

- a) the financial statements and management letter for the year ended 30 June 2011; and
- b) the interim management letter for the financial year ended 30 June 2012.

Peter King left meeting 12 noon.

INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Cummins and Clr. Geale OAM that the Audit and Risk Committee adopt the Internal Audit Charter.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED on the motion of Clr. Geale OAM and Mr Cummins that the Audit and Risk Committee endorse the schedule of Committee meeting dates for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 as follows:

Date	Time	Meeting type
2 August 2012	9am – 11am	Regular meeting
8 November 2012	9am – 11am	Regular meeting
7 February 2013	9am – 11am	Regular meeting
2 May 2013	9am – 11am	Regular meeting

INTERNAL AUDIT SCHEDULE

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Cummins and Clr. Geale OAM that the Audit and Risk Committee adopt the Internal Audit Schedule for the period to 31 December 2012.

QUESTIONS & STATEMENTS

Naomi Stuart: Advised that she will email a draft agenda to committee members prior to next meeting, then put in Business with Notice, will give members time to prepare. There is a need to follow correct processes. Agenda/Business Paper distributed a week prior to meeting.

Meeting Closed 12.30 pm



Graeme J. Haley
GENERAL MANAGER

12. DRAFT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

RECOMMENDED that the draft constitution of the Health and Safety Committee be adopted

The Constitution of the Health and Safety Committee has been redrawn to reflect the work health and safety legislation that replaced the previously applicable Occupational Health and Safety legislation.

A copy of the draft constitution is attached for Council's consideration.



CONSTITUTION

NAME: Riverina Water County Council Health & Safety Committee (HSC)

COMPOSITION:

The HSC shall comprise eight (8) members:

- Six (6) employee elected HSR's (Health & Safety Representatives);
- Two (2) employer appointed representatives.

The six (6) employee representatives shall comprise representatives from these workgroups;

- Two (2) from the Waterworks;
- Two (2) from the Water Depot / Mechanics / Welders / Builders / Meter Readers;
- One (1) from the Rural operations and works;
- One (1) from the Administration Office / Engineering / Drawing;

In addition to the official members of the HSC, the WHS and RTW Coordinators shall be required to attend every meeting as non-committee members. Their role shall be to give advice, participate in discussions and provide information on legislative requirements but they will not take part in any voting on committee issues.

ELECTIONS

All committee representatives will be elected or appointed as per the NSW Workplace Health & Safety Legislation.

- The employee representatives shall elect one of their members to be Chairperson and convenor of the HSC.
- A member of the committee shall be elected to act as a secretary. (A non-committee member will be permitted to sit in on the meetings in the role of secretary for taking minutes. Such person should not take part in any decision-making procedures.)
- Every three (3) years all employee positions will be declared vacant and nominations called for to fill vacant positions. Current & former representatives may stand for re-election.
- A new Chairperson shall be elected by the employee representatives (former Chairpersons may nominate for the role).
- In the event of a casual vacancy of an employee representative, the Chairperson may appoint a person (from the same workgroup) to fill the vacancy for the balance of the predecessor's term on the committee.

MEETINGS:

The Chairperson will convene a meeting of the HSC:

- ❖ At least every two (2) months and;
- ❖ Special or emergency meetings at any time the Chairperson so directs or at the request of three (3) or more committee members.

- Meetings are to be conducted following the adopted meeting procedure.
- A special or emergency meeting may be accepted to be in lieu of the regular meeting if a majority of HSC representatives so agree.
- An agenda and business paper for normal meetings is to be produced and circulated by the Chairperson, or the secretary, or the WHS Coordinator at least one (1) week prior to the meeting.
- Items required for the business paper must be submitted to the Chairperson, or the secretary, or the WHS Coordinator at least ten (10) days prior to any scheduled regular meeting.
- Persons other than HSC representatives (other than the RTW and WHS Coordinators) shall require permission from the HSC Chairperson before attending any meeting, and may be invited to take part in discussions but not take part in decision making. If an objection is raised to the attendance of such person(s) by any HSC representative, a vote will be held to determine if that person(s) shall stay or leave the meeting.
- The number of employer representatives at any meeting must not exceed the number of employee representatives.
- A minimum of 5 HSC members (minimum of 1 employer representative) will be required to form a quorum at any meeting.

RECORDS:

The secretary (or person acting in that position for minute recording) shall record and prepare an accurate report of the proceedings of each meeting.

- Copies will be distributed to all HSC members within five (5) working days of the meeting.
- A copy of the minutes shall also be displayed in a prominent position at each section of the Council.
- The secretary or chairperson will table the minutes for confirmation and acceptance at the next meeting.
- Should the minutes be accepted as a true record of the last meeting, they shall be signed by the Chairperson and filed in a safe place by the WHS Coordinator.
- The minutes shall be available to any Riverina Water employee upon request.

AIMS & ACTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

A HSC has the following functions: (NSW Work Health & Safety Legislation)

The role of health and safety committees (HSCs) is to provide a forum for consultation on the management of health and safety across the whole workforce (i.e. not just one work group). HSCs should:

- facilitate cooperation between the PCBU and the workers in instigating, developing and carrying out measures designed to ensure the health and safety of workers
- assist in developing standards, rules and procedures relating to WHS.

RWCC HSC functions will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Consult with the workgroups that they represent on health & safety issues.
- Assist in the promotion of a safe working environment and safe systems of work.
- Assist with the review of Health and Safety Policies, procedures and WHS management systems for the Council's place of work.
- To make recommendations to the Council as it thinks appropriate to ensure the health and safety of all employees, contractors, customers and any visitors who enter Council property.
- The HSC will assist with resolving matters of Health and Safety in the workplace.
- It may receive suggestions, complaints and reports from any employee, contractor or customer of the Council and consider such at the next regular meeting, unless the Chairperson considers that a special or emergency meeting is warranted (provided that reasonable attempts have been undertaken to resolve the safety issue within the relevant department prior to bringing to the committee),
- The HSC may investigate the circumstances of a workplace incident / accident, or may appoint a working group of its members or one of its members to investigate such circumstances.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION:

Any proposal to amend the constitution may be moved at a convened normal meeting. After discussion the proposal shall lay on the table until the end of the meeting agenda, when it can then be resolved.

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL BE REVIEWED EVERY THREE (3) YEARS

WHS Committee Chairperson

General Manager

13. POLICY 4.2 DRAFT EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY

RECOMMENDED that the Draft Equal Employment Opportunity Policy be adopted.

Council has had a policy of Equal Employment Opportunity for some time. The policy was originally adopted in 1997 and last revised in 2007. This policy its due for review again. A draft of the revised policy is included for Councillors information.

While the policy is relatively concise it gives clear direction to staff.

POLICY NAME:	EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY				
POLICY NO:	4.2	MINUTE NO:		ADOPTION DATE:	1997
LAST REVISED:	November 2007			NEXT REVISION DATE:	June 2014

PURPOSE

Riverina Water County Council is committed to the promotion and provision of equality of opportunity. Its activities and business affairs will be managed so that the philosophy and principles of equal opportunity are core values.

SCOPE

This policy applies to applicants for employment, volunteers and all employees of Riverina Water. All persons will be treated fairly and will not be disadvantaged because of age, carer status, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, physical features, political belief or activity, pregnancy, breastfeeding, race, religious belief or activity, gender or any other factors that are not related to individual job performance and the ability to develop in the workplace.

EQUALITY COMMITMENTS

Riverina Water is committed to:

- Clear wording when advertising vacant positions. The standard wording “Riverina Water County Council is an E.E.O. Employer” is to be placed in all advertisements for staff positions, to inform the workforce and the community that Riverina Water is committed to a discrimination free workplace;
- Ensuring equal employment opportunity underpins Riverina Water’s recruitment, promotion, training, development, personnel policies and management practices & support material (including handbooks, manuals, forms, induction booklets etc);
- Ensuring applications for positions, including transfers and promotions and for career development (e.g. training, study assistance programs) are assessed without bias on the basis of availability and individual merit;
- Promoting a harmonious learning environment where all persons are treated with respect and dignity and in which no form of intimidation or harassment is tolerated;
- Preventing occurrences of unlawful direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Complying with our own equal opportunities policy and associated policies (i.e. grievance procedure);
- Ensuring all new policies and procedures adhere to EEO principles;
- Including E.E.O. responsibilities as a management and supervisory function;
- Providing mechanisms for resolving employment discrimination complaints.

IMPLEMENTATION

The General Manager has specific responsibility for the effective implementation, review, and monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.

In order to implement this policy Riverina Water will:

- Communicate this policy during induction to all existing and new staff;
- Provide appropriate training and recruitment systems to ensure that any RWCC selection committee will not discriminate in the selection or recruitment of applicants;
- Ensure adequate resources are made available to fulfil the objectives of the policy.

MONITORING & REVIEW

Riverina Water will establish appropriate information and monitoring systems to assist the effective implementation of our equal opportunities policy.

COMPLAINTS

Individuals who believe they have suffered any form of discrimination are entitled to raise the matter through the agreed procedures. All complaints of discrimination will be dealt with seriously, promptly and confidentially.

14. POLICY 4.14 DRAFT EMPLOYMENT EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POLICY

RECOMMENDED that the Draft Employee Assistance Program Policy be adopted.

Council adopted an Employee Assistance Policy in 2001. This policy was last revised in 2008. The policy has been again reviewed.

The wording of this policy has been changed to give an improved summary of what services are available to assist employees.

POLICY NAME:		EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POLICY			
POLICY NO:	4.14	MINUTE NO:		ADOPTION DATE:	2001
LAST REVISED:	April 2008			NEXT REVISION DATE:	June 2012

PURPOSE

Riverina Water County Council has made a commitment to assist with the health and wellbeing of all employees. In addition to providing a safe workplace, Riverina Water has set up an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to provide a confidential, independent counselling service by qualified and experienced counsellors/psychologists. This service will provide an opportunity for staff and their immediate family to deal with work and personal issues of a psychological nature, before they become a major problem.

SCOPE

The EAP service at RWCC extends to staff and their immediate family, who may be troubled by work related problems affecting their family, or family problems which may be affecting their work. Benefits for staff members from the EAP include – improved health, improved self esteem, improved safety, job satisfaction and involvement.

COMMITMENT

Riverina Water is committed to:

- Engaging an independent local psychology consultancy service to provide an EAP service to RWCC staff and their immediate family;
- Supplying access to EAP service for short term counselling and referral to specialised assistance if appropriate;
- A high level of confidentiality and respect for individual's privacy;
- Ensuring information shared with the counsellors is not communicated in any way that identifies the individual, unless authorised by the staff member.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Return to Work Coordinator has specific responsibility for the effective implementation, review and monitoring the effectiveness of this program.

In order to promote this policy Riverina Water will:

- Communicate this policy during induction to all existing and new staff;
- Encourage self-referral;
- Promote attending counselling in their own time, or under a leave provision where possible;
- Advise Management they may offer employees the option of counselling;
- Inform Managers and Supervisors the EAP is available as a resource for their people management role;
- Ensure all counselling is voluntary;
- Ensure adequate resources are made available to fulfil the objectives of the policy.

MONITORING & REVIEW

Riverina Water will review staff usage and effectiveness of the EAP service on an annual basis.

15. POLICY 4.19 DRAFT WORKPLACE STRESS POLICY

RECOMMENDATION that the Draft Workplace Stress Policy be adopted.

Council has previously had in place a Workplace Stress Policy. This Policy was adopted in 2007 and it is due for a review.

The review produced only minor changes in wording to simplify and clarify actions that should be taken by Council, Managers and Employees.

POLICY NAME:		WORKPLACE STRESS POLICY			
POLICY NO:	4.19	MINUTE NO:		ADOPTION DATE:	October 2007
LAST REVISED:	May 2012		NEXT REVISION DATE:	June 2014	

PURPOSE

Riverina Water County Council is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its employees and recognises that workplace stress is a health and safety issue. This policy aims to assist Riverina Water meet its existing duty of care and its obligation to eliminate/control the risk of work-related stress.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees of Riverina Water. The major causes of work-related stress can be categorised into six key areas or 'risk factors' – Demands, Control, Support, Relationships, Role and Change. If not managed effectively, staff may be at risk of suffering work-related stress.

DEFINITION OF STRESS

"The adverse reaction people have to excessive pressure or other demands placed on them". There is an important distinction between pressure (an experience we face on a daily basis which motivates us and enables us to perform at our best) and stress which can be detrimental to health.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Riverina Water

- Will identify and eliminate/control all workplace stressors that may lead to the onset of stress related illness;
- Make available confidential counselling services for staff and their immediate families;
- Provide adequate resources to enable managers to implement agreed stress management strategy.

Managers

- Ensure good communication between management and staff, particularly where there are organisational or procedural changes;
- Ensure staff are fully trained and resourced to undertake their duties;
- Ensure staff are provided with development opportunities;
- Monitor workloads and working hours to ensure that people are not overloaded;
- Monitor staff leave to ensure that employees are taking their full entitlement;
- Ensure that instances of bullying & harassment are not tolerated and are dealt with immediately;
- Be vigilant and offer additional support to a member of staff who is experiencing stress outside work (*e.g. bereavement or separation*);
- Where workplace stress is identified, decide on improvement and action plans in consultation with staff or their representatives;
- Monitor and review the effectiveness of control measures implemented to prevent or reduce stress;
- Support staff and promote use of external referral service as a resource.

Employees

- Raise issues of concern with your Supervisor, Dept Manager or health & safety representative;
- Utilise the confidential counselling service (Insight Health Services) as needed;
- Participate in individual workplace stress surveys when requested;
- Recognise the responsibility for personal health & well-being and access help where possible.

Return to Work Coordinator

- Provide continuing support to managers and individuals, and encourage referral to occupational workplace counsellors (Insight Health Services) or specialist agencies where required;
- Assist in monitoring the effectiveness of measures to address stress by collating sickness absence statistics, staff turnover, and analysis of any stress surveys that may be conducted from time to time;
- Support individuals who have been absent from work due to stress and advise them and their management on a planned return to work.

16. APPLICATION FOR LARGE SCALE PROCESSING OR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY TARIFF

RECOMMENDED that Riverina Oils and BioEnergy be classified as a Large Scale Processing or Manufacturing Industry for the purposes of water tariffs by Riverina Water County Council.

In Council's Draft Delivery Plan and Operational Plan 2012/2013, Council distinguishes between Industrial Tariffs and Large-Scale Processing or Manufacturing Industrial Tariffs.

With the regular Industrial Tariff a higher water charge is applicable after 42 kl of usage per month. For the Large-Scale Processing or Manufacturing Industrial Tariff the same charge is levied for all use.

The Large-Scale Processing or Manufacturing Industrial Tariff is applied to such industries as Teys (formerly Cargill) and Heinz.

Riverina Oils and BioEnergy are about to commence operations at Bomen. Riverina Oils and BioEnergy have recently applied for categorisation as Large-Scale Processing and Manufacturing Industry Tariff. A copy of the letter from Riverina Oils and BioEnergy is attached for Councillor's information.

Riverina Oils and BioEnergy have advised that they will use about 290 kl of water per day from Riverina Water. Other water used will be based on utilising recycled water.

When compared to the comparable industries, such as Teys and Heinz, it would be appropriate for Riverina Oils and BioEnergy to be charged at the Large-Scale Processing or Manufacturing Tariff.



Graeme J. Haley
GENERAL MANAGER

RECEIVED
11 MAY 2012



ROBE

Riverina Oils & BioEnergy

ABN: 25 103 697 703

BY: _____

099829

10 May 2012

The General Manager
Riverina Water County Council
PO Box 456
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Dear Graeme

While researching water and energy costs in recent weeks when revisiting operational budgets we became aware that RWCC has two industrial tariffs available. After discussions with Council officers we were advised that the lower tariff is not automatically applied to industrial customers. We subsequently sought your advice as to the process to have Council apply the lower tariff. We thank you for your prompt response and advice.

As previously advised Riverina Oils & Bio Energy will be a large user of water for industrial purposes to operate the Integrated Oilseed Processing Plant. For operational purposes we are required under the terms of our Development Consent from the NSW Government to utilise water from the recycled water system we will operate, however we will additionally require approximately 290kl of water per day from Riverina Water. Based on 350 days per annum operation, this will be a significant amount of water consumed on a consistent basis during 24 hours of operation over 6 days/week.

Based on this large rate of water consumption for industrial purposes, we would therefore request Council apply its lesser industrial tariff to the ROBE account when water becomes available to site.

Please note that Wagga Council has renumbered our property to reflect the distance from the start of Trahairs Road to the permanent entrance to the plant. We are now rated in their system and for identification purposes as 177 Trahairs Road, Bomen Wagga Wagga. You may like to amend your records accordingly.

We await your favourable reply to this request following the Council meeting in July.

Yours faithfully


Frederic Anthone

General Manager Operations

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Ivanhoe VIC Australia 3079

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www.riverinaoils.com.au

Mailing Address:
PO Box 498
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GENERAL MANAGER

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 2012

1. WORKS REPORT COVERING APRIL 2012

RECOMMENDATION That this report be received and noted.

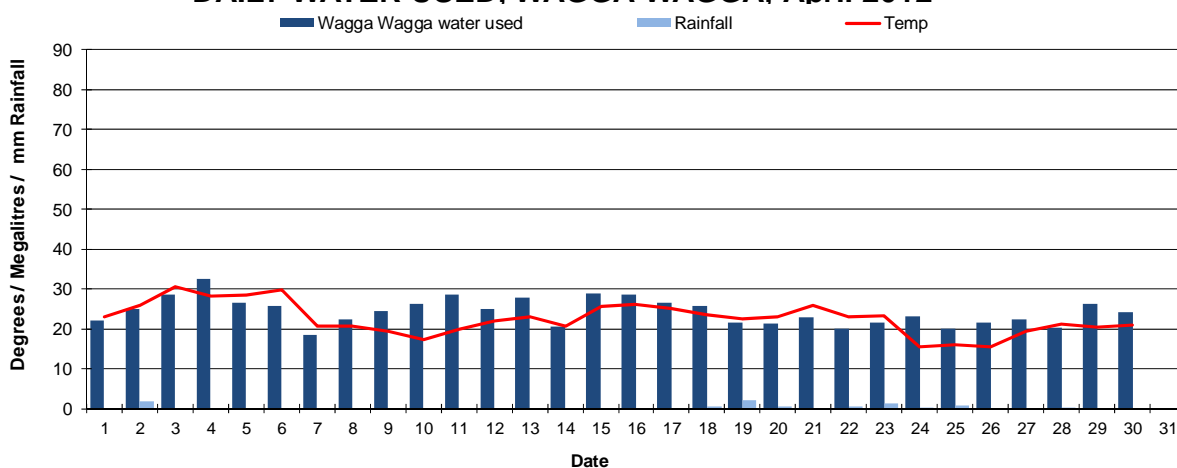
1.1 WATER SOURCED AND USED

April	2010	2011	2012
Rainfall	38.8	21.6	8.2
Wet Days	6	6	9
WATER SOURCED April 2012 (MI)			
North Wagga bores	162.64	140.75	156.43
West Wagga bores	167.74	321.66	419.24
East Wagga bores	104.57	168.87	223.25
Murrumbidgee River	470.75	162.74	44.80
SUB-TOTAL	905.70	794.02	843.72
Bulgary Bores	45.75	32.04	30.21
Urana Source	4.92	0.00	0.00
Ralvona Bores	19.43	15.09	16.11
Walla Walla Bores	3.72	0.00	7.65
Goldenfields Water Supply System	1.53	2.38	4.06
SUB-TOTAL	75.35	49.51	58.03
Woomargama	0.83	0.99	0.85
Humula	1.03	0.67	0.63
Tarcutta	3.26	2.76	2.41
Oura	3.20	2.95	2.65
Walbundrie/Rand	2.41	1.94	2.98
Morundah	0.88	0.63	0.56
Collingullie	4.02	3.27	4.41
SUB-TOTAL	15.63	13.21	14.49
TOTALS	996.68	856.74	916.24

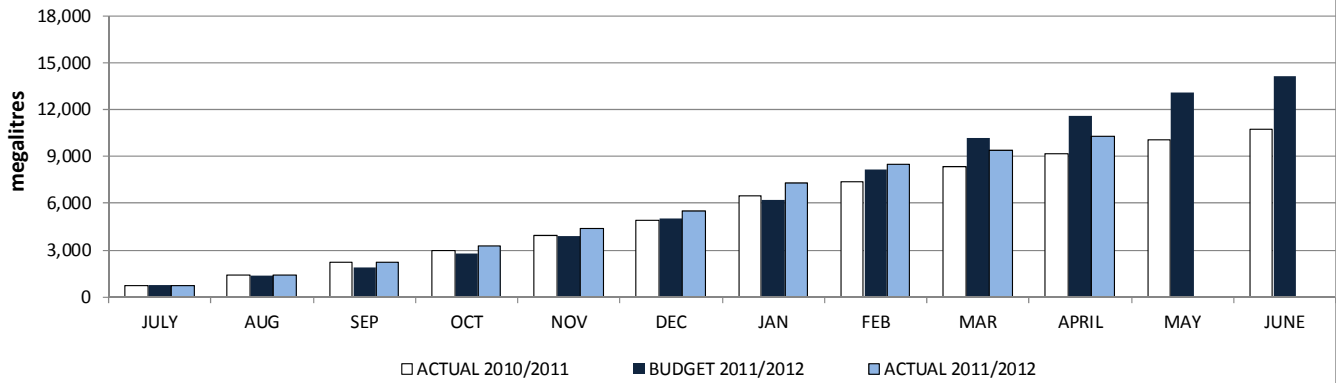
WATER USED April 2012 (MI)

	2010	2011	2012
East Bomen	17.38	10.64	15.92
Estella	59.41	37.61	50.52
North Wagga	70.75	71.44	66.62
Wagga Wagga – Low Level	155.80	149.12	184.97
Wagga Wagga – High Level	432.43	368.14	370.75
Wagga Wagga – Bellevue Level	49.70	40.86	46.36
SUB-TOTAL	785.47	677.81	735.14
Ladysmith System	3.41	3.14	3.86
Brucedale Scheme	17.48	18.18	16.26
Currawarna Scheme	8.37	6.52	12.84
Rural south from Wagga Wagga	101.11	95.01	69.01
Rural from Walla Walla Bore	3.72	0.00	7.65
Bulgary, Lockhart and Boree Creek	28.85	15.96	11.20
From Boree Crk to Urana and Oaklands	18.86	14.46	17.43
Holbrook	19.43	15.09	16.11
SUB-TOTAL	201.23	168.36	154.36
Woomargama	0.83	0.99	0.85
Humula	1.03	0.67	0.63
Tarcutta	3.26	2.76	2.41
Oura	3.20	2.95	2.65
Walbundrie/Rand	2.41	1.94	2.98
Morundah	0.88	0.63	0.56
Collingullie	4.02	3.27	4.41
SUB-TOTAL	15.63	13.21	14.49
TOTALS	1,002.33	859.38	903.99

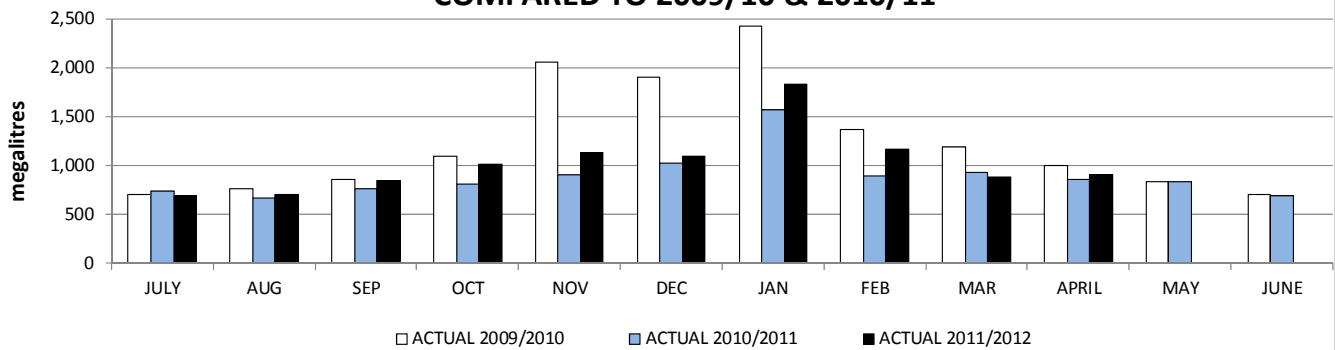
DAILY WATER USED, WAGGA WAGGA, April 2012



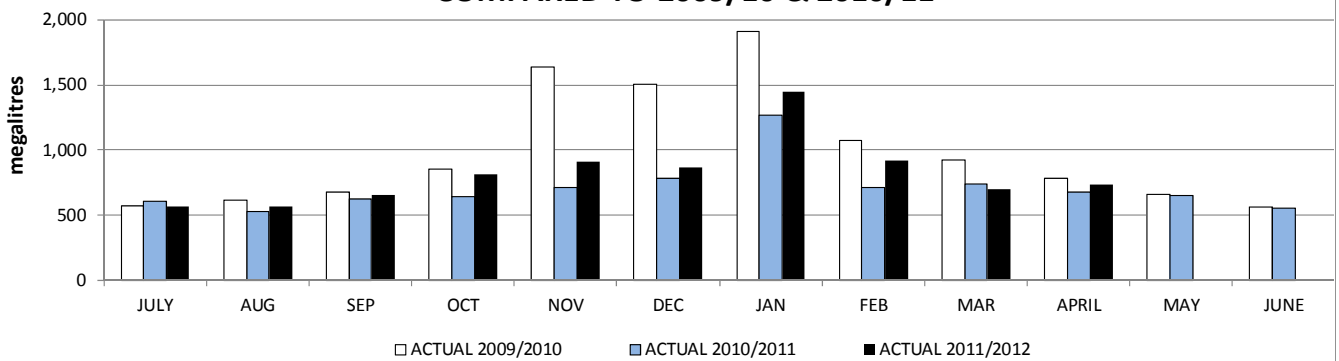
TOTAL CUMULATIVE WATER USED 2011/2012



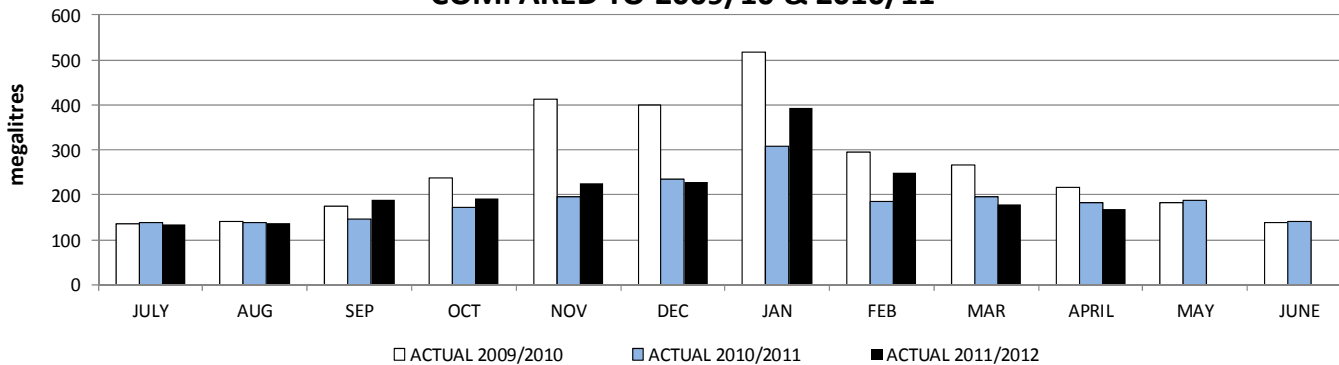
MONTHLY TOTAL WATER USED 2011/12 COMPARED TO 2009/10 & 2010/11



MONTHLY WAGGA WATER USED 2011/12 COMPARED TO 2009/10 & 2010/11



MONTHLY RURAL WATER USED 2011/12 COMPARED TO 2009/10 & 2010/11



1.2 NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS, REPAIRS, METERS, LOCATIONS & COMPLAINTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2012

Location	New Connect., Residential	New connect., Non Residential	Services Renewed	Services Repaired	Quality Complaints	Supply Complaints *	Customer dealings complaints	Other Complaints	Frost damage	Meter or Metercock fault	Leaking valves or hydrants	Locations
Wagga	19		19	29	4	2				19	3	16
Brucedale				1							1	1
Currawarna												
Euberta												
Humula												
Ladysmith										1		
Oura				1								
San Isidore												
Tarcutta												
The Gap				1								
Bulgary												
Collingullie												
French Park												
Lockhart				1								
Mangoplah												
Milbrulong											1	
Pleasant Hills											1	
The Rock				2							2	
Uranquinty												
Yerong Creek				1								
Culcairn												
Henty				2	2							
Holbrook				1								
Morven				1							1	
Walbundrie						1						
Walla Walla						1					1	
Woomargama												
Boree Creek				1								
Morundah				1								
Oaklands				1								
Rand												
Urana				2								
TOTAL	19	0	19	45	6	4	0	0	0	20	10	17

1.3 WATER SYSTEM REPAIRS

WAGGA WAGGA								
Date	Location	Town	Main Type	Cause	Live Repair	Outage Duration Time	Customers Affected (no supply)	Water Lost KI
3	Hammond Ave	Wagga Wagga	500 CI	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	1
11	Barton St	Lloyd	200 DICL	Accidental damage	Yes	0:00	0	7
16	Messenger & Breasley	Boorooma	200 BPVC	T/ Band Broken/Leaking	Yes	0:00	0	3
17	1 Hakea Pl	Springvale	100 WPVC	T/ Band Broken/Leaking	No	2:30	13	7
24	Blaxland Rd	East Wagga	150 AC	T/ Band Broken/Leaking	No	1:00	1	4
TOTALS						3:30	14	22
					Breaks needing shut off -	2	Breaks affecting customers -	2
Total Breaks –		5						

RURAL								
Date	Location	Town	Main Type	Cause	Live Repair	Outage Duration Time	Customers Affected (no supply)	Water Lost KI
1	Shepherds Siding - Downside Rd	The Gap	100 WPVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	7
1	Murray St	Boree Creek	100 AC	Tree Roots	Yes	0:00	9	150
7	Spurrels lane	Pleasant Hills	80 PVC	Leaking Gibault	No	3:00	7	400
7	Downside - Gap Hall Rd	The Gap	100 WPVC	Pipe Failure - Ground Movement	Yes	0:00	0	10
9	Gap Hall Rd	The Gap	100 WPVC	Pipe Failure - Ground Movement	Yes	0:00	0	10
10	Becks Lane	Brucedale	100 WPVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	5
11	The Rock Rd	Collingullie	80 PVC	Pipe Failure - Ground Movement	No	2:00	12	80
11	Bakes Lane(Grandview)	Pleasant Hills	80 PVC	Leaking collar	No	2:15	3	10
12	Chaplins Lane	The Rock	50 PVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	20
18	Brookdale Rd	Bulgary	50 PVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	No	3:00	6	50
24	2 Hawk St	Currawarna	100 WPVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	30
24	Bardwell st	Holbrook	100 WPVC	Accidental damage	No	3:00	19	100
26	Bardwell st	Holbrook	100 BPVC	Accidental damage	No	1:00	13	0
26	31 Plunkett St	Yerong Creek	100 AC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	0
TOTALS						14:15	69	872
					Breaks needing shut off -	6	Breaks affecting customers -	7
Total Breaks –		14						

1.4 WATER QUALITY COMPLAINTS

Water quality complaints received during April 2012 were:

Date	Location	Problem	Action Taken
3/04/2012	32 Sladen Rd, Henty	Dirty water	Flushed main & service
5/04/2012	1 Edgehill St, P. Hills	Metallic taste & sometimes white	Turb & CI are OK. Cleaned tap strainer. Improved
10/04/2012	61 Simpkin St, Koorungal	Metallic taste & sometimes white.	Turb & CI are OK. Cleaned tap strainer. Improved
14/04/2012	40 Sterling Blvd, Tatton	Dirty water	Flushed service
18/04/2012	"Sunray" Olympic Way, Henty	Dirty water	Flushed service. Very long service
23/04/2012	13 Miller St, Tolland	Bad taste	CI is OK. Resident to supply sample when next bad.
26/04/2012	1 Maple St, Lake Albert	Water tastes like kerosene.	Taps flushed which improved taste. Resident to call if it happens again.

1.5 MAINS CONSTRUCTIONS

1.5.1 MAINS EXTENSIONS AND NEW WORKS

New water mains laid during April 2012 include:

LOCATION	PROJECT	100	150	200
		OPVC	DICL	DICL
Durack St	New Subdivision	83		
Lloyd West	New Subdivision			26
Messenger St	New Subdivision		5.5	30
Lockhart	New Subdivision	325		
	TOTAL	408	5.5	56

1.5.2 REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING MAINS

No mains replaced during April 2012.

1.6 OTHER CONSTRUCTION

Other construction works during April 2012 include:

LOCATION OR PROJECT	WORK DONE
Bolton Park	Locate services for new main.
Grandview Avenue	Renew services.
The Rock	Hydrant maintenance.

1.7 MAJOR REPAIRS / OVERHAULS

Major repairs/overhauls during April 2012 include:

LOCATION OR PROJECT	WORK DONE
Waterworks Sludge Plant	Removed centrifuge and repaired.
10 Mill Reservoir	Drained, cleaned and performed minor repairs.
Walla Bore Pump No. 1	Removed pump and replaced faulty motor.
Humula Well	Cleaned and repaired well flood damage.
The Rock Chlorine	Replaced faulty service water pump.
West Wagga WTP silica	Replaced blocked dosing lines.
West Wagga Bore No. 5	Replaced VSD drive.

1.8 WATER FILLING STATION ACTIVITY

Water Filling Station activity during April 2012 include:

LOCATION	NUMBER OF FILLS
Red Hill Road	34
Plumpton Road	29
Gregadoo Road	2
Forest Hill	0
Estella	56
Bomen	16
Lockhart	12
Holbrook	8
Henty	12
Yerong Creek	6
Pleasant Hills	3

1.9 STAFF TRAINING & SAFETY

The following training and/or safety activities were undertaken during April 2012:

Training or Programme	Number of Staff
Fringe Benefit Tax Update	2
Statecover - Ageing W/force & Psychological Injury	2
Advanced Excel	1

2. WORKS REPORT COVERING MAY 2012

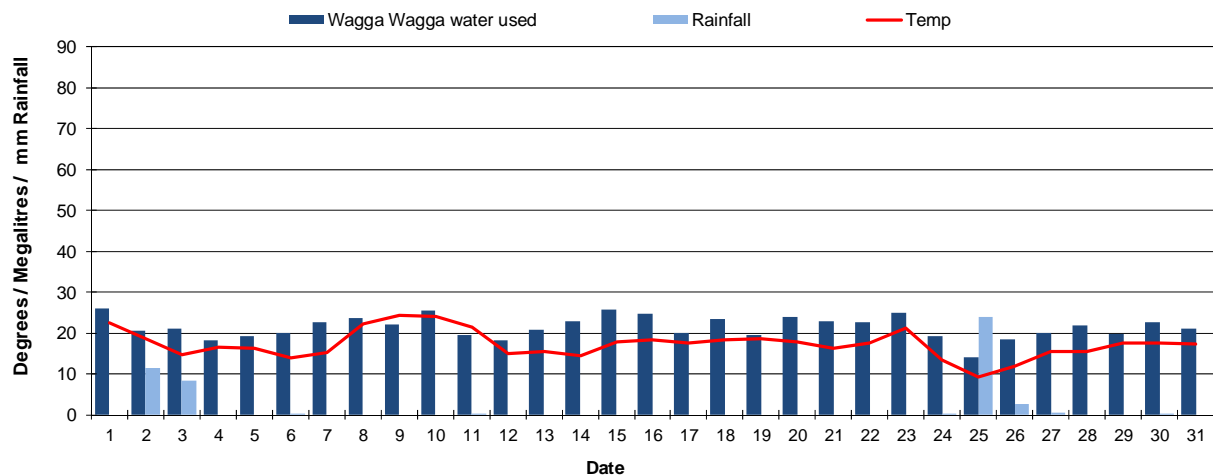
RECOMMENDATION That this report be received and noted.

2.1 WATER SOURCED AND USED

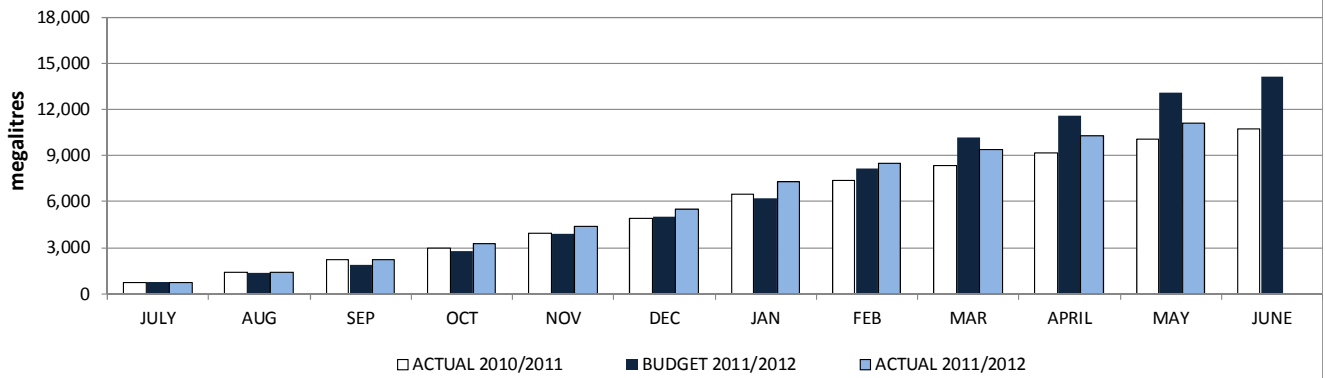
May	2010	2011	2012
Rainfall	68.2	31.8	47.6
Wet Days	6	10	9
WATER SOURCED May 2012 (MI)			
North Wagga bores	148.13	142.88	161.95
West Wagga bores	281.78	361.42	359.51
East Wagga bores	80.50	155.94	218.86
Murrumbidgee River	277.43	101.29	0.00
SUB-TOTAL	787.84	761.53	740.32
Bulgary Bores	32.18	40.94	27.12
Urana Source	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ralvona Bores	13.80	15.60	15.46
Walla Walla Bores	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goldenfields Water Supply System	1.06	1.76	3.14
SUB-TOTAL	47.04	58.30	45.72
Woomargama	0.76	1.36	0.77
Humula	0.65	0.58	0.62
Tarcutta	2.93	2.83	2.20
Oura	2.71	2.23	2.40
Walbundrie/Rand	2.73	2.53	2.55
Morundah	0.63	0.42	0.46
Collingullie	3.71	3.45	3.43
SUB-TOTAL	14.12	13.40	12.43
TOTALS	849.00	833.23	798.47

WATER USED May 2012 (MI)			
	2010	2011	2012
East Bomen	15.13	15.43	15.96
Estella	52.74	26.73	38.20
North Wagga	61.69	85.06	86.16
Wagga Wagga – Low Level	136.84	153.67	139.42
Wagga Wagga – High Level	351.77	336.36	323.82
Wagga Wagga – Bellevue Level	37.36	36.10	35.24
SUB-TOTAL	655.53	653.35	638.80
Ladysmith System	3.55	3.30	2.75
Brucedale Scheme	13.74	15.47	13.22
Currawarna Scheme	7.80	7.09	12.78
Rural south from Wagga Wagga	98.33	94.28	78.09
Rural from Walla Walla Bore	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bulgary, Lockhart and Boree Creek	13.34	21.18	14.60
From Boree Crk to Urana and Oaklands	16.96	17.33	11.20
Holbrook	13.80	15.60	15.46
SUB-TOTAL	167.52	174.25	148.10
Woomargama	0.76	1.36	0.77
Humula	0.65	0.58	0.62
Tarcutta	2.93	2.83	2.20
Oura	2.71	2.23	2.40
Walbundrie/Rand	2.73	2.53	2.55
Morundah	0.63	0.42	0.46
Collingullie	3.71	3.45	3.43
SUB-TOTAL	14.12	13.40	12.43
TOTALS	837.17	841.00	799.33

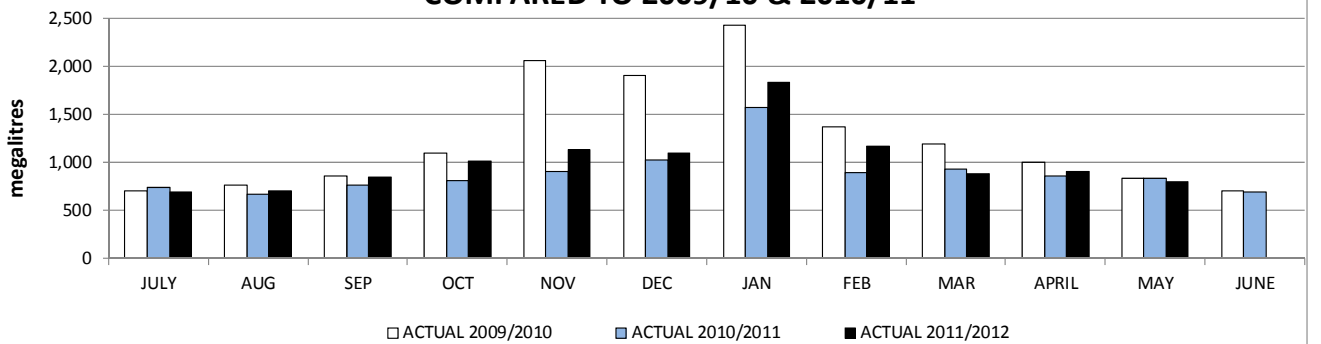
DAILY WATER USED, WAGGA WAGGA, May 2012



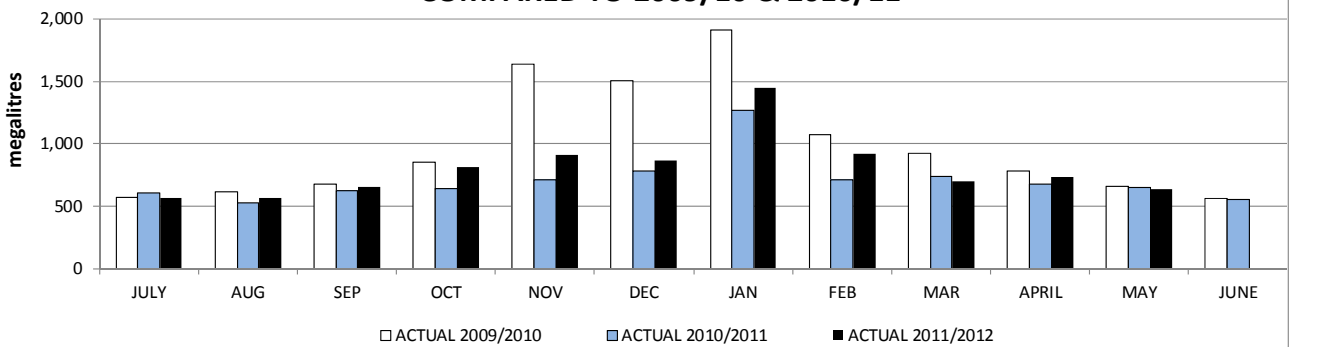
TOTAL CUMULATIVE WATER USED 2011/12



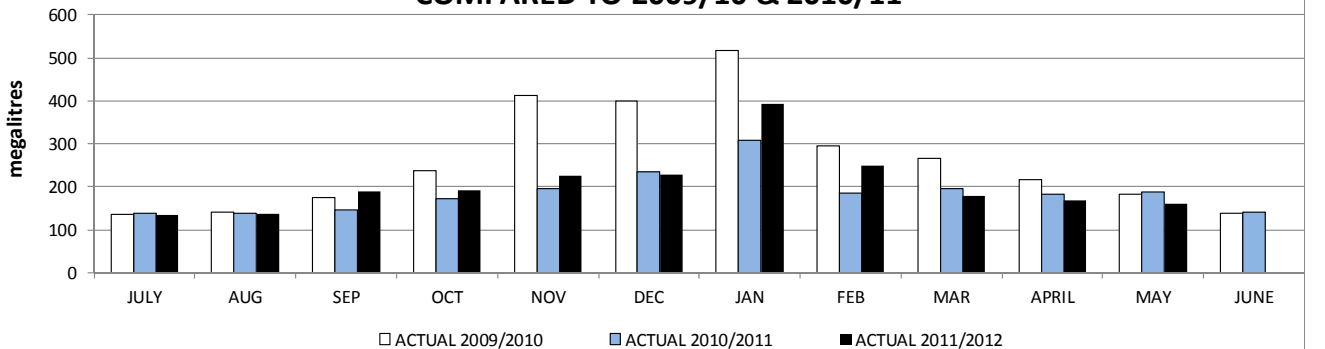
MONTHLY TOTAL WATER USED 2011/12 COMPARED TO 2009/10 & 2010/11



MONTHLY WAGGA WATER USED 2011/12 COMPARED TO 2009/10 & 2010/11



MONTHLY RURAL WATER USED 2011/12 COMPARED TO 2009/10 & 2010/11



2.2 NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS, REPAIRS, METERS, LOCATIONS & COMPLAINTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2012

Location	New Connect., Residential	New connect., Non Residential	Services Renewed	Services Repaired	Quality Complaints	Supply Complaints *	Customer dealings complaints	Other Complaints	Frost damage	Meter or Metercock fault	Leaking valves or hydrants	Locations
Wagga	38	2	4	30	5	1				18	4	16
Brucedale				1		1						
Currawarna												
Euberta												
Humula												
Ladysmith												
Oura												
San Isidore												
Tarcutta												
The Gap				1								
Bulgary												
Collingullie				1								
French Park												
Lockhart											1	1
Mangoplah												1
Milbrulong				1								
Pleasant Hills				1								
The Rock				2		1					4	
Uranquinty	1											
Yerong Creek												
Culcairn				1								
Henty												
Holbrook				1								
Morven												
Walbundrie												
Walla Walla			1	2		1				2		
Woomargama										1		
Boree Creek				1								
Morundah												
Oaklands												
Rand				1								
Urana				2								
TOTAL	39	2	5	45	5	4	0	0	0	21	9	18

2.3 WATER SYSTEM REPAIRS

WAGGA WAGGA								
Date	Location	Town	Main Type	Cause	Live Repair	Outage Duration Time	Customers Affected (no supply)	Water Lost Kl
3	50 Simmons St	Wagga Wagga	100 AC	Tree Roots	No	3:30	19	5
4	423 Mitchell Rd	Lake Albert	100 AC	Tree Roots	Yes	0:00	0	4
10	9 Brunskill Ave	Forest Hill	100 AC	T/ Band Broken/Leaking	Yes	0:00	0	3
11	Koorungal Rd	Koorungal	100 AC	Accidental damage	No	1:30	8	4
16	16 Berembee Rd	Bourklands	200 WPVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	No	5:00	25	7
16	Hammond Ave	East Wagga	150 WPVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	3
17	Evangelist & Angela	Lake Albert	150 WPVC	T/ Band Broken/Leaking	No	2:30	14	4
18	Tarcutta St	Wagga Wagga	100 AC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	6
28	Mitchell Rd	Lake Albert	100 AC	Tree Roots	No	1:00	14	10
TOTALS						13:30	80	46
				Breaks needing shut off -	5	Breaks affecting customers - 5		
Total Breaks -		9						

RURAL								
Date	Location	Town	Main Type	Cause	Live Repair	Outage Duration Time	Customers Affected (no supply)	Water Lost KI
1	Vonarx Rd	Brucedale	50 PVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	No	1:30	2	2
1	Holbrook Rd	Morven	100 AC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	No	1:00	0	0
1	Bulgary Bores	Bulgary	200 WPVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	No	2:30	0	0
10	Cox St	Mangoplah	75 AC	Tree Roots	Yes	0:00	0	10
17	Olympic Hwy	Henty	300 AC	Corrosion	Yes	0:00	0	100
17	Woomargama Pump House	Woomargama	50 PVC	Corrosion	No	3:15	8	50
19	202 Old Trunk	The Rock	300 CI	Pipe Failure -	No	6:00	37	200
18	Rohans Rd	Bulgary	200 WPVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	15
18	Rohans Rd	Bulgary	200 WPVC	Pipe Failure (not specified)	Yes	0:00	0	10
19	Rohans Rd	Bulgary	250 CI	Corrosion	Yes	0:00	0	30
19	Bon Accord	The Rock	300 CI	Corrosion	No	12:30	41	100
21	Comer St	Henty	100 AC	Tree Roots	Yes	0:00	0	15
28	Gap Hall - Downside Rd	The Gap	100 WPVC	Leaking SS clamp	Yes	0:00	0	5
29	Gap Hall - Downside Rd	Brucedale	100 WPVC	Leaking SS clamp	Yes	0:00	0	3
TOTALS						26:45	88	540
					Breaks needing shut off -	6	Breaks affecting customers -	4
Total Breaks - 14								

2.4 WATER QUALITY COMPLAINTS

Water quality complaints received during May 2012 were:

Date	Location	Problem	Action Taken
3/05/2012	92 Thorne St, Wagga	Dirty water	Flushed mains
3/05/2012	24 Bolton St, Wagga	Dirty water	Flushed mains
8/05/2012	62 Hardy Ave, Wagga	Dirty water	Flushed mains & service
18/05/2012	73 Brunskill Rd, Lake Albert	Dirty, smelly water	Flushed service
23/05/2012	20 Willow St, Koorinal	Muddy smell & taste	Replied via email, home visit-nobody home. Business card left. Rang Agent. No customer reply.

2.5 MAINS CONSTRUCTIONS

2.5.1 MAINS EXTENSIONS AND NEW WORKS

New water mains laid during May 2012 include:

LOCATION	PROJECT	100		150		200	250	
		DICL	OPVC	OPVC	DICL	DICL	DICL	OPVC
Brindabella St, Tatton	New Subdivision	39					39	
Barton Ave, Lloyd	New Subdivision			50			24	231
Messenger Ave, Estella	New Subdivision	5.5			22	24		
Lloyd West	New Subdivision					65.5		
Green St, Lockhart	New Subdivision		470					
	TOTAL	44.5	470	50	22	89.5	63	231

2.5.2 REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING MAINS

Mains replaced during May 2012 include:

LOCATION	PROJECT	100
		DICL
Wagga Wagga Base Hospital	Mains Replacement	88
	TOTAL	88

2.6 OTHER CONSTRUCTION

Other construction works during May 2012 include:

LOCATION OR PROJECT	WORK DONE
Wagga Depot	Levee Bank Construction
The Rock	Valve and Hydrant Maintenance
The Rock Rural Main	Repair Two Bursts on Rural Main

2.7 MAJOR REPAIRS / OVERHAULS

Major repairs/overhauls during May 2012 include:

LOCATION OR PROJECT	WORK DONE
Waterworks Sludge plant	Tanks drained and cleaned
North Wagga No 1 Bore	Install new main switch and recommission post floods
North Wagga Aeration Basins	Clean and disinfect
Waterworks Plant No 2	Refurbish backwash /washwater valve
Waterworks	Floc tanks Nos 1 & 2 drain and clean
Walla Walla Bore 1B	Repair and recommission pump and motor
Humula	Clean, desilt and recommission well

2.8 WATER FILLING STATION ACTIVITY

Water Filling Station activity during May 2012 include:

LOCATION	NUMBER OF FILLS
Red Hill Road	13
Plumpton Road	9
Gregadoo Road	11
Forest Hill	7
Estella	8
Bomen	0
Lockhart	0
Holbrook	44
Henty	10
Yerong Creek	5
Pleasant Hills	6

2.9 STAFF TRAINING & SAFETY

The following training and/or safety activities were undertaken during May 2012:

Training or Programme	Number of Staff
Civica Payroll – SIG	2
Intermediate Excel 2010	2
Advanced Excel 2010	1
Intermediate Word 2010	2
First Aid – Full course	6
Backhoe Competency Training	2
First Aid Training	1

2.10 WAGGA WAGGA WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Hunter Water Australia is engaged to undertake a Feasibility Study for the proposed water treatment plant at the Hammond Avenue site. NSW Public Works are assisting Council as project managers. Many issues have been addressed on this relatively complex project, including treatment process options, dealing with high turbidity's and integrating with existing infrastructure.

The draft report is currently being reviewed. This report narrows down the treatment process options to three. One of the options is now the subject of pilot plant trials at our site. The Actiflo pilot plant work will help qualify how this process responds to high river turbidity's.

The project is currently on track as set out in our projected delivery program. The outcomes of the Feasibility Study will be reported to Council in August 2012 and will

include an initial cost estimate with relatively low order accuracy. The accuracy will increase in the preliminary design stage and again when tenders are called.

2.11 CONSTRUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOP AND 1:20 YEAR LEVEE

The tender for the construction of the industrial workshop for our fitters and electricians was awarded to the local company ICG. Work has commenced and good progress is being made. Completion, barring wet weather, is anticipated in October 2012.

The one in twenty year levee bank associated with this development is completed. The work was undertaken by Council staff and certified by a local consultant. The access road was also improved as part of the project.

2.12 NATURE STRIP REBATE SCHEME

The nature strip rebate scheme commenced in Wagga Wagga earlier this year. To date there has been strong interest and a reasonable expectation that the take up rate will continue on track. To date there have been over 350 hotline inquiries, over 300 on-site interviews and inspections, over 150 rebates offered totalling over \$200,000 and approximately 25 nature strips completed.

Plans are currently being established for the roll-out to all other areas in July 2012. Lockhart Shire Council has adopted a new guideline and Urana and Greater Hume will have similar arrangements.

We have engaged a communication consultant and the next stage of promotion will focus on turning interest into action, the stage two roll-out, and engagement with local landscaping contractors.

2.13 STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN AND BEST PRACTICE

To meet NSW Office of Water Best Practice and satisfy Division of Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements, Riverina Water has engaged consultants to prepare and update a number of strategic planning documents. These include a Strategic Business Plan, Demand Management Plan, 30 Year Financial Plan, Drought Management Plan and Development Servicing Plan amongst others.

Good progress has been achieved. Once completed Riverina Water will be in a strong strategic position. We have already benefitted from the draft documents in determining the best relationship between demand management, capital works programs, typical residential bills and loans. The size and cost of the proposed Wagga Water Treatment Plant is a critical loan consideration and this is fed back into the Feasibility Study. Any opportunity for staging components will be explored.

All key documents, other than the Development Servicing Plan, will be drafted prior to 30th June, 2012.

2.14 LGSA WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The LGSA Water Management Conference 2012 is co-hosted by Wagga Wagga City Council and Riverina Water. This will be held at the RSL Club on 23rd and 24th July 2012. Most of the arrangements regarding accommodation and venues have been arranged by WWCC and the LGSA. Riverina Water had a significant role in establishing the theme and will present papers and conduct an inspection tour.

The inspection tour will traverse key locations in suburban Wagga and then focus on the Hammond Ave site, including sources, treatment and construction works.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Finlayson', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Greg Finlayson
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

QUESTIONS & STATEMENTS