

**MINUTES of the MEETING of RIVERINA WATER COUNTY COUNCIL,  
held at 91 HAMMOND AVENUE, WAGGA WAGGA,  
on WEDNESDAY, 28th FEBRUARY 2018 at 9.30 am**

**PRESENT:** Clr. P. Bourke, Clr. Y. Braid OAM, Clr. G. Conkey OAM, Clr. T. Koschel, Clr. D. Meyer OAM, Clr. T. Quinn and Clr. G. Verdon.

The General Manager, Director of Engineering, Manager Corporate Services, Manager Projects and Manager Operations were in attendance.

18/01 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Clr. Funnell and Keenan, and a leave of absence for was GRANTED on the motion of Clrs. Quinn and Koschel.

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST**

18/02 No declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary interest received.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

18/03 The Minutes of the Meeting of 13th December 2017 having been circulated and read by the Members, were taken as being CONFIRMED on the motion of Clrs. Meyer OAM and Quinn.

Clr. Verdon welcomed Andrew Crakanthorp, General Manager

18/04 MOVED Clrs. Quinn and Meyer OAM to suspend standing orders at 9.35 am to hear a presentation on PFAS (Per. and Poly-fluorinated alkyl substances) by Operations Manager Jason Ip.

Councillor Bourke entered the meeting at 9.39am

18/05 MOVED Clr. Meyer OAM and Koschel to resume standing orders at 9.50am.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – LIST OF INVESTMENTS**

18/06 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Meyer OAM and Braid OAM that the report detailing Council's external investments for the months of December 2017 and January 2018 be received.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW – PERIOD ENDED 31ST  
DECEMBER 2017**

- 18/07 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Quinn and Koschel that the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 be received and adopted.

**OPERATIONAL PLAN – PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

- 18/08 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Quinn and Bourke that the report detailing progress as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, achieved towards the various objectives set out in the 2017/2018 Operational Plan be noted and received.

**REVIEW OF REMUNERATION FEES FOR COUNCILLORS AND  
CHAIRPERSON**

- 18/09 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Meyer OAM and Quinn to defer this meeting to later when Clr. Conkey is present

**JOINT ORGANISATIONS**

- 18/10 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Meyer OAM and Koschel that:
- (a) Council receive a further report on the formation of Joint Organisations following the proclamation of a Joint Organisation(s) in the Riverina Murray Planning region.
  - (b) Council maintain its associate membership of REROC Inc. until further notice.

Clr. Conkey OAM entered the meeting 10.22 am

**REVIEW OF REMUNERATION FEES FOR COUNCILLORS AND  
CHAIRPERSON**

- 18/11 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Meyer OAM and Conkey OAM that the Councillors and Chairpersons annual fee be set at 100% of the maximum allowable, as determined annually by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal, pursuant to Section 242 of the Local Government Act 1993.

### **PROPOSED NEW BOARD ROOM**

- 18/12 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Quinn and Braid OAM that Council make provision in the 2018/19 Capital Works budget for the completion of the Board Room in the Stores Building and that the General Manager proceed with preparing an appropriate design and fit out, supported by an estimate of the works.

### **DRAFT POLICY 3.1 ASSET MANAGEMENT**

- 18/13 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Meyer OAM and Bourke that Riverina Water County Council adopt Draft Policy 3.01 Asset Management.

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION SHEET**

- 18/14 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Braid OAM and Koschel that Council receive and note Council's Resolution Sheet.

### **DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 2017**

- 18/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Koschel and Meyer OAM that the Director of Engineering's report covering the month of December 2017 be received and noted.

### **DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 2018**

- 18/16 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Koschel and Meyer OAM that the Director of Engineering's report covering the month of January 2018 be received and noted.

### **CONTRACT W195 – WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP) PROGRESS REPORTS**

- 18/17 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Koschel and Braid OAM that Council receive and note the report.

Austin Morris, Manager Works entered the meeting 11.25 am.

### **THE ROCK RESERVOIR**

- 18/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Clrs. Meyer OAM and Koschel that Council continue with the current strategic planning for a new reservoir for The Rock to allow construction to commence in-line with additional demand requirements.

## QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

18/19 Clr. Koschel: Question on community engagement, Riverina Water's on-line presence, negative feedback, noticed Riverina Water's Facebook page only has 43 followers. What can Riverina Water do to engage more people? People don't want to do face to face.

General Manager: I agree, we'll look into it, 43 not doing it justice. Look at Facebook, perhaps Twitter too. It's a gap in Council's resources.

Director of Engineering: We don't have an official Facebook page, it would've been created by a third party.

General Manager: We will be updating our webpage in due course.

Director of Engineering: Austin Morris, Works Manager and his team post on Instagram – one way traffic (Facebook is two way).

Clr. Koschel: Good to use all communication platforms.

18/20 Clr. Conkey OAM: Asked about the cancellation of remote metering trials?

Chairperson: New technology coming on board, cost factors.

Director of Engineering: Costs of IT technology coming down, will reassess the new technology. Goldenfields CC and Federation Council using the Taggle system. Council has taken a pause to analyse the appetite of our customers for this technology, and the costs associated with it.

18/21 Clr. Conkey OAM: Asked about the "cheat sheet" regarding Infrastructure Australia's report into water utilities. Where is Riverina Water is up to and how do we compare with other Councils?

Director of Engineering: We undertook an exercise to benchmark ourselves against the Infrastructure Australia report measures, but they are very broad, motherhood statements.

Clr. Conkey OAM: What's Riverina Water's broad statement?

Chairperson: Some Authorities weren't meeting Australian standards. We need to be vigilant, we've met the benchmark. Riverina Water will prepare a statement.

Director of Engineering: Performance Indicators are a better indicator of how we compare with other water utilities, and how we compare against other Councils the same size. Council will put together a snapshot of our key indicators, comparing against other water utilities.

Clr. Conkey OAM: Nice to speak of the positives of Riverina Water.

Director of Engineering: Great to put statistics out there.

18/22 Clr. Meyer OAM: I have 3 questions: firstly the amount of breaks over the Christmas period, (similar in Henty), commend all staff on their good work.

Chairperson: Compliments were conveyed to staff that worked over the Christmas period, an email was sent to all staff.

18/23 Clr. Meyer OAM: Contacted Riverina Water's out of hours service on Sunday, the lady was very pleasant and helpful, is she based here?

Director of Engineering: It is our Call Centre, good to get good feedback.

Clr. Meyer OAM: And lastly I'm impressed with the computer screen you have here.

18/24 Clr. Quinn: Queried the date of April's meeting?

General Manager: 18<sup>th</sup> April in Lockhart.

18/25 Chairperson: Thanked staff that worked above and beyond over the Christmas period. Outstanding effort. Advise public of good news story. We don't really publicise our good works. Maybe we should.

18/26 Clr. Verdon: Next Meeting will be Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

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The Meeting concluded at 12.05 pm

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