

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Tuesday 26 October 2021

The meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board was declared open at 3:00pm.

Present

Councillor Greg Verdon (Chairperson)
Councillor Tim Koschel
Councillor Pat Bourke
Councillor Yvonne Braid OAM
Councillor Vanessa Keenan (via zoom)
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM
Councillor Dan Hayes

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Engineering	(Bede Spannagle)
Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia)
Community Engagement Officer	(Joshua Lang)
Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
Manager Operations	(Jason Ip)
ICT Officer	(Dylan Comerford)

Acknowledgment of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. I would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to other Community members present.

Livestreaming of Meeting

Board meetings, including public address speeches, are recorded and webcast live on Council's website. If you are addressing a meeting, your image, voice and name, will form part of the webcast.

Apologies

21/108 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors P Bourke and T Koschel

That an apology for non-attendance be received from Councillor Tony Quinn and Councillor Greg Conkey OAM.

CARRIED

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R2 List of Investments the reason being his employment with a financial institution and he remained in the meeting during the discussion

Confirmation of Minutes

21/109 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

That the minutes of the meeting of 24 August 2021, having been circulated and read by Members, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

Correspondence

Local Government: NSW Weekly Circulars: previously forwarded to Councillors by Constituent Councils

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2021

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2021

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021

Letter from The Hon. Shelley Hancock – Ability for county councils to meet remotely dated 7 October 2021

21/110 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and Y Braid OAM

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Open Reports

21/111 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

That R3 Financial Statements 2020/2021 be moved to be the first item discussed

CARRIED

R3 Financial Statements 2020/2021

21/112 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

That the 2020/21 Audited Financial Statements be received and noted.

CARRIED

Councillor Pat Bourke left the meeting at 3:08pm

Mr Joshua Lang left the meeting at 3:08pm

Mr Joshua Lang returned to the meeting at 3:09pm

Councillor Dan Hayes joined the meeting at 3:12pm

R1 September 2021 Quarterly Budget Review

21/113 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 30 September 2021 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

R2 List of Investments

21/114 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors Y Braid OAM and T Koschel

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of August and September 2021.

CARRIED

Mr Dylan Comerford left the meeting at 3:17pm

Mr Dylan Comerford returned to the meeting at 3:18pm

R4 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Returns

21/115 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and D Meyer OAM

That Council:

- a) Note the pecuniary interest returns of Board members and designated persons for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 tabled in accordance with Clause 4.21 of the Riverina Water Code of Conduct; and
- b) Note that these pecuniary interest returns will be published to the Riverina Water website with personal addresses redacted.

CARRIED

R5 New Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework final consultation

21/116 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors Y Braid OAM and T Koschel

That Council:

- a) Note the latest draft of the Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework for local councils in NSW; and
- b) Authorise the Chair of the ARIC (supported by input from the CEO) to make a submission on behalf of Riverina Water should that be deemed appropriate prior to 26 November 2021.

CARRIED

R6 Social Media and Media Quarterly Report July-September 2021

21/117 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council receives and notes the report.

CARRIED

R7 Willans Hill Land Matters

21/118 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

That Council:

1. Proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the land described as:
 1. Lot 1 in unregistered plan of acquisition of Lot 22 in Deposited Plan 835331 (plan attached);
 2. Proposed easement for Pipeline 6 wide marked T in the unregistered plan (plan attached).for the purpose of the construction of water supply infrastructure and associated access in accordance with the requirements of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991; and
2. Council make an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire:
 1. Lot 1 in unregistered plan of acquisition of Lot 22 in Deposited Plan 835331;
 2. Proposed easement for Pipeline 6 wide marked T in the unregistered plan.by compulsory process under Section 186(1) of the of the Local Government Act.
3. That the land upon acquisition be classified as operational land in accordance with the Local Government Act.
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to purchase the land and establish the pipeline easements under compulsory acquisition process.

CARRIED

R8 Net Zero Emissions Policy Adoption

21/119 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and Y Braid OAM

That Council note:

- a) The Net Zero Emissions Policy;
- b) That the policy will be placed on public exhibition; and
- c) That a further report will be provided to the February 2022 Board meeting regarding any feedback provided during the exhibition period and including a recommendation to adopt

CARRIED

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp left the meeting at 3:30pm

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp returned to the meeting at 3:30pm

R9 County Councils in the Development Assessment Process

21/120 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council:

- 1) Receives and notes the report.**
- 2) Support the collective approach of County Councils to advocate for mandated legal mechanism(s) requiring development applications to be referred to County Councils for consultation and/or concurrence, under a new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP).**
- 3) In the meantime, continue to pursue and establish a range of formal and informal mechanisms with its constituent councils to include Riverina Water in their development assessment and approval processes that impact its operations, for example Memorandums of Understanding and pre-development approval consultation with developers.**
- 4) That Riverina Water submit a motion to the Local Government New South Wales Annual Conference regarding the level of consultation of County Councils by the NSW Government and in particular expressing frustration that often County Councils are overlooked when legislation is being changed..**

CARRIED

Councillor Pat Bourke returned to the meeting at 3:33pm

R10 Groundwater Purchase - 133 megalitres of water from the Lower Billabong water source

21/121 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and P Bourke

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R11 Works Report covering August 2021

21/122 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That the Works Report covering August 2021 be received and noted

CARRIED

R12 Works Report covering September 2021

21/123 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That the Works Report covering September 2021 be received and noted

CARRIED

R13 Lost Time Injury Statistics 2021/22 - July-September Period

21/124 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries for the period July 2021 to September 2021.

CARRIED

R14 Council Resolution Sheet

21/125 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

That the report detailing the status of the active resolutions of Council be received.

CARRIED

Committee Minutes

M1 Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 15 September 2021

21/126 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

That Council endorses the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 15 September 2021.

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Cllr D Meyer advised he has received an email from Henty Public School regarding one of their students winning a school based poster competition (conducted by Riverina Water) held as part of National Water Week. Cllr Meyer advised his nomination for re-election has been accepted, and expressed how he has enjoyed being a part of the Riverina Water Board.

2. Clr P Bourke enquired as to what numbers are needed to make a new water service line “viable”. Mr Spannagle advised it is dependent on the cost of the line and the number of connections, and such matters are not always a straight economic answer. Clr Bourke congratulated the Chair and Riverina Water for how well the organisation has been performing. Clr Bourke thanked Ms Tonacia for her ongoing auditing and financial management, well done to everyone.
3. Clr Y Braid thanked everyone for their support.
4. Clr T Koschel thanked everyone for their work in the past five years. He also thanked the Chairman for his leadership and then thanked Andrew and Directors for their support.
5. Mr Bede Spannagle expressed his thanks to the Board for being knowledgeable, respectful and capable in assisting management run the organisation. He also thanked the Chairman for his leadership.
6. Mr Andrew Crakanthorp echoed Mr Spannagle's comments. He thanked the Chairman for support and guidance and mentorship. Wish all members well in upcoming elections and what the future may bring.
7. Clr G Verdon thanked fellow board members. He noted the collegial approach and everyone has been free to speak their minds. He further stated that Council was blessed to have professional staff that has guided the organisation through difficult tasks when needed, and that the organisation is in good hands. Clr Verdon thanked Mr Crakanthorp, Mr Spannagle, Ms Tonacia and Mr Lang for their support.

Closed Council

Pursuant to section 10A(4), the public were invited to make representations to the Council meeting before any part of the meeting is closed, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

No members of the public were present or made representations.

21/127 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 3:59pm.

CARRIED

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Confidential Reports

CONF-1 Tender for Specification W280 Cleaning of Council Facilities at Riverina Water

21/128 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

That Council:

- 1. Accepts the Tender Submission from Charles Sturt Campus Services Limited under a schedule of rates contract, with an estimated annual cost of \$128,000, in accordance with Specification W280 and the terms of the contract of engagement.**
- 2. Authorise the CEO to execute the documents relating to the contract.**

CARRIED

Clr Vanessa Keenan joined the meeting at 3:59pm

CONF-2 The Rock Reservoir Land Acquisition Update

21/129 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

That Council receive and notes the report.

CARRIED

CONF-3 Small Site Electricity and Metering Contracts

21/130 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and Y Braid OAM

That Council authorises:

- a) The Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and accept the Tender for provision of electricity to Small Sites and electricity metering services.**
- b) The Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson to execute the electricity supply contract for small sites and electricity metering services, for a contract period ending 31st December 2022**

CARRIED

CONF-4 Riverina Water Cyber Incident

21/131 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and P Bourke

That Council;

- a) receive and note the report; and**
- b) approve the additional budget in the 2021/22 Operational Plan for the costs in relation to the incident and implementation of recommendations.**

CARRIED

Reversion to Open Council

21/132 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 4:15pm.

CARRIED

Decisions Read Aloud

The Chief Executive Officer read aloud the decisions of the Council made whilst the meeting was closed to the public.

Clr V Keenan thanked everyone for their time, been a pleasure to be a part of the board. Today has been a milestone day, quite an achievement. Great to see the room was also named today. Thanked the Chair.

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 4:18pm