

Minutes of the Meeting of Riverina Water County Council held on Tuesday 24 August 2021

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

Present

Councillor Greg Verdon (Chairperson)
Councillor Pat Bourke (via zoom)
Councillor Greg Conkey OAM
Councillor Vanessa Keenan
Councillor Tim Koschel
Councillor Doug Meyer OAM
Councillor Tony Quinn
Councillor Dan Hayes

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	(Andrew Crakanthorp)
Director Engineering	(Bede Spannagle) (via zoom)
Interim Director Corporate Services	(Emily Tonacia) (via zoom)
Community Engagement Officer	(Joshua Lang) (via zoom)
Manager Operations	(Jason Ip) (via zoom)
Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer	(Melissa Vincent)
ARIC Chairman	(David Maxwell) (via zoom)

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

21/071 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel

That an apology for non-attendance be received from Councillor Yvonne Braid OAM.

CARRIED

Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tim Koschel declared a non-pecuniary interest in R5 Financial statements the reason being his employment with a financial institution and he remained in the meeting during the discussion

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp declared a pecuniary interest in CONF2 Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review for the period ending 30 June 2021 and left the room during the discussion

Confirmation of Minutes

21/072 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

That the minutes of the meeting of 30 June 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

21/073 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Open Reports

R1 Oath of Office by Councillor Dan Hayes

21/074 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and G Conkey OAM

That it be noted that Councillor Dan Hayes has taken an oath of office.

CARRIED

R2 Riverina Water Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Annual Report 2020-21

21/075 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That Council receive the report from the Riverina Water Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) as presented by the ARIC Chair, Mr David Maxwell.

CARRIED

David Maxwell left meeting 3:11pm

R3 Audit Risk & Improvement Committee minutes 21 July 2021

21/076 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

That Council review and note the minutes of the Riverina Water Audit Risk & Improvement Committee meeting of 21 July 2021.

CARRIED

R4 List of Investments

21/077 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Conkey OAM and T Quinn

That Council receive and note the report detailing external investments for the months of June and July 2021.

CARRIED

21/078 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Quinn

That:

- a) Council's Draft Financial Statements be referred to audit by Council's auditors being the Audit Office of New South Wales**
- b) Council make a resolution in accordance with Section 413(2c) that the annual financial report is in accordance with:**
 - i. the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made there under**
 - ii. the Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements**
 - iii. the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting**
 - iv. presents fairly the council's operating results and financial position for the year**
 - v. accords with Council's accounting policies and other records**
 - vi. that Council is not aware of any matter that would render this report false or misleading in any way**
- c) Council adopt the above mentioned statement and that the Chairperson, a Councillor, Chief Executive Officer and Responsible Accounting Officer be authorised to complete the 'Statement by Members of the Council' in relation to Council's 2020/21 Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Reports and be attached thereto**
- d) The Chief Executive Officer be delegated the authority to issue the audited Financial Statements immediately upon receipt of the Auditor's Reports, subject to their being no material changes or audit issues**
- e) Council present the final audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report to the public at its ordinary meeting to be held 26 October 2021.**

CARRIED

R6 Financial Position as at 30 June 2021

21/079 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Conkey OAM

That:

- a) The unaudited 2020/2021 Financial Statements be received
- b) Council endorses the proposed changes to internal cash restrictions to be reflected in the 2020/2021 Financial Statements, being that:
 - i. Income from Council's high security water licences is restricted annually to fund future water license purchases should they be required.

CARRIED

R7 Overdue Debtors - June 2021

21/080 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and T Quinn

That Council receive and note the report on overdue debtors for the period ended 30 June 2021.

CARRIED

R8 CAPEX Budget Results 2020/21

21/081 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Meyer OAM

That Council receive and note the report on the final capital expenditure budget result for the 2020/21 financial year

CARRIED

R9 Operational Plan - Performance Targets

21/082 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Hayes

That the report detailing the progress towards the objectives set out in the 2020/2021 Operational Plan as at 30 June 2021, be received and noted.

CARRIED

R10 Revoted Budget - 2021/2022

21/083 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and G Conkey OAM

That Council:

- a) **Revote Capital budget totalling \$3,025,877 from the 2020/2021 budget to be included in the 2021/2022 budget.**
- b) **Endorse the proposed capital budget adjustments in relation to the 2021/2022 budget totalling a reduction of \$8,066,479.**
- c) **Note capital budget items committed to be spent prior to 30 June 2021, totalling \$1,742,288 will be carried forward to the 2021/2022 budget.**

CARRIED

R11 FLOW Update

21/084 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and T Koschel

That Council receive and note the update on the implementation of Council's new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution.

CARRIED

R12 Social media and media report: April-June 2021

21/085 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and G Conkey OAM

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R13 2021-22 Community Grants Program

21/086 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

That Council:

- a) Endorse the new timeframe for the 2021-22 program set out in the report**
- b) Endorse the amended program guidelines**
- c) Receive a further report in February 2022 to determine assessment panels**

CARRIED

Clr Tim Koschel left the meeting at 4:03pm

Clr Tim Koschel joined the meeting at 4:04pm

R14 Rescission of Policy 1.7 Gifts & Benefits and adoption of a Gifts & Benefits Procedure

21/087 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and D Hayes

That Council

- a) rescind Gifts & Benefits Policy 1.7; and**
- b) endorse a new Gifts and Benefits Procedure to support Council's Code of Conduct Policy 1.1**

CARRIED

R15 Revised Internal Reporting (Protected Disclosures) Policy

21/088 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and T Koschel

That Council review and adopt the Internal Reporting (Protected Disclosures) Policy 1.11 as attached to this report.

CARRIED

R16 Board member expenses and facilities policy

21/089 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That Council adopt the updated Board Member Expenses and Facilities Policy 1.10, noting that no submissions were received during the public exhibition period

CARRIED

R17 Extension of ARIC Committee

21/090 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors G Conkey OAM and D Meyer OAM

That Council:

- a) **Extend the tenure for the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee members to 30 June 2022**
- b) **Extend the term of the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee Chairperson to 30 June 2022**
- c) **Extend the term of the current Board representative and their alternate to 4 December 2021.**
- d) **Note that a letter will be sent to the current committee members offering an extension to their current contract until 30 June 2022**
- e) **Note that a further report will be presented to the February 2022 meeting of the Board outlining the process for the selection of a new Committee and appointment of a Board representative to the Committee**

CARRIED

R18 Lost Time Injury Statistics 2020/21 - July-June Period

21/091 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

That Council receive and note the statistics report for Lost Time Injuries for the July / June period of 2020/21 financial year.

CARRIED

R19 Goldenfields Water County Council Customer Handover

21/092 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors V Keenan and D Hayes

That Council endorse the attached Community Engagement Plan – Handover of Goldenfields Water Customers.

CARRIED

R20 Local Government New South Wales - 2021 Water Management Conference

21/093 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and V Keenan

That

- a) Council be represented at the Local Government New South Wales 2022 Water Management Conference**
- b) Nominations of Board Members to attend be called by the CEO at the first meeting of the incoming Board in with one Board Member to be appointed as Council's voting delegate**
- c) The CEO and Director of Engineering or their nominees attend as observers**

CARRIED

R21 Resignation of Deputy Chairperson

21/094 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That Council:

- a) note the resignation Councillor Paul Funnell and wish him well for the future**
- b) congratulate Cr Dan Hayes on his election to the Board of Riverina Water County Council**

CARRIED

Mr Crakanthorp advised he had received two nominations for Deputy Chairperson and proposed Council conduct an election for the position of Deputy Chair. The Chairperson requested Mr Crakanthorp be appointed as returning officer and Ms Melissa Vincent as scrutineer.

21/095 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

That the vote be conducted via paper ballot.

CARRIED

Nominations were received by Councillor Tim Koschel and Councillor Vanessa Keenan.

Following a vote, Councillor Koschel was elected as Deputy Chairperson

21/096 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and D Meyer OAM

That the Chief Executive Officer send a letter of appreciation to Mr Paul Funnell thanking him for his service to Riverina Water and that he be invited to the end of term Board dinner when held.

CARRIED

The Chairperson thanked both candidates for nominating for the position of Deputy Chairperson.

R22 Board Meeting Schedule 2021 and 2022

21/097 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Koschel

That Council:

- a) Reschedule its October meeting to Tuesday 26 October at 3pm and advertise the change in date and time;**
- b) Advertise the cancellation of the Board meeting scheduled for 16 December 2021**
- c) Set the meeting date and time for the inaugural meeting of the incoming Board to be 9.30am, Wednesday 2 February 2022**
- d) Write to the four constituent Council's requesting that they elect their delegate(s) at the first meeting of the incoming Council's in 2022.**

CARRIED

R23 RAAF PFAS Update

21/098 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Hayes and G Conkey OAM

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

R24 Land Matters - Red Hill Reservoirs 1 & 2, Land Parcel Consolidation

21/099 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and G Conkey OAM

That Council approves the consolidation of Red Hill Reservoir No.1 (Lot 17 DP226258) and Red Hill Reservoir No.2 (Lot 12 DP1263304) into a single land parcel.

CARRIED

R25 Efficiency Review - Riverina Water & Culcairn Water Supply (Greater Hume Council)

21/100 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

That Council accept the feedback provided by Greater Hume Council, modify the submission as appropriate and approve the submission of the attached report to the Minister for Water.

CARRIED

R26 Works Report covering June 2021

21/101 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Conkey OAM

That the Works Report covering June 2021 be received and noted

CARRIED

R27 Works Report covering July 2021

21/102 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and G Conkey OAM

That the Works Report covering July 2021 be received and noted

CARRIED

21/103 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and D Hayes

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

CARRIED

Questions and statements

The following questions and statements were made by those present:

1. Clr D Hayes thanked the Board for the welcome to Riverina Water
2. Clr P Bourke welcomed Cr D Hayes
3. Clr G Verdon advised that plans for the opening of the water treatment plant and the naming of Pat Brassil AM Room were being undertaken before the Board meeting in October followed by the Board dinner and looks forward to having everyone there and partners.
4. Mr A Crakanthorp expressed how encouraged he was to have a Chairman who was interested in the staff of Riverina Water. Mr Crakanthorp provided a verbal update to the meeting regarding the appointment of three new members of staff.
5. Mr B Spannagle extended an offer to Clr Hayes to provide a briefing on UGL
6. Ms E Tonacia advised Council was subject to a cyber incident at the start of July, no significant impact on Council and a full report on the incident and outcomes will be submitted to the October meeting

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.

21/104 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and T Koschel

That the Council now resolve itself into a Closed Council, the time being 5:04pm.

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 The Rock Reservoir Land Acquisition

21/105 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors D Meyer OAM and T Quinn

That Council:

- (a) approve the compulsory acquisition of Lot 1 in Deposited Plan 596611 to enable the future construction of The Rock Reservoirs**
- (b) classify the land as operational as defined by the Local Government Act.**
- (c) Delegate authority to the CEO to sign all documents relating to the compulsory acquisition**

CARRIED

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp, Ms Emily Tonacia, Mr Bede Spannagle and Mr Josh Lang left the meeting at 5:10pm

CONF-2 Chief Executive Officer Annual Performance Review for the period ending 30 June 2021

21/106 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Koschel and G Conkey OAM

That the Board note and adopt this Chairperson's Minute which includes the Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review Panel's position following the Annual Review for 2020/21.

CARRIED

Mr Andrew Crakanthorp, Ms Emily Tonacia, Mr Bede Spannagle and Mr Josh Lang joined the meeting at 5:27pm

Reversion to Open Council

21/107 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors T Quinn and V Keenan

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 5:28pm.

CARRIED

Decisions Read Aloud

The CEO read aloud the decisions of the Council made whilst the meeting was closed to the public.

This concluded the meeting of the Riverina Water County Council Board which rose at 5:30pm