

RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION EXTRAORDINARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEETING INFORMATION

The Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) Extraordinary Board meeting was held on Friday 3 July 2020 on the secure online platform Zoom.

MEMBER COUNCILS

- Albury City Council
- Berrigan Shire Council
- Carrathool Shire Council
- Edward River Council
- Federation Council
- Griffith City Council
- Hay Shire Council
- Leeton Shire Council
- Murray River Council
- Murrumbidgee Council
- Narrandera Shire

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

- CHAIR: Cr Kevin Mack (Albury)
- Cr Matthew Hannan (Berrigan)
- Cr Darryl Jardine (Carrathool)
- Cr Norm Brennan (Edward River)
- Cr Patrick Bourke (Federation)
- Cr John Dal Broi (Griffith)
- Cr Bill Sheaffe (Hay)
- Cr Paul Maytom (Leeton)
- Cr Chris Bilkey (Murray River)
- Cr Ruth McCrae (Murrumbidgee)
- Cr Neville Kschenka (Narrandera)

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

- Frank Zaknich (Albury)
- Rowan Perkins (Berrigan)
- Rick Warren (Carrathool)
- John Rayner (A/g) (Edward River)
- Adrian Butler (Federation)
- Brett Stonestreet (Griffith)
- David Webb (Hay)
- Jackie Kruger (Leeton)
- Des Bilske (Murray River)
- John Scarce (Murrumbidgee)
- George Cowan (Narrandera)

NSW STATE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES (NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS)

- James Bolton - Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Department of Regional NSW)
- Cameron Templeton - Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Office of Local Government)

RAMJO STAFF (NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS)

- Bridgett Leopold – Executive Officer
- Bridget De La Haye – Office Manager

GUESTS

- N/A

AGENDA

1	Chairpersons Welcome	3:00
2	Apologies	3:00
3	Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons	3:00
4	Revenue Statement	3:01
5	Joint Organisation Secretariat	3:10
6	Water Position Paper, Logo, Social Media	3:20
7	Resourcing plan for delivery of priorities	3:30
8	Urgent General Business	3:35
	MEETING CLOSE	4:00

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME

The Chairperson welcomed the Board Members to the meeting.

- Acknowledgement of traditional custodians of the land on which we meet.

No declarations.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES

- Adrian Butler (Federation)
- James Bolton (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Regional NSW))
- Jackie Kruger (Leeton) (represented by Peter Keane)
- John Rayner (A/g Edward River)
- Cr Patrick Bourke (Federation)
- Rowan Perkins (Berrigan)

RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted and that leave of absence be granted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST

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

AGENDA ITEM 4 – REVENUE STATEMENT

Due to the change in the revenue model for the Joint Organisation, a new Revenue Statement was drafted for consideration [Attachment A](#). The updated statement includes options for the provision of a service delivery model in order to move towards a financially sustainable model for the JO.

Recommendation:

That the RAMJO Board adopt the 2020-2021 Statement of Revenue Policy.

Wording of the statement was discussed and it was confirmed by the Executive Officer that RAMJO is not looking at borrowing to fund the organisation.

RESOLVED. The RAMJO Board adopted the 2020-2021 Statement of Revenue Policy.

Moved by Cr Norm Brennan (Edward River), Seconded by Cr Neville Kschenka (Narrandera).

AGENDA ITEM 5 – JOINT ORGANISATION SECRETARIAT

At a meeting of Joint Organisations on Thursday 25th June 2020, a proposal was submitted regarding a joint JO Secretariat. The purpose of the Secretariat would be to coordinate and deliver on JO Chair meetings (currently undertaken on a voluntary rotational basis) and to coordinate shared outcomes and regional matters.

Furthermore, a review of the JO model by the Office of Local Government is to be commenced in July 2020, with a draft finding anticipated to be delivered in December 2020. Several JO Chairs are of the opinion that coordinated input via a JO Secretariat into the review will allow for further insight into the JO model, including successes and opportunities for the improvement of the model.

The proposal is for each JO to provide \$1500 for the next 6 months (until the end of 2020), with a view to maintain the model at \$3,000 per year. This estimate was based on each JO contributing to the model, with agreement that each JO would hold an extraordinary meeting to vote on the matter.

Recommendation:

That the RAMJO Board:

- Agree to fund the JO Secretariat to the total value of \$1,500 for the remaining 6 months of 2020, to ensure the review of the JO model considers coordinated input from a JO level. This \$1,500 is to be found within the existing budget (under consultancy services).
- Agree that should (ALL) other JOs not contribute to the model, RAMJO seeks out partnership opportunities with other JOs where similar proposed funding to be brought to the Board at the 12 August 2020 meeting.

RESOLVED: RAMJO Board agreed to fund the JO Secretariat to the total value of \$1500 for only the remaining 6 months of 2020 only if ALL other JO's contribute to the model. It was noted that that any partnership proposals will be brought to the Board on 12 August 2020 should the JO Secretariat model not be adopted by all JO's.

Moved by Cr Matt Hannan (Berrigan), seconded by Cr Ruth McRae (Murrumbidgee) All in favour.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – WATER POSITION PAPER

The RAMJO Water Position Paper was publicly released on Monday 29th June 2020. Feedback to date has been relatively positive, with the next steps including a series of monthly campaigns focussing on key recommendations. Each Council will have received the following:

- Final copy of the RAMJO Water Position Paper Executive Summary
- Final copy of the RAMJO Water Position Paper
- Communications Plan
- Frequently Asked Questions
- A – Z Summary of water options listed in the paper

RAMJO has completed the logo rebranding exercise and is currently working on social media and digital platforms:

- Twitter: @ramjonsw
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RiverinaandMurrayJointOrganisation/>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/riverina-and-murray-joint-organisation/?viewAsMember=true>

Recommendation:

That the RAMJO Board note the progress of the Water Sub-Committee.

Cr Chris Bilkey (RAMJO Water Security Sub-Committee Chair) shared the following updates;

- The Water Position Paper has been well received by media including the local outlets and local radio.
- Interest has led to engagement at State and Federal level with Ministerial meeting dates to be confirmed shortly.

- Cr Bilkey thanked the RAMJO Board, RAMJO Water Security Sub-Committee, RAMJO Executive Officer and RAMJO Office Manager in bringing the paper together and commencing engagement.

RAMJO Executive Officer shared the following updates;

- Offices of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Federal Water Minister and Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) had shown interest in engaging with RAMJO following receipt of the Water Position Paper. (Noting that it was likely all meetings would need to take place via online conference platforms at this time due to Covid-19 travel restrictions).
- RAMJO's focus would continue to be on positive and constructive agenda items.

The Board discussed and agreed that face to face/in person visits from key stakeholders would be preference and remain a very important matter to focus on as travel restrictions ease.

Cr Norm Brennan (Edward River) thanked the Water Security Sub-Committee and RAMJO Executive Officer and RAMJO Office Manager. Cr Neville Kschenka (Narrandera) also congratulated the Sub-Committee.

Cr John Dal Broi endorsed the comments of Cr Brennan and Cr Kschenka. Cr Dal Broi noted the paper was positive and sensible way of bringing together 11 Councils spanning two major catchment areas.

It was discussed and confirmed that the RAMJO Board supported other Councils and organisations adopting all or part of the RAMJO Water Position Paper provided they referenced RAMJO as being the source. The Executive Officer is to raise adopting of the paper with the Chief Executive Officer of the Murray Darling Association, Cr Kevin Mack (RAMJO Chair) will raise with Regional NSW and Cr Chris Bilkey at the Country Mayors forum.

Recommendation:

The RAMJO Board noted the update on the RAMJO Water Position Paper.

RESOLVED: The RAMJO Board noted the update on the RAMJO Water Position Paper.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – RESOURCING PLAN FOR DELIVERY OF PRIORITIES

- **OLG JO Capacity Building Funding:** The JO is working on the best model to use funding allocated for a 'grants officer' and on other projects to create a 1 – 2 day per week casual position. The aim of this role will be to identify and progress funding opportunities as they relate to the delivery of strategic priorities (e.g. energy, water, digital connectivity, etc).
- **Consultancy Staff:** RAMJO is meeting with various individuals regarding certain areas of expertise for the execution and delivery of Ministerial engagement relating to strategic priorities. The individual will also work with the Executive Officer to review currently membership arrangements and assist with the engagement of stakeholders external to RAMJO, in order to progress the interests of our Member Councils as defined through the Statement of Strategic Priorities.
- Both pieces of work are already budgeted for under the 2020-2021 RAMJO Budget.

Recommendation:

That the RAMJO Board note the update regarding resourcing delivery of organisational priorities within existing budgets.

RESOLVED: The RAMJO Board noted the update. Moved by Cr Matt Hannan (Berrigan), Seconded by Cr Chris Bilkey (Murray River).

AGENDA ITEM 8 – URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Matters brought forward;

- **RMCC:** Brett Stonestreet (Griffith) spoke to the ongoing discussions between RAMJO and Transport NSW regarding the Roads Maintenance Council Contracts (RMCC), noting that Transport for NSW has offered a one month extension for RAMJO Councils to sign (until 31 July 2020.) During this one month, TfNSW has agreed to work with RAMJO on matters of contractual concern raised by RAMJO. RAMJO Chairman Cr Kevin Mack thanked Brett for his commitment on this challenging piece of work.
- **Cross Border commissioner:** RAMJO has been engaging with James McTavish regarding multiple matters, including cross border workers and the challenges they face (e.g. mutual recognition). James will likely attend the next RAMJO Board meeting.
- **Procurement:** Following brief discussion, the Executive Officer also confirmed work is underway on the joint procurement framework noting that 1) identification of a gap in regulations had seen a law expert engaged to clarify points 2) best practice procurement framework is being worked on with Central NSW JO taking the lead. A detailed project plan will be tabled by the final Board Meeting of 2020.

MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, the RAMJO Board meeting concluded at 3.40 pm.