



# RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION

## BOARD MEETING INFORMATION

Members are advised that meeting details for the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) are as follows:

- **WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**
- **10:00AM (9:30AM for MORNING TEA)**
- **IAN GILBERT ROOM**
- **JERILDERIE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE (35 Jerilderie Street, Jerilderie) of MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL**

**Note:** Board Members are advised that some photographs may be taken during the meeting for the purposes of public communications.

## 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	

## BOARD MEMBERS – COUNCIL MAYORS (VOTING BOARD MEMBERS)

Cr Kevin Mack (Albury)	Cr Matthew Hannan (Berrigan)	Cr Peter Laird (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 McRae (Murrumbidgee)	Cr Neville Kshenka (Narrandera)	

## BOARD MEMBERS – COUNCIL GENERAL MANAGERS (NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS)

Frank Zaknich (Albury)	Rowan Perkins (Berrigan)	Rick Warren (Carrathool)	Adam McSwain (Edward River)
Adrian Butler (Federation)	Brett Stonestreet (Griffith)	Kirstyn Thronder (a/g) (Hay)	Jackie Kruger (Leeton)
Cr Des Bilske (Murray River)	John Scarce (Murrumbidgee)	George Cowan (Narrandera)	

## DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET (NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBER)

James Bolton	Department of Premier and Cabinet Regional Director Riverina Murray
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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER (NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBER)

Bridgett Leopold	Executive Officer RAMJO
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## AGENDA

1	Chairpersons Welcome	10:00
2	Apologies	10:00
3	Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons	10:05
4	Minutes of 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 Board Meeting	10:10
5	Matters Arising from Minutes of 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 Board Meeting	10:15
6	<b>James Bolton:</b> DPC Regional Director will provide a 5 minute update verbal report	10:20
7	<b>Chairpersons</b> Verbal Update – Regional Cities NSW Meeting	10:25
8	<b>Phil Townsend:</b> Murray Darling Basin Authority Chief Economist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socio-Economic Analysis of the Murray Darling Basin Plan</li> </ul>	10:30
9	Water Papers & Discussion on Endorsing RAMJO Water Position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.1: <b>Summary of Findings</b> from Reports</li> <li>9.2: <b>2018 Report Card:</b> Independent Review of the Implementation of the Basin Plan</li> <li>9.3: <b>Media Release:</b> Report Card</li> <li>9.4: <b>Productivity Commission:</b> Murray Darling Basin Plan: 5 Year Assessment</li> <li>9.5: <b>Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission:</b> Investigation into the Operations and effectiveness of the Murray-Darling Basin system</li> <li>9.6: <b>Communique:</b> Update on MDBA Activities</li> </ul>	11:30
10	LUNCH	12:30
11	<b>Anita McRae:</b> Primary Health Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of <i>Empowering Our Communities</i> and Grant Opportunities</li> </ul>	1:15
12	<b>Executive Officer:</b> Establishment of the Strategic Working Groups under the RAMJO Strategic Regional Priorities	1:45
13	<b>Professional Officer Groups Update:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engineers Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southern Lights Project Progress</li> <li>Farm Gate Access</li> <li>Regional Freight Transport Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>Development Professionals Working Group</li> <li>Procurement Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair role vacant. Opportunity for EO to fill this space</li> </ul> </li> <li>Integrated Planners Group</li> <li>Records Working Group</li> <li>Governance Group (proposed to be formed)</li> <li>Economic Development Officers Group (in recess)</li> <li>Community Services, Development and Planning Group (proposed to be formed)</li> </ul>	1:50
14	<b>Grant / Funding Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful Application of NSW Regional Capacity Building Program</li> <li>OEH: Increasing Resilience to Climate Change (Round 1 now open until 1<sup>st</sup> March)</li> <li>Empowering Our Communities</li> <li>Crown Land Management</li> </ul>	2:00
15	RAMJO General Managers Meeting Minutes – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2019	2:10
16	General Business Matters	2:15
17	Meeting Close	2:30

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1. CHAIRPERSONS WELCOME

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2. APOLOGIES

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3. DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST

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4. MINUTES OF 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 BOARD MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION HELD IN THE IAN GILBERT ROOM OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 AT 10.00 AM**

**PRESENT**

**VOTING BOARD MEMBERS**

Cr Kevin Mack	Mayor Albury City Council
Cr Daryll Morris	Deputy Mayor Berrigan Shire Council
Cr Norm Brennan	Mayor Edward River Council
Cr John Dal Broi	Mayor Griffith City Council
Cr Paul Maytom	Mayor Leeton Shire Council
Cr Peter Laird	Mayor Carrathool Shire Council
Cr Patrick Bourke	Mayor Federation Council
Cr Bill Sheaffe	Mayor Hay Shire Council
Cr Chris Bilkey	Mayor Murray River Council
Cr Neville Kschenka	Mayor Narrandera Shire Council

**NON VOTING BOARD MEMBER – NSW GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr James Bolton	Regional Director Riverina Murray – Department of Premier and Cabinet
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**OTHER NON VOTING BOARD MEMBERS – COUNCIL GENERAL MANAGERS**

Ms Tracey Squire (Acting GM)	Albury City Council
Ms Amanda Spalding	Hay Shire Council
Mr Adam McSwain	Edward River Council
Mr Brett Stonestreet	Griffith City Council
Mr John Scarce	Murrumbidgee Council
Ms Jackie Kruger	Leeton Shire Council
Mr Robert Rayner (Acting GM)	Carrathool Shire Council

Mr George Cowan

Narrandera Shire Council

### **MEETING OBSERVERS**

Ms Marg Couch

RDA Riverina

### **MEETING PRESENTERS**

Mr Andrew Lewis

TransGrid - Manager Governance and Stakeholder Engagement

Mr Mitchell Hume

TransGrid - Manager Public Relations, Policy and Corporate Affairs

### **INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Mr Ray Stubbs

### **AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME**

The Chairperson welcomed Board Members and guests to the meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2 - APOLOGIES**

#### Voting Board Members

Cr Ruth McRae (Mayor Murrumbidgee Council) and Cr Matthew Hannan (Mayor Berrigan Shire Council)

#### Non-Voting Board Members

Des Bilske (General Manager Murray River Council), Adrian Butler (General Manager Federation Council) and Rowan Perkins (General Manager Berrigan Shire Council)

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

**(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Bourke)**

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST – BOARD MEMBERS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS**

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

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 - MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING – HELD AT JERILDERIE ON 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held at Jerilderie on 5<sup>TH</sup> September 2018 be confirmed**

**(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Maytom)**

### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 BOARD**

#### **MEETING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – JAMES BOLTON DP&C REGIONAL DIRECTOR RIVERINA MURRAY**

Regional Director James Bolton addressed the Board in relation to current matters in relation to DP&C and Joint Organisations. A copy of James' presentation slides to be distributed with the Minutes

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 – CHAIRPERSON’S PRESENTATION – ALBURY WODONGA REGIONAL FOODSHARE PROGRAM**

Chair Cr Kevin Mack delivered a powerpoint presentation in relation to the scope and activities of the Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare (AWRFS) Program, which provides services to needy persons in a number of towns across the RAMJO region. He advised that ongoing operational funding to maintain the effectiveness of the program is urgently required and that RAMJO can support the service by way of representations to Federal and State Government proposing the provision of adequate funding.

**RESOLVED that the Chair and Executive Officer further liaise with AWRFS with a view to preparing a co-ordinated response to Federal and State Governments stressing the importance of maintaining ongoing and effective operation within the RAMJO region and the urgent priority for Governments’ financial support**

**(Moved Cr Laird and seconded Cr Bourke)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8 – MINUTES OF JOINT ORGANISATIONS CHAIRS FORUM MEETING 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018 AND SUMMARY OF JOINT ORGANISATIONS’ STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

Consideration was given to a report by the Interim Executive Officer in relation to the outcomes of the Joint Organisations Chairs Forum meeting held in Albury on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and a request for RAMJO to indicate which strategic priorities can be delivered collaboratively by JOs with State Government support.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Minutes of the Joint Organisations Chairs Forum meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 in Albury be received and noted**
- 2. That the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Local Government and the JO Chairs Forum be advised that RAMJO considers that the highest strategic priorities to be pursued collaboratively by Joint Organisations with the State Government are as follows:-**
  - Water
  - Energy
  - Transport, Freight and Infrastructure
  - Digital Connectivity
  - Economy

**(Moved Cr Morris and seconded Cr Maytom)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9 - SOUTHERN LIGHTS STREET LIGHTING PROJECT – UPDATE REPORT BY BRAD FERRIS RAMJO’S REPRESENTATIVE ON PROJECT WORKING GROUP**

The Board received update reports from Mr Ferris regarding the Southern Lights Street Lighting Project, arising from the 8<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November meetings of the Project Working Group, with Essential Energy and the Project Consultant Next Energy.

**RESOLVED that the update reports submitted by RAMJO’s Street Lighting Representative Brad Ferris be received and noted**

**(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Brennan)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10 - DRAFT RAMJO STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES – TO BE SUBMITTED TO OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

The final draft of the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) was submitted for consideration by the Board, which identifies the following key strategic regional priorities:-

1. Improve our Water Security
2. Improve our Energy Security and Affordability
3. Improve Transport Connectivity
4. Improve Digital Connectivity
5. Better Match Health Services to our Changing Needs

6. Boost out Industry/Workforce/Jobs

The meeting also considered the establishment of Pillar Priority Sub Committees to address each of the key strategic priorities and the appointment of Councils' Mayors and General Managers to each of those Sub Committees.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) be formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website;
2. That the SSRP document be professionally designed and printed and submitted to the NSW Premier and Deputy Premier, Minister for Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Office of Local Government;
3. That a one page summary document be developed for external distribution to other Joint Organisations, Councils, community organisations, State and Federal Government Ministers, Departments and Agencies and other identified RAMJO stakeholders;
4. That the following Council Mayors and/or General Managers be appointed as members of the various Pillar Priority Sub-committees to progress the development of strategies and action plans:-
  - Water Security - Leeton, Murray River, Berrigan and Edward River Councils
  - Energy Security and Affordability - Hay, Narrandera, Berrigan and Albury Councils
  - Transport Connectivity - Griffith, Narrandera, Edward River, Murray and Leeton Councils
  - Digital Connectivity - Murrumbidgee, Griffith, Murray River and Edward River Councils
  - Health Services - Hay, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Leeton, Carrathool and Edward River Councils
  - Industry/ Workforce/Jobs – Albury, Griffith, Murray River and Leeton Councils
5. That the Executive Officer facilitate and service the work of each of the sub-committees and be authorised to engage external expertise and co-opt specialist Council Officer assistance as required from time to time;
6. That the action taken to engage ID Consulting Pty Ltd to carry out RAMJO region population forecasts commencing in early 2019 be endorsed;
7. That an approach be made to Riverina JO and DP&C, to gauge the level of interest in expanding the ID Forecast population analysis to include all Councils within the whole of the designated NSW Riverina and Murray region.

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Kschenka)

**AGENDA ITEM 11 – PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL, REGIONAL AND REMOTE NSW**

The Interim Executive Officer reported on the meeting of a significant number of Councils held in Albury on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and hosted by Gwydir Shire Council, to discuss concerns relating to problems experienced in the attraction and retention of doctors across regional, rural and remote areas of NSW.

At the present time there are some 277 doctor position vacancies in regional and rural areas.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the letter, meeting minutes and associated documentation received from Gwydir Shire Council be received and noted;
2. That Gwydir Shire Council and other Joint Organisations be informed that Health Services is an identified Priority in RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities and that a range of strategic actions are proposed, including the establishment of a Health Alliance across all three levels of government to improve health service provision in the RAMJO region;
3. That Member Councils encourage their residents to sign the petitions which are intended to be presented to the Federal and NSW Parliaments;
4. That RAMJO and Member Councils also forward letters to the relevant Ministers through the local Federal and State Members stressing the critical importance of attracting and retaining medical practitioners in regional and rural areas.
5. That RAMJO issue an appropriate Media Release to the region's TV, radio and newspaper outlets.
6. That the potential strategies identified in discussion at the Board meeting be referred to the RAMJO SSRP Health Services Sub-Committee for further consideration, these potential strategies to include the

**removal of impediments and the provision of additional incentives and allowing overseas trained doctors to practice in regional and rural areas for specified minimum periods of time.**

**(Moved Cr Sheaffe and seconded Cr Laird)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12 - RAMJO EXECUTIVE OFFICER - RECRUITMENT PROCESSES**

Albury City Council, which is co-ordinating the EO recruitment process, provided an update report on the timetable for advertising, interview and appointment and has proposed that the Working Panel established at the September RAMJO Board meeting be now delegated authority to proceed through to appointment.

**RESOLVED that the report from Albury City be adopted and that the RAMJO Board delegate authority to the Working Panel to undertake the recruitment process through to selection of a preferred candidate; and then for the Chair Cr Kevin Mack and Deputy Chair Cr John Dal Broi to negotiate contract term and conditions to finalise the appointment of the RAMJO Executive Officer.**

**(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr Bilkey)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13 - MURRAY REGION TOURISM BOARD REPORT**

The Chair of MRT Wendy Greiner has written acknowledging the services of RAMJO's former representative on the MRT Board Tracey Squire and welcoming the new representative Adam McSwain. A copy of the MRT's October 2018 update has also been provided for information of Councils and the Board.

**RESOLVED that the MRT letter and the October 2018 MRT update be received and noted**

**(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr Bourke)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 14 - DESTINATION RIVERINA MURRAY - THRIVE REPORTING TO RAMJO ARRANGEMENTS**

Leeton Shire Council has raised the importance of THRIVE (formerly Riverina Tourism) having a designated person to report regularly to the RAMJO Board and has proposed that the Council's Manager Communications and Marketing and THRIVE Board Member Brent Lawrence be approved as the contact person.

**RESOLVED that Brent Lawrence Manager Communications and Marketing Manager at Leeton Shire and a Board Member of THRIVE (formerly Riverina Tourism) be approved as the contact person to report to RAMJO on THRIVE's ongoing tourism activities for the Riverina tourism region**

**(Moved Cr Bourke and seconded Cr Maytom)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 15 - DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - SUPPORTING SEVERELY DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

The Interim Executive Officer reported on the matter of RAMJO Councils deciding on whether to provide funding donations to be made to the current drought assistance programs across New South Wales.

**RESOLVED that it be left to each Council to make its decision in relation to making a drought relief donation, with donations by Councils able to be channelled via RAMJO as a regional initiative.**

**(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Brennan)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 16 - NSW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME (CDS) - LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF REVENUE GENERATED BY MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRFS)**

The Interim Executive Officer reported on negotiations between a number of RAMJO Councils and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operators Cleanaway and Kurrajong Recyclers.

**RESOLVED that the written and verbal reports by the Interim Executive Officer be received and noted (Moved Cr Bourke and seconded Cr Dal Broi)**

**AGENDA ITEM 17 - MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Officer in relation to the following Basin Plan matters:-

- Representations seeking the availability of environmental water during severe drought conditions to augment food and fodder production;
- Productivity Commission's Draft Report on the 5 year assessment of the Basin Plan implementation;
- Infrastructure efficiency Measures — 450 GL 'upwater' – the socio-economic neutrality criteria

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the report by the Interim Executive Officer be received and noted**
- 2. That the RAMJO submission to the Productivity Commission be noted and endorsed**
- 3. That RAMJO offer its strong support to the representations being made by the Murray Regional Strategy Group to the Federal Water Minister and the Basin Plan Ministerial Council**
- 4. That RAMJO work collaboratively with the Murray Regional Strategy Group and offer to participate in future meetings and delegations.**

**(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Bourke)**

**AGENDA ITEM 18 - RAMJO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

Consideration was given to the 2018-2019 RAMJO Financial Statements for the quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018, in respect of the General Account, the Murray Waste Group Account and the Riverina Waste Group Account.

**RESOLVED that the RAMJO Financial Statements for the quarterly period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be received and noted;**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that RAMJO Member Councils be requested to advise of their position in relation to the re-contribution of the surplus RAMROC funds back to the new Joint Organisation (Moved Cr Morris and seconded Cr Dal Broi)**

**AGENDA ITEM 19 - RAMJO WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

The Board considered the Minutes of the following RAMJO Working Groups:-

- 19.1 Engineers Group Meeting — 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018
- 19.2 Development Services Group Meeting — 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- 19.3 General Managers Group Meeting — 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**RESOLVED that the Working Group Minutes be received and noted**

**(Moved Cr Bourke and seconded Cr Maytom)**

**AGENDA ITEM 20 - PRESENTATION BY TRANSGRID REPRESENTATIVES MITCHELL HUME AND ANDREW LEWIS - ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION NETWORK RAMJO REGION**

The Board received a powerpoint presentation (to be distributed with the Minutes) by the TransGrid officials, the background information being as follows:-

"TransGrid is the manager and operator of the high-voltage electricity transmission network in NSW and the ACT, including 104 bulk supply substations and more than 13,000 kilometres of high-voltage transmission lines and



cables, including assets in the Council areas of Hay, Edward River, Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Berrigan, Narrandera, Griffith and Leeton.

Across NSW the energy system is experiencing a transformation as technology and economic forces encourage investment in large-scale renewable energy, including significant interest developing in solar farms, wind farms and hydro-electric facilities in or near south-western New South Wales. TransGrid provided information about how existing and potential electricity infrastructure projects in the region will stimulate investment, employment and economic growth in the region while contributing to low-cost, reliably energy supplies"

**RESOLVED that the TransGrid presentation be received and noted  
(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Brennan)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 21- GENERAL BUSINESS MATTERS**

##### **21.1 — Water NSW Community Advisory Groups**

Cr Maytom reported on his role as the RAMJO representative on the Water NSW Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the Murrumbidgee River system. There is also a CAG for the Murray River system and Cr Maytom suggested that Mr Vince Kelly from NSW Water be invited to address a future meeting of the RAMJO Board.

**RESOLVED that Vince Kelly from Water NSW be invited to make a presentation to the February 2019 RAMJO Board Meeting  
(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Brennan)**

##### **21.2 — Police numbers and operational hours in country towns**

Cr Kschenka advised of the ongoing concerns about insufficient police numbers and station opening hours in Narrandera, Leeton and other similar sized country communities. He referred to previous and ongoing representations made to the State Government in the matter .

The Chair advised that he would discuss these concerns with the Minister for Police the Hon Troy Grant MP and/or Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys APM.

##### **21.3 — Appreciation of RAMROC and RAMJO Services by Executive Officer Ray Stubbs**

Board Members expressed their appreciation of the services provided since April 2004 by the Executive Officer Ray Stubbs and wished him well in his retirement.

**There being no further business, the RAMJO Board meeting concluded at 12.50 pm.**

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## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 BOARD MEETING

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### 6. DPC REGIONAL DIRECTOR VERBAL UPDATE

James Bolton to provide a verbal update of matters in the RAMJO region.

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### 7. CHAIRPERSONS VERBAL UPDATE – REGIONAL CITIES NSW MEETING

Chairman Kevin Mack to provide a verbal update of the meeting and the future direction.

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### 8. PHIL TOWNSEND: MURRAY DARLING BASIN CHIEF ECONOMIST

Dr Phil Townsend – Senior Economist, MDBA:

For the last 8 years, I have been seeking to understand how the Basin Plan has been affecting industries and communities throughout the Basin. This has required understanding the role of water (irrigation) in the different Basin communities and then separating the effects of the Basin Plan water recovery from all the other influences driving change in the social and economic conditions of these communities. The presentation will focus on the findings of that work and seeking to address questions arising from those findings.

#### **Recommendation:**

- 1. That the information regarding socio-economic impacts of the Basin Plan as presented by Dr Townsend be received and noted.**
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### 9. WATER PAPERS & DISCUSSION ON ENDORSING RAMJO WATER POSITION

There have been numerous reports and media releases circulated since early December 2018 regarding the status of water in the Murray Darling Basin and the roll out of the Basin Plan.

The reports include:

- 2018 MDBA Score Card on the tracking of the implementation of the Basin Plan
- The Productivity Commission's 5 Year Assessment of the progress relating to the Basin Plan and the risks and issues relating to The Plan
- The South Australian Royal Commission into Murray Darling Basin Authority's administration and Plan.
- Media releases have all praised the progress of the Basin Plan, but indicate progress going forward will be very difficult. With continuing drought conditions, and with inflows to the River Murray system in the six months to December 2018 being in the lowest 10% on record, the outlook for the complete implementation of the Basin Plan, while managing impacts relating to reduced water allocation is troubling.

#### **Recommendations:**

- 1. That the heightened media focus resulting from a range of documents being released on the MDBA and water management in the Murray Darling Basin be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Board confirm RAMJO's position on water, the Basin Plan, as well as immediate and future needs of the region as it relates to water.**
- 3. That consulting an independent expert on water, to review all documentation in this matter and provide an informed policy position for the Board may be necessary to guide the best direction of RAMJO's efforts to:**
  - a. Create opportunity to influence**
  - b. Be heard as one regional voice**
  - c. Provide future opportunity for the region as it relates to water**

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## 11. MURRUMBIDGEE PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK (PHN) PRESENTATION BY ANITA MCRAE

Primary Health Network (PHN) is a part of the national network of 31 PHNs across Australia. PHNs work closely with the primary health system to identify opportunities to improve health outcomes in our community, through better coordination and support of health services and by commissioning new services to address the health needs of our population.

Primary Health Networks are not-for-profit organisations funded predominantly by the Australian Government to tackle identified national objectives and priority areas.

As announced on 5 August 2018, the Australian Government is rolling out extra mental health support initiatives to help farmers and communities to deal with the uncertainty, stress and anxiety of drought conditions. PHNs have received funding for community-led mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention initiatives. Murrumbidgee PHN (MPHN) is using part of this money to fund Murrumbidgee Community Grants program. Activities eligible for funding will address immediate support needs, but also foster longer term recovery and resilience. These could include community orientated wellbeing activities and training, or workforce capability development projects. Community-led wellbeing initiatives should be group focused and could be:

- Workshops promoting resilience and reduce stigma associated with mental illness and accessing mental health and suicide prevention services.
- Complementary and lifestyle interventions known to improve physical and mental health such as exercise, relaxation, yoga, mindfulness, or meditation classes.
- Community education on topics such as managing stress, anxiety, depression and stigma.
- Workforce capability development projects aimed at improving support for people experiencing drought-related distress could be eligible for funding. Local workforce initiatives could aim to upskill health, mental health and rural workforce in topics such as trauma informed approaches, gatekeeper training, or mental health first aid.

### Recommendations:

1. That the presentation from Murrumbidgee PHN be received and noted.
2. That the Drought Community Grant Programs (Empowering Our Communities) is available and currently open for applications.
3. That Board members consider whether there is any merit in a joint funding application.

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## 12. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STRATEGIC SUB-COMMITTEES UNDER RAMJO'S STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

At the General Managers' meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 in Moama, the membership of each Sub-Committee was confirmed, with a representative to convene the first meeting. Furthermore, it was agreed that Terms of Reference be drafted, along with a Statement of Expectations which will be distributed to each Sub-Committee. At the first meeting of the Sub-Committees (due to take place in the next month), further members and/or stakeholders will be identified.

The working groups and their representatives are as follows:

WATER SECURITY	
Council or Org.	Representative
Berrigan Shire	Mayor and/or General Manager (CONVENER)
Edward River	Mayor
Leeton Shire	Mayor and/or General Manager
Murray River	Mayor and Director of Engineering (Scott Barber)

External Water Experts	<p>Could include former State Government Heads such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>David Harriss;</b> David is the Commissioner of the NSW Office of Water and is responsible for the overall management of the State's surface water and groundwater resources. Previously David was Deputy Director General, Water Management of the NSW Department of Water and Energy. From 1996 and 2006 he was Regional Director in the Murray and then Murray-Murrumbidgee region. David was the NSW Deputy Commissioner to the Murray-Darling Basin Commission from 1997 - 2008 and is currently represents NSW on the Basin Officials Committee implementing the Murray-Darling Basin Agreements.</li> <li>• <b>Peter Millington:</b> Previously Director General of NSW Department of Water Resources. Also previously a Commissioner of the Murray Darling Basin Commission for 9 years (and Deputy President for 3 years), and a Commissioner on the NSW/Queensland Border Rivers Commission.</li> </ul>
Irrigation Representation	<p>Engaging a representative for the irrigation industries, including (but not limited to) those parties represented via <b>NSW Irrigators Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Murray Irrigation Ltd.</li> <li>• Murray Valley Private Diverters Inc.</li> <li>• Southern Riverina Irrigators</li> <li>• West Corungan Private Irrigation District</li> <li>• South Western Water Users' Assoc.</li> <li>• Western Murray Irrigation Ltd.</li> <li>• Murrumbidgee Private Irrigators' Inc.</li> <li>• Murrumbidgee Groundwater Inc.</li> <li>• Murrumbidgee Valley Food &amp; Fibre Assoc.</li> <li>• Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd.</li> <li>• Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Ltd.</li> <li>• Wine Grapes Marketing Board</li> <li>• YACTAC</li> <li>• Ricegrowers' Assoc. of Australia</li> <li>• Cotton Australia</li> <li>• Dairy Connect NSW</li> <li>• NSW Farmers' Assoc.</li> </ul>
Independent	<p>Ideally, an expert without bias or a preconceived idea would be beneficial to the Sub-Committee.</p>

ENERGY SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY	
Council or Org.	Representative
Narrandera Shire	Deputy Mayor (Cr Fahey) and General Manager (CONVENER)
Albury City	Mayor and/or General Manager
Berrigan Shire	Mayor
Hay Shire	Director Planning and Environment
Leeton Shire	Director of Engineering and Environment (Peter Keane)
Tenterfield	Engage someone with expertise in waste to energy conversion
Transgrid	Options around parallel spine grid from Snowy to SA
Aust Energy Market Operator	Michael Peters
Private	Solar / Wind Plants

**TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY**

<b>Council or Org.</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Edward River	General Manager (CONVENER) and/or Director Infrastructure (Oliver McNulty)
Griffith City	Mayor
Leeton Shire	Mayor and/or Manager for Roads / Drainage (Chris Lashbrook)
Murray River	Mayor and/or General Manager
Narrandera Shire	Deputy GM Infrastructure (Julian Geddes)
Transport NSW or RMS	Government representative or Lindsay Tanner

**DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

<b>Council or Org.</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Murrumbidgee	Mayor and/or General Manager (CONVENER)
Edward River	General Manager
Griffith City	General Manager
Leeton Shire	General Manager and IT Manager (Gerard Simms)
Murray River	General Manager

**HEALTH SERVICES**

<b>Council or Org.</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Edward River	Mayor and/or General Manager (CONVENER)
Carrathool Shire	Mayor and/or General Manager
Hay Shire	General Manager
Leeton Shire	Director Corporate and Community (Craig Bennett) and Manager Community Services (Ms Wendell Peacock)
Murrumbidgee	Mayor and/or General Manager
Narrandera	Mayor
PHN or Murrumbidgee Health	Federal / State Government representative Strategic Planner at Murrumbidgee Health

INDUSTRY, WORKFORCE AND JOBS	
Council or Org.	Representative
Griffith City	General Manager (CONVENER)
Albury City	Mayor and/or General Manager
Edward River	Manager Community and Economic Development (Michelle Cobb) and Manager Environmental Services (Julie Rogers)
Federation	General Manager
Leeton Shire	General Manager
Murray River	General Manager and Manager Economic Development (John Harvie)
Department of Premier and Cabinet	James Bolton
Regional Development Australia	Edwina Hayes

#### Recommendations:

1. That the membership of each Sub-Committee be received and endorsed.
2. That it is noted the Executive Officer will write to Department of Premier and Cabinet and request State Government representation on each Sub-Committee.
3. That it is noted the Executive Officer will investigate opportunities for technology interaction for the Sub-Committees in place of driving vast distances across RAMJO for Sub-Committee meetings via DPC (James Bolton) and OLG (Cameron Templeton).
4. That the Board agrees to the drafting of Terms of Reference and Statement of Expectations to guide process and direct reporting procedures to the Board from the Sub-Committees.

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#### 13. PROFESSIONAL OFFICER GROUPS UPDATE

**Engineers Working Group:** took place in Griffith on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Minutes are yet to be circulated, however, items for noting included:

##### Southern Lights Project

- In October 2018 the working group provided the Deputy Premier and the Department of Premier and Cabinet's (DPC) Chris Hanger with copies of the Business Case, as requested by DPC.
- The Business Case, which was based on individual calculations for each of the 75,500 street lights that comprise the Southern Lights area, showed that the total cost of the project would be \$71 million. We requested that the State consider funding \$61.4 million of this amount.
- Mr Hanger has advised that the DPC's Connectivity Team is assessing the Business Case with a view to making recommendations relating to funding the project through the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.
- Given there is an upcoming election, with Caretaker Period commencing on Friday 1st March 2019, time is becoming scarce for a funding decision to be made.
- This creates issues in the short term for Wagga Wagga, Albury, Bathurst and Orange, where lights must be replaced this year. Albury was due for replacements last November, but was delayed to allow for the development of Southern Lights' Business Case.
- Brad Ferris is further working on understanding the local impact, should the project not be funded before the upcoming election.

Farm Gate Access

- Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) presented an opportunity for RAMJO to partake in a pilot of a new online 'self-assessment' of individuals applying for direct farm gate access to roads.
- The Working Group considered the benefit such an online program would provide. A decision was not made regarding the pilot.

Regional Freight Transport Plan

- The plan is in its final stages of amendments. It is expected to be completed in the coming weeks, at which time it will be circulated.

**Development Professionals Working Group (unconfirmed minutes are below)**

<p>RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS GROUP</p> <p>Meeting to be held Thursday 7 February 2019 Murrumbidgee Shire Council – Jerilderie Council Chambers 10.30 am</p> <p><b>UNCONFIRMED MINUTES</b></p>	
<p>1</p>	<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p>David Christy – Albury City – Team Leader Town Planning - Chair Bridey Hugo – Narrandera Shire – Development &amp; Environment Officer - notetaker Susan Appleyard – Murrumbidgee Shire – Director Environmental Services Lilian Parker – Department of Primary Industries – Manager Agricultural Land Use Glenn Bulmer – Murray River – Manager Development Service Sarah Nash – Leeton Shire – Planning Officer James Andrew – Murray River - Town Planner Matt Miller – Berrigan Shire – Building Surveyor Kate Lanarch – Federation Council – Manager Planning &amp; Environment</p>
<p>2</p>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Julie Rogers – Edward River – Manager Environmental Services Helen Ryan – Narrandera Shire – Manager Development &amp; Environment Laurie Stevens – Berrigan Shire – Development Manager Shavaun Tasker – Edward River – Town Planner Marie Sutton – Edward River – Planning &amp; Continuous Improvement Coordinator Marcus Wright – REROB Biodiversity Project Officer Bridgett Leopold – CEO RAMJO</p>





6	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>I. Biodiversity Act – update  Email from Marcus Wright attached. Brief summary below;  i) Murrumbidgee Shire has gained legal advice stating that Councils are unable to gain financial advantage as Managers of Crown Lands. Therefore there is no potential to use this land as Biodiversity Offset Sites. ii) Volunteers wanted to test an online tool for Test of Significance. If you're interested contact Marcus <a href="mailto:mwright@reroc.com.au">mwright@reroc.com.au</a>  iii) Bulletins Attached - Threatened Species Test of Significance Guidelines, Notifying OEH when determining development applications, Changes to the Biodiversity Values Map  iv) 2019 Priorities  Work with engineering teams doing Part 5 REF's &amp; review DCP's to prevent unlawful clearing</p> <p>II. Meeting Attendance  Members asked to extend invitations to other officers involved, influenced or interested in all matters related to development.</p>	
7	<p><b>Confirmation of next meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 6 June 2019 – forgoing the March meeting due to the rescheduling of the December 2018 meeting.</p>	

**Procurement Professional Working Group**

- Currently the role is Chair is vacant. The Executive Officer has offered to fill this position in the interim and assess opportunities as briefed by the outgoing Chair. This includes reviewing Local Government Procurement and Procurement Australia options.
- Other opportunity may exist in Fuel Tax Credit claims.

**Integrated Planners Working Group**

**Records Working Group**

**Governance Working Group (proposed to be formed)**

**Economic Development Officers Group (in recess)**

**Community Services, Development and Planning Group (proposed to be formed)**

- No meetings or minutes were received for the abovementioned working groups.

**Recommendation**

- That the minutes and major project updates of the working groups be received and noted.

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## 14. GRANT / FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### NSW Regional Capacity Building Program

- RAMJO and the City of Wagga Wagga have been successful in their combined application for funding under the NSW Regional Capacity Building Program on contaminated land. RERO also received a grant, which together total \$699,380.
- The funding will allow for a 3 year project, where RAMJO and Wagga intend to build on outcomes achieved under the corresponding RAMROC/RERO contaminated land grant project that concluded in 2017.
- Griffith City Council, the City of Wagga Wagga and Albury City Council will be the lead councils on this project.
- \$420k grant will be used to recruit a Regional Project Officer and cover project delivery expenses (e.g. workshops).
- The key objective of this grant is to enhance technical capacity within NSW councils on contaminated land management.
- The Regional Project Officer will be required to focus on Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) which is of import, noting that on 31 August 2019 all NSW council will be the Appropriate Regulatory Authority (ARA) under the Protection of Environment Operations (UPSS) Regulation.
- Next steps will comprise executing an Agreement with NSW EPA on the grant project, then to recruit a Regional Project Officer to deliver on the project.
- RAMJO and Wagga will invite representation from participating councils to be on the Executive Committee (oversight role) and/or a working group under this project.

### Office of Environment and Heritage: Increasing Resilience to Climate Change

- OEH are holding a workshop for the purpose of devising regional opportunities with the Councils of RAMJO. Applications are open from now until 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### Empowering Our Communities – Primary Health Network

- As per the presentation by Anita McRae, there may be opportunity in a joint funding application for Drought Communities support.

### Crown Land Management

- Discussed at the General Managers' meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 was the option for some Councils to pool funding received for compiling the plans for Crown Land management for a resource. Alternatively, a RAMJO working group in the first instance will allow Councils to share templates and other information.

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## 15. RAMJO GENERAL MANAGERS' MEETING MINUTES – FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBURARY 2019

See attachment. Noteworthy decisions and actions related to:

- **Strategic Sub-Committees:** Establishment of Sub-Committees under the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (see Agenda item 12).
- **Crown Land Management:** establishment of a Professional Officers Property Working Group, with nominations from each Council coordinated by the Executive Officer (ideally a property or native title officer) and identify a Chair for the group. Under RAMJO, the working group would:
  - allow staff at each Council to engage in the early stages including information dissemination, mapping, template sharing and building networks; and

- create an opportunity for those Councils to work collaboratively in employing a resource or engaging a contractor to assist in a coordinated and efficient approach to undertaking the management plans.
- **Western Riverina IT Project:** General Managers agrees that RAMJO is in a position to be the agency to manage the project and related funding and contracts. An IT Professional Officer Working Group to review Standardising Operating Procedures across Councils to map further efficiency opportunities.
- **Water (see Agenda Item 9):** In the absence of the Water Sub-Committee, and with all Councils not being represented on the Murray Darling Association, it was agreed the Executive Officer would provide Executive Summary points from these reports to the Board on the recently released papers:
  - Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission Report
  - Productivity Commission Inquiry Report: Murray Darling Basin Plan – Five Year Assessment
- It was noted the RAMJO Board will need to reinforce their position on water.

**Recommendation:**

- 1. That the actions and decisions of the General Managers' meeting be received and noted.**

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16. GENERAL BUSINESS MATTERS

For noting.