



# RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 10:00am.

### VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

<b>CHAIR: Cr John Dal Broi (Griffith)</b>	<b>Cr Matthew Hannan (Berrigan)</b>	<b>Cr Darryl Jardine (Carrathool)</b>
<b>Cr Norm Brennan (Edward River)</b>	<b>Cr Patrick Bourke (Federation)</b>	<b>Cr Kevin Mack (Albury)</b> <b>(non-voting at this meeting due to federal election candidacy)</b>
<b>Cr Paul Maytom (Leeton)</b>	<b>Cr Chris Bilkey (Murray River)</b>	<b>Cr Neville Kshenka (Narrandera)</b>
<b>Cr Dave Townsend (Hay)</b>	<b>Cr Ruth McCrae (Murrumbidgee)</b>	

### NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

<b>Frank Zaknich (Albury)</b>	<b>Rowan Perkins (Berrigan)</b>	<b>Rick Warren (Carrathool)</b>	<b>Adam McSwain (Edward River)</b>
<b>Adrian Butler (Federation)</b>	<b>Brett Stonestreet (Griffith)</b>	<b>Kirstyn Thronder (Hay)</b>	<b>Jackie Kruger (Leeton)</b>
<b>Des Bilske (Murray River)</b>	<b>John Scarce (Murrumbidgee)</b>	<b>George Cowan (Narrandera)</b>	<b>James Bolton (DPC)</b>
<b>Cameron Templeton (OLG)</b>			

### MEETING PRESENTERS

<b>Jillian Kilby</b>	<b>The Infrastructure Collaborative</b>
<b>Cr. Rowena Abbey</b>	<b>CRJO Chair &amp; Yass Valley Council Mayor</b>
<b>Gabrielle Cusack</b>	<b>CRJO Director</b>

### GUESTS

<b>Karen Purser</b>	<b>Office of Local Government</b>
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### EXECUTIVE OFFICER (NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBER)

<b>Bridgett Leopold</b>	<b>Executive Officer RAMJO</b>
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## AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME

The Chairperson welcomed the Board Members and guests to the meeting.

## AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES

Voting Board Members: Cr Peter Laird (Mayor Carrathool Shire Council), Cr Bill Sheaffe (Mayor Hay Shire Council), Acting Mayor Cr Amanda Cohn (Albury City Council)

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

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

## 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 – MINUTES OF 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 BOARD MEETING

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be confirmed.**

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

## AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019

Chair Cr Dal Broi provided a verbal update to the RAMJO Board regarding the Regional Cities NSW MOU, which will be signed by the Chair Col Murray on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Cr Kschenka provided a verbal update that the previous shortages in the NSW Police Service numbers for the Narrandera District are now being addressed with additional resources being allocated to the area.

**RESOLVED that the Board Members note the verbal updates.**

## AGENDA ITEM 6 – JAMES BOLTON DPC REGIONAL DIRECTOR RIVERINA MURRAY UPDATE

Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) Regional Director of Riverina Murray provided a verbal update. Points of consideration included:

- Machinery of Government changes are in motion after the completion of the NSW election.
- Moving from 10 clusters down to 8 clusters.
  - Stronger Communities Cluster: former family and Community Services cluster are moving into the Department of Justice)
  - Planning, Industry and Environment Cluster: bringing planning and industry together as well as functions of the environment. Department of Premier and Cabinet regional team will also go into this cluster, along with Office for Local Government and the Cross Border Commissioner
  - Customer Service Cluster: digital technology and service NSW
  - Health cluster: remains largely unchanged
  - Premier and cabinet: aboriginal affairs moving to this cluster
  - Transport: RMS will be a function under transport NSW
  - Treasury Cluster: economic development clusters moving into this area
  - Education Cluster: focussed on child, primary, secondary with TAFE moving into this cluster.
- Regional Leadership Executive: agenda on how to work with JOs effectively. How does State Government help deliver those priorities and who will be accountable in supporting the JO in delivering those priorities. Meeting is scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Sydney for all JO Chairs and their Executive Officers to discuss the future viability and financial status.

**RESOLVED that the Board received and noted the update from James Bolton, Director Riverina Murray at DPC.**

## AGENDA ITEM 7 – CAMERON TEMPLETON OLG COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Cameron provided an introduction to Karen Purser as the new Manager of Engagement Team and Engagement Manager of Far North. From the 1<sup>st</sup> July the Machinery of Government changes will roll out, and in the meantime OLG are working with the new Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock.

**RESOLVED that the Board received and noted the update from Cameron Templeton, OLG Engagement Manager.**

## AGENDA ITEM 8 – JILLIAN KILBY – THE INFRASTRUCTURE COLLABORATIVE

Jillian Kilby provided a presentation to the Board relating to a scope of projects undertaken with Canberra Regional Joint Organisation. The business presentation provided examples of:

- Mapping Council requirements from a water treatment and roads perspective
- Identifying commonalities and using this to prioritise and collaborate on conceptual planning and works
- Mapping phases of each infrastructure investment requirement, from ideology to concept phase to planning
- Indicating step-by-step funding requirements for each project, or each region
- Sorting infrastructure investment needs via electorate, Minister portfolio or other criteria

Jillian indicated that Councils who have had success did so via a clear business proposal and communication platform.

While the merit in The Infrastructure Collaborative proposal was recognised by the Board, further information regarding ongoing software licencing matters require further clarification.

**RESOLVED: Pending further negotiation between the RAMJO Executive Officer and the Founder of The Infrastructure Collaborative regarding annual software licencing, the RAMJO Board will consider a final proposal in the coming weeks.**

## AGENDA ITEM 9 – CR. ROWENA ABBEY & GABRIELLE CUSACK

### CANBERRA REGIONAL JOINT ORGANISATION (CRJO)

The Chair of CRJO, Cr. Rowena Abbey, and the Director, Gabrielle Cusack, provided a presentation to the RAMJO Board of the work undertaken and accomplishments of engaging with The Infrastructure Collaborative.

The CRJO demonstrated the mapping of infrastructure investment requirements and the funding attracted to deliver these outcomes.

The CRJO also presented a model relating to a Regional Project Management Office, whereby the JO creates an office of highly trained professionals such as engineers, planners, project managers and procurement officers to deliver on regional investment funds and fill skills gaps in the smaller Councils. This model is in the concept phase and could be extended to support other JOs.

**RESOLVED: that RAMJO Board received and noted the presentation and could make contact with the CRJO to discuss any opportunities and concepts further, including opportunities to work across JOs.**

## AGENDA ITEM 10 – BRIDGETT LEOPOLD – SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

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### IMPROVE WATER SECURITY

The Executive Officer presented the purpose, scope and objectives of the Sub-Committee for endorsement.

**RESOLVED: that the RAMJO Board agreed to the purpose, scope and objectives of the Sub-Committee and endorse Cr. Chris Bilkey (Murray River) and Cr. Paul Maytom (Cr. Leeton) to represent RAMJO at various water forums.**

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#### IMPROVE ENERGY SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY

The Energy Sub-Committee was yet to meet.

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#### IMPROVE TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY

The Transport Sub-Committee was yet to meet.

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#### IMPROVE DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

The Executive Officer provided an update on the direction of the Digital Sub-Committee, including a survey drafted as an information gathering tool to be posted on each Council's website and social media pages.

**RESOLVED: that the RAMJO Board approve the content of the Digital Connectivity Survey and endorse the distribution of the survey via each Council social media page and/or website.**

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#### IMPROVE HEALTH SERVICES

The Transport Sub-Committee was yet to meet.

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#### BOOST INDUSTRY, JOBS AND WORKFORCE

The Executive Officer provided a summary of the outcomes of the Industry Sub-Committee workshop, including the decision to draw out commonalities across the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) across RAMJO.

**RESOLVED: that the Board agree to allocate \$5,000 to engage a strategic consultant to review all REDS and draw out priorities by region for comparison and alignment.**

**RESOLVED: that the RAMJO Board note the updates from each Sub-Committee.**

#### AGENDA ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER – RAMJO DRAFT BUDGET

The Executive Officer provided an update on the status of the budget, particularly that a satisfactory summary of accounts had not been obtained. This had not allowed for appropriate reconciliation of the 2018-2019 accounts, and therefore a 2019-2020 budget could not be drafted with confidence.

Pending the outcome of other pressing RAMJO items, the Executive Officer advised that the Board could consider the draft budget via a teleconference or via a face-to-face meeting in the coming weeks.

**RESOLVED that the Board noted the update relating to the 2019-2020 RAMJO Budget preparation and agree to consider the budget via teleconference or face-to-face in the coming weeks.**

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

#### AGENDA ITEM 12 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER – REPORTING AND MONITORING TOOL

The Executive Officer proposed that either an Executive Committee be established, or the previous Executive Committee be revived to assist in progressing streamlined recommendations and decision making to the RAMJO Board at their quarterly meetings.

**RESOLVED that the RAMJO Executive Committee be available to work with the Executive Officer on progressing proposals and recommendations to the General Managers group and the RAMJO Board.**

**(Moved Cr McRae and Cr Kschenka)**

#### AGENDA ITEM 13 – PROFESSIONAL OFFICER WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Board received an update relating to the updates of each Professional Officer Working Group, including:

- General Managers Working Group
- Property Officer Working Group

**RESOLVED that the Board noted the updates from the Professional Officer Working Groups.**

#### AGENDA ITEM 14 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSW POLICING NUMBERS

The Board received an update from the Executive Officer regarding correspondence sent on behalf of RAMJO members to NSW Police as resolved at the last meeting. Updates from RAMJO Board members identified a positive approach and commitment to this matter from NSW Police since RAMJO correspondence had been received. A ‘whole-of-community’ approach was considered, identifying that attracting skilled people to RAMJO regional communities requires a holistic approach.

**RESOLVED that working with NSW Police and other employers in regional communities be referred to the Industry Sub-Committee for a collaborative approach to addressing these matters.**

**(Moved Cr Ruth McCrae and seconded Cr Neville Kschenka)**

#### AGENDA ITEM 15 – CORRESPONDENCE

**RESOLVED that the Board note the received correspondence and no action was required.**

#### AGENDA ITEM 16 – GENERAL BUSINESS

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##### SOLAR FARMS

The RAMJO Board engaged in significant discussion regarding the proliferation of solar farms in the RAMJO area and the potential long term impacts to the community.

**RESOLVED that James Bolton arrange an urgent meeting between RAMJO and the NSW Department of Planning to:**

- Urge the State Government to cease approval for large scale solar farms on prime developed irrigated land until such time as independent assessments have been completed by State Government on long term economic implications of such developments on the RAMJO region.
- Request further understanding of the NSW Government’s criteria relating to identified areas allocated for solar farms, noting that many are being approved in Prime Agricultural Land.
- Understand considerations relating to the cumulative effect of multiple large scale solar farms in areas where food for domestic consumption is traditionally grown.
- Request more rigorous arrangements relating to Voluntary Payment Agreements to Councils or other community payment options to counteract the impact of such solar farms in RAMJO communities.
- Understand the long term waste implications of large scale solar farms.

**There being no further business, the RAMJO Board meeting concluded at 1:00 pm.**