



## RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION

**Member Councils: Albury, Berrigan, Carrathool, Edward River, Federation, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Murray River, Murrumbidgee and Narrandera**

**MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT A MEETING OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION (RAMJO) WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 IN THE IAN GILBERT ROOM AT THE JERILDERIE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE OF MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM (MORNING TEA AT 9.30 AM)**

**BOARD MEMBERS MIGHT NOTE THAT DURING THE MEETING THERE WILL BE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THE BOARD IN ACTION. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING THERE WILL BE A GROUP PHOTO OF THE BOARD MEMBERS. THESE WILL BE ADDED TO THE RAMJO WEBSITE**

**<http://www.ramjo.nsw.gov.au>**

### **BOARD MEMBERS – MEMBER COUNCIL MAYORS (Voting Board Members)**

**Cr Kevin Mack (Albury) Chairperson, 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) and Cr Neville Kschenka (Narrandera),**

### **DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET (Non-Voting Board Member)**

**James Bolton DPC Regional Director Riverina Murray**

### **GENERAL MANAGERS (Non-Voting Board Members)**

**Frank Zaknich (Albury), Rowan Perkins (Berrigan), Robert Rayner (Acting GM Carrathool), Adam McSwain (Edward River), Adrian Butler (Federation), Brett Stonestreet (Griffith), Amanda Spalding (Hay), Jackie Kruger (Leeton), Des Bilske (Murray River), John Scarce (Murrumbidgee) and George Cowan (Narrandera)**

### **INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Ray Stubbs**

### **AGENDA ITEMS – IN SUMMARY**

- 1. Chairpersons Welcome (page 3)**
- 2. Apologies (page 3)**
- 3. Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons (page 3)**
- 4. Minutes of September Board Meeting – held at Jerilderie on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (pages 3 to 8)**
- 5. Matters Arising from Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Board Meeting (page 8)**
- 6. James Bolton DP&C Regional Director will provide a 5 minute update verbal report (page 8)**
- 7. Chairperson's presentation – Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare Program (page 8)**
- 8. Minutes of Joint Organisations Chairs Forum Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and Summary of JO Strategic Regional Priorities – (pages 9 to 15)**
- 9. Southern Lights Street Lighting Project – Update Report by Brad Ferris (RAMJO's Representative on Project Working Group) - (pages 15 to 17)**

10. Draft RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities – for submission to OLG by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 (pages 17 to 20)
11. Provision of Health Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW (pages 20 to 22)
12. RAMJO Executive Officer - Recruitment Processes (page 22)
13. Murray Region Tourism Board Report (pages 22 to 23)
14. Destination Riverina Murray – THRIVE Reporting to RAMJO arrangements (page 23)
15. Drought Assistance Program – Supporting Severely Drought Affected Communities (page 24)
16. NSW Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) – Local Government Share of Revenue Generated by Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) - (pages 24 to 25)
17. Murray Darling Basin Plan Implementation Issues (pages 25 to 26)
18. RAMJO Financial Statements as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (page 27)
19. RAMJO Working Group Minutes
  - 19.1 - Engineers Group Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 (pages 27 to 30)
  - 19.2 - Development Services Group Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (pages 31 to 33)
  - 19.3 - General Managers Group Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (pages 34 to 37)
20. 12.00 noon to 12.30 pm – Presentation by TransGrid representatives Mitchell Hume and Andrew Lewis –Electricity transmission Network RAMJO region (pages 37 to 38)
21. General Business Matters (page 38)



Ray Stubbs  
Interim Executive Officer

**AGENDA ITEMS IN DETAIL ARE SET OUT ON THE PAGES FOLLOWING**

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – Chairpersons Welcome**

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – Apologies**

**AGENDA ITEM 3 - Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons**

**AGENDA ITEM 4 - Minutes of September Board Meeting – held at Jerilderie on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION HELD IN THE IAN GILBERT ROOM OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 10.00 AM**

**PRESENT**

**VOTING BOARD MEMBERS**

<i>Cr Kevin Mack</i>	<i>Mayor Albury City Council</i>
<i>Cr Matthew Hannan</i>	<i>Mayor Berrigan Shire Council</i>
<i>Cr Norm Brennan</i>	<i>Mayor Edward River Council</i>
<i>Cr John Dal Broi</i>	<i>Mayor Griffith City Council</i>
<i>Cr Paul Maytom</i>	<i>Mayor Leeton Shire Council</i>
<i>Cr Ruth McRae</i>	<i>Mayor Murrumbidgee Council</i>

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

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

<i>Mr Frank Zaknich</i>	<i>Albury City Council</i>
<i>Ms Amanda Spalding</i>	<i>Hay Shire Council</i>
<i>Mr Rowan Perkins</i>	<i>Berrigan Shire Council</i>
<i>Mr Adam McSwain</i>	<i>Edward River Council</i>
<i>Mr Craig Moffitt</i>	<i>Murrumbidgee Council</i>
<i>Mr Adrian Butler</i>	<i>Federation Council</i>
<i>Ms Jackie Kruger</i>	<i>Leeton Shire Council</i>
<i>Ms Joanne Treacy</i>	<i>Carrathool Shire Council</i>
<i>Mr George Cowan</i>	<i>Narrandera Shire Council</i>

**OTHER COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES (NON VOTING)**

<i>Cr Gen Campbell</i>	<i>Deputy Mayor Murray River Council</i>
<i>Cr David Fahey</i>	<i>Deputy Mayor Narrandera Shire Council</i>
<i>Mr Brian Barrett</i>	<i>Acting General Manager Murray River Council</i>
<i>Mr Phil King</i>	<i>Acting General Manager Griffith City</i>

**OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr Cameron Templeton

Joint Organisation and Council Engagement Officer

**MEETING PRESENTERS**

Mr Brad Ferris (Southern Lights Project)

Director of Engineering Albury City

Ms Kate de Hennin (Workshop)

Corporate Planner Albury City

Ms Deanne Drage (Workshop)

Consultant - Inspiring Health Solutions

Ms Edwina Hayes

CEO Murray RDA

**INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Mr Ray Stubbs

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME**

The Chairperson welcomed Board Members, other Council representatives and special guests to the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 1A – CAMERON TEMPLETON OLG ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

Cameron updated the meeting in relation to OLG initiatives, including the level of financial / management reporting being required of Councils by the NSW Auditor General, the potential for joint action by JOs for improved opportunities to recruit and retain Council officers in regional and rural areas, and the development of a new OLG website including a Councils' portal function.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 - APOLOGIES**

Voting Board Members Apologies

Cr Patrick Bourke (Mayor Federation Council); Cr Bill Sheaffe (Mayor Hay Shire Council); Cr Chris Bilkey (Mayor Murray River Council); Cr Peter Laird (Mayor Carrathool Shire Council) and Cr Neville Kschenka (Mayor Narrandera Shire Council).

Non-Voting Board Members Apologies

Des Bilske (General Manager Murray River Council) and Brett Stonestreet (General Manager Griffith City Council)

Other Meeting Apologies

Rachel Whiting – CEO Riverina RDA

**RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted and that leave of absence be granted.  
(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Hannan)**

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM 4 - MINUTES OF INAUGURAL BOARD MEETING – HELD AT JERILDERIE ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the inaugural RAMJO Board Meeting held at Jerilderie on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be confirmed**  
**(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Dal Broi)**

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018 BOARD MEETING**

*There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018*

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – JOINT ORGANISATIONS NETWORK MEETING – IN SYDNEY ON 15<sup>TH</sup> AND 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018**

*Consideration was given to the agenda report by the Interim Executive Officer and to a follow up verbal report by Chairperson Cr Mack in relation to the Joint Organisations' Network Meeting held in Sydney on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018*

**RESOLVED that the Chairperson and IEO reports be adopted**  
**(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Brennan)**

**AGENDA ITEM 7 – SOUTHERN LIGHTS STREET LIGHTING PROJECT – PRESENTATION BY BRAD FERRIS (RAMJO REPRESENTATIVE ON PROJECT WORKING GROUP)**

*Brad Ferris delivered a Powerpoint Presentation in relation to the current status of the Southern Lights Street Lighting Project, including a video outlining the potential advantages of incorporating smart controls on the lamp fittings for a range of hi-technology Smart City control functions. Brad advised that collaborative negotiations with Essential Energy, the NSW Regional Infrastructure Co-ordinator and State Government Ministers are currently at the final Business Case preparation stage.*

*A copy of the Powerpoint slides will be distributed to RAMJO Councils and Board Members with the Meeting Minutes.*

**AGENDA ITEM 8 – REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA COMMITTEES – PRESENTATION BY EDWINA HAYES CEO MURRAY RDA**

*Edwina Hayes briefly addressed the meeting and advised that she had recently been appointed to the CEO position. She provided details of the RDA Charter and in particular to the actions in train with Rachel Whiting of Riverina RDA to collaborate with Joint Organisations and Councils in the Riverina and Murray region.*

*Edwina advised that some powerpoint slides have been sent by the Murray and Riverina RDAs to the Interim Executive Officer, which the IEO will distribute with the Meeting Minutes.*

**AGENDA ITEM 9 - WORKSHOP SESSION - DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAMJO STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

*At this stage, the business agenda items were adjourned to enable the conduct of a workshop session facilitated by Deanne Drage and Kate de Hennin for the purpose of developing the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP). Arising from the Board's consideration of the background papers and workshop materials and through agreement on a range of key strategic priorities, the next step will be the preparation of a draft document for the November Board Meeting, with a view to final development of the SSRP by the OLG deadline date of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.*

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10 – RAMROC FINAL – DISTRIBUTION OF UNSPENT FUNDS AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE WIND UP**

*The Interim Executive Officer submitted a report outlining the proposed distribution of unused RAMROC funds to RAMROC Member Councils, following the wind up date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and amounting to \$143,379. The report referred to the resolution at the June Board meeting that the eleven RAMJO Councils will be asked to contribute back to RAMJO their share of the RAMROC distribution. This request will not apply to Greater Hume, Balranald and Wentworth Councils, which are not RAMJO Member Councils.*

**RESOLVED that the IEO's report be adopted and that the Board confirm its previous resolution calling upon Member Councils to agree to re-contribute the shared distribution of unused RAMROC funds back to RAMJO, for the purpose of establishing a sound level of working capital for the future (Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Hannan)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11 – STATUS OF JOINT ORGANISATION IMPLEMENTATION AND OLG ENGAGEMENT**

*Consideration was given to a report from the Interim Executive Officer as to the status of establishing the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) and meeting the requirements and timelines of OLG*

**RESOLVED that the report by the Interim Executive Officer be adopted (Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Brennan)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12 – DRAFT REVENUE POLICY, BUDGET AND SCHEDULE OF MEMBER COUNCILS' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2018-2019**

*The Interim Executive Officer submitted for the Board's consideration the draft Revenue Policy, Budget Estimates and Schedule of Councils' membership contributions for the 2018-2019 financial year.*

**RESOLVED that the RAMJO Revenue Policy, Annual Budget and Schedule of Membership Contributions for the 2018-2019 financial year be adopted (Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr McRae)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13 – DRAFT RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION CHARTER**

*Following adoption of a Draft Charter at the June 29 Board meeting, the document was distributed to Member Councils for feedback and comment for a period of 42 days. No changes have been proposed, although the Interim Executive Officer has now included in a new draft a number of suggested provisions relating to the Vision, Values and Role content of the document.*

**RESOLVED that the amendments and additions proposed by the Interim Executive Officer be adopted and that the Charter for the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) be now formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website (Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr Maytom)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 14 – DRAFT CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE**

*Following adoption of a Draft Code of Meeting Practice at the June 29 Board Meeting, the document was distributed to Member Councils for feedback and comment for a period of 42 days. No changes have been proposed and the document was therefore submitted to the Board for final adoption*

**RESOLVED that the Code of Meeting Practice be now formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website (Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Maytom)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 15 – DRAFT EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY**

*Following adoption of a Draft Expenses and Facilities Policy at the June 29 Board Meeting, the document was distributed to Member Councils for feedback and comment for a period of 42 days. No changes have been proposed and the document was therefore submitted to the Board for final adoption.*

**RESOLVED that the Expenses and Facilities Policy be now formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website  
(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Dal Broi)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 16 – DRAFT COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

*The Interim Executive Officer presented a Draft RAMJO Communications and Engagement Plan, which sets out how RAMJO proposes to engage with member Councils, other stakeholders and communities in carrying out its strategic and operational roles and functions.*

**RESOLVED that the Board formally adopt the Draft Communications and Engagement Plan as submitted by the Interim Executive Officer and that the plan be placed on the RAMJO website  
(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr McRae)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 17 – RAMROC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MURRAY REGION TOURISM BOARD**

*Murray Region Tourism has invited RAMJO to nominate a new representative for the Board of MRT for a three year period commencing October 2018, in place of the former representative Tracey Squire.*

**RESOLVED that Adam McSwain General Manager of Edward River Council be nominated as the RAMJO representative to the Board of Murray Region Tourism  
(Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr Brennan)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 18 – WASTE TO ENERGY – FEASIBILITY STUDY PROPOSAL BY TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL**

*Tenterfield Shire Council has submitted a proposal to the Federal and NSW Governments, seeking financial assistance to allow the commissioning of a comprehensive Feasibility Study to convert municipal and other sources of waste into energy (WtE) at a local community scale.*

**RESOLVED that RAMROC provide a letter of support to the proposal submitted by Tenterfield Shire Council  
(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr Maytom)**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 19 – RAMJO EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION – RECRUITMENT METHODOLOGY AND TIMETABLE**

*The Board considered a report by the Interim Executive Officer in relation to the planned recruitment of a new Executive Officer to follow on after the retirement of the Interim Executive Officer Ray Stubbs.*

**RESOLVED that a small Working Panel be formed to progress the EO recruitment function internally, comprising the Chairperson Cr Mack, Deputy Chairperson Cr Dal Broi, General Managers Frank Zaknich and Rowan Perkins and one other external independent female panel member  
(Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr Brennan)**

## **AGENDA ITEM 20 - RAMJO WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

The following Working Group Meeting Minutes were submitted for information and endorsement:-

- Engineers Group Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018
- Riverina Waste Group Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018
- Planners Group Meeting - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- General Managers Group Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- Murray Waste Group Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- Riverina Waste Group Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018
- Murray Waste Group Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the various Working Group Meetings be received and endorsed (Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Dal Broi)**

## **AGENDA ITEM 21 – GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Item 21 (1) - Environmental water availability for farmers – Commonwealth and State Environmental Water Holdings**

Cr Mack reported on representations that have been made by RAMJO to both Federal and State politicians and bureaucrats, requesting that environmental water be made available to our region's farmers at favourable water prices, to enable them to finish off their crops which are already under stress, and to grow additional food and fodder to assist other drought stricken communities in western and northern NSW and Queensland. He advised that he and the Interim Executive Officer will continue to represent RAMJO communities, farmers and businesses in pursuing this matter.

### **Item 21 (2) – Commonwealth Productivity Commission Draft Report and Recommendations into the 5 year Assessment of the Murray Darling Basin Plan**

The Productivity Commission has recently released its August 2018 Draft Report in relation to the 5 year Assessment of the effectiveness of the Murray Darling Basin Plan and its implementation. The PC has invited submissions on the Draft Report and Recommendations to be lodged by 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**RESOLVED that the Interim Executive Officer distribute the Productivity Commission Report and recommendations to Member Councils and invite their feedback and comments, with a view to the RAMJO Executive lodging a composite regional submission by the due date of 10<sup>th</sup> October (Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Dal Broi)**

*There being no further business, the RAMJO Board meeting concluded at 2.10 pm.*

## **AGENDA ITEM 5 - Matters Arising from Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Board Meeting**

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 - James Bolton DP&C Regional Director will provide a 5 minute update verbal report**

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 - Chairperson's presentation – Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare Program**

Chairperson Cr Kevin Mack to make a presentation regarding the activities of the Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare Program



**AGENDA ITEM 8 - Minutes of Joint Organisations Chairs Forum Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and Summary of JO Strategic Regional Priorities**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT ORGANISATIONS CHAIRS FORUM - HELD IN THE ROBERT BROWN ROOM OF THE ALBURY CITY COUNCIL'S ADMINISTRATION CENTRE AT ALBURY ON SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2018 AT 2.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

*Canberra Region JO:*

*Cr Rowena Abbey  
Ms Gabrielle Cusack*

*Central NSW JO:*

*Cr John Medcalf  
Ms Jennifer Bennett*

*Hunter JO:*

*Cr Bob Pynsent  
Mr Roger Stephan*

*Illawarra Shoalhaven JO:*

*Cr Gordon Bradbery  
Mr Jim Fraser*

*Namoi JO:*

*Cr Jamie Chaffey  
Mr Max Eastcott*

*New England JO:*

*Cr Michael Pearce*

*Northern Rivers JO:*

*Cr Isaac Smith*

*Orana JO:*

*Ms Belinda Barlow*

*Riverina and Murray JO:*

*Cr Kevin Mack  
Mr Ray Stubbs*

*Riverina JO:*

*Cr Rick Firman  
Mr Tony Donoghue*

*Mid North Coast JO:*

*Cr Liz Campbell  
Mr Craig Milburn*

*Far North West JO:*

*Cr Lillian Brady  
Mr Peter Vlatko*

*Far South West JO:*

*Cr Melisa Hederics*

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY CHAIR OF RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION**

*Cr Kevin Mack extended a warm welcome to the meeting of the JO Chairs Forum to the Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Executive Officers of the thirteen Joint Organisations from throughout regional and rural NSW.*

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – MEETING CHAIR**

*It was agreed that this meeting be chaired by Cr Kevin Mack Chair of RAMJO.*

**AGENDA ITEM 3 - APOLOGIES**

*Apologies were received from the following:-*

*Cr Danielle Mulholland – Chair Northern Rivers JO*

*Cr Doug Batten – Chair Orana JO*

*Tim Williamson – Interim Executive Officer Northern Rivers JO*

*Craig Swift-McNair – Interim Executive Officer Mid North Coast JO*

*Ms Rebel Thomson – Executive Officer Namoi JO*

*Ms Julie Briggs – Interim Executive Officer Riverina JO*

*Mr David Rowe – Executive Officer Canberra Region JO*

***RESOLVED that the apologies be noted and accepted.***

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – CONFIRMATION OF MEETING NOTES – INITIAL CHAIRS MEETING HELD AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018**

***RESOLVED that the Meeting Notes of the JO Chairs meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 be noted and accepted.***

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JOINT ORGANISATIONS FORUM**

*The meeting discussed the various matters set out in the report concerning the governance and operational arrangements for the Joint Organisations Chairs' Forum, particularly in relation to future meetings and arrangements for convening thereof.*

***RESOLVED that the amended Terms of Reference document as presented by Namoi Joint Organisation be adopted, including the name NSW Joint Organisations (JO) Chairs' Forum (a copy of a final document is attached to these Minutes).***

***FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Premier and Cabinet / Office of Local Government be requested to fund the secretarial functions of the JO Chairs Forum, including meeting venue and associated expenses.***

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 – ALIGNMENT OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

*The meeting discussed at length the nine strategic priorities as per the agenda reports and how these priorities might be addressed both at an individual JO basis and also potentially on a statewide basis, with specific actions being pursued with the combined support of the Chairs' Forum.*

*The meeting agreed that there are a number of potential projects that can be considered in further detail for implementation on a whole of Joint Organisations statewide basis, with the following being mooted:-*

*Southern Lights Project - LED Street Lighting and Smart Controls*

*Waste to Energy projects*

*Crushed glass recycling for road construction materials*

*Water and wastewater - infrastructure needs and prioritisation analysis*

*Youth employment strategy programs*

***RESOLVED each Joint Organisation refer to their next Board meetings the Summary of Strategic Regional Priorities, for information and discussion as to which priorities can best be supported and collaboratively pursued with the State Government for implementation across the Joint Organisations network.***

***FURTHER RESOLVED that at the next Chairs' Forum meeting in early 2019, that a number of Joint Organisations be invited to make a presentation in relation to the following:-***

***Riverina JO – Southern Lights Street Lighting and Smart Controls Project***

***Canberra Region JO – Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Prospectus***

***Illawarra Shoalhaven JO – Youth Employment Strategy (YES) Program***

***New England JO – Waste to Energy Programs – Funding Proposal to Governments***

***Central NSW JO – Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement***

***(Note:- it is suggested that each of these presentations to the meeting should be no longer than 15 minutes)***

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 - LGNSW PROPOSAL FOR JOINT ORGANISATIONS MEMBERSHIP**

*Consideration was given to the draft consultation proposal submitted by LGNSW, including proposed membership opportunities and a JO fee structure.*

***RESOLVED that no action be taken at this stage in relation to the LGNSW consultation proposal for membership of the Joint Organisations with LGNSW; however that LGNSW be advised that the individual Joint Organisations and the JO Chairs' Forum will continue to maintain dialogue and engage with LGNSW on key matters of mutual Local Government significance and importance.***

## **AGENDA ITEM 8 – NEXT MEETING**

*It was agreed that the next meeting of the JO Chairs' Forum be held in early 2019 on the Thursday prior to the Country Mayors first meeting in 2019 and that the meeting be convened and chaired by the Chair of Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation Cr Gordon Bradbery, with the Office of Local Government requested to provide secretarial assistance and to facilitate preparation of the Meeting Agenda and to make meeting arrangements.*

*It was also agreed that the venue for the meeting be Parliament House (if available)*

Note:-

The meeting schedule being proposed for the November Country Mayors meeting has the first meeting in 2019 scheduled for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019. On that basis, the next meeting of the JO Chairs Forum is likely to be Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Confirmation of the date and venue will be advised as soon as possible.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3.50 pm

As set out in the Minutes above, the JO Chairs Forum resolved that the following Summary of Strategic Regional Priorities be referred back to each Joint Organisation for information and discussion as to which priorities can best be supported and collaboratively pursued with the State Government for implementation across the Joint Organisations network.

The Board will observe that the combination of priorities as set in the summary below very much aligns with the DRAFT RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities proposed for adoption at this Board Meeting.

## 1. ENVIRONMENT

Objective	Identified Issues	Possible Solutions
Protecting the environment for future generations Preservation and improvement of the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resources are used efficiently</li> <li>▪ Biological diversity</li> <li>▪ Environmental impacts of mining</li> <li>▪ Soil and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Land contamination</li> <li>▪ Emissions and air quality</li> <li>▪ Waste management and resource recovery</li> <li>▪ Land use conflicts</li> <li>▪ Regional liveability across the natural and built environments</li> </ul>	Develop and coordinate regional programs that respond to the environmental outcomes sought under federal, state and local policies and strategies, such as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addressing Climate Change - coastal erosion, flooding, bushfires</li> <li>▪ Clearing of native vegetation</li> <li>▪ Mapping and protection of agricultural lands</li> <li>▪ Increased understanding of regional land use planning challenges, opportunities and responses Convene information sessions e.g. Crown Lands legislation, planning legislation, land claims issues</li> <li>▪ Build capacity</li> </ul>

## 2. INFRASTRUCTURE

Objective	Identified Issues	Possible Solutions
To addressing the region's major infrastructure requirements and contributions To facilitate opportunities with government and partners for investment into the provision of water, infrastructure and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To understand gaps in infrastructure and services</li> <li>▪ Telecommunications infrastructure and services to enhance connectivity</li> <li>▪ Health, Transport and Water infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Roads, rail, air infrastructure, energy and telecommunications infrastructure are critical for the future growth and the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evidence based and agreed priority list of infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Maximise potential of new technology infrastructure e.g. Internet of Things, Apps, Venuu etc.</li> <li>▪ Identify and access funding sources and new opportunities for delivery and use of regionally significant infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Advocate for the region's infrastructure requirements and</li> </ul>

	<p>development of the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognition that the funding and policy framework and remoteness.</li> <li>▪ Local government seems to be the service provider of last resort</li> </ul>	<p>promote its contributions to productivity and liveability locally, across NSW and Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of targeted approaches to infrastructure investment</li> </ul>
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### 3. HEALTH

Objective	Identified Issues	Possible Solutions
<p>To provide access to the full range of health care fostering active and healthy communities</p> <p>To improve access to specialist health service</p> <p>To improve health infrastructure</p> <p>To deliver better health outcomes</p> <p>A reliable, accessible, appropriate and adaptable services that recognises changing needs of the community</p> <p>Improved national service standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ageing population will increase the demand on health services</li> <li>▪ Few mental health professionals</li> <li>▪ Attracting and retaining health professionals</li> <li>▪ Access to temporary accommodation</li> <li>▪ Provision of infrastructure to support health services</li> <li>▪ Difficulties in relation to VMO registrations that impact on attraction of doctors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Audit health services to identify accessibility gaps and prioritise actions</li> <li>▪ Workshops to better understand the priority health needs of local communities.</li> <li>▪ Agreed priority list of improvements to health services and facilities</li> <li>▪ NBN will have positive impacts for people accessing health care with e-health services</li> <li>▪ Preventative programs and lifestyle education</li> <li>▪ A co-designed approach with the three regulators, OLG, DoI Water and Health and LG LWUs</li> <li>▪ Provision of health specialists and other health professionals to address the needs of communities.</li> </ul>

### 4. TRANSPORT

Objective	Identified Issues	Possible Solutions
<p>To move people and products across regions by integrated and accessible transport networks</p> <p>To deliver transport priorities</p> <p>Improved freight links and road networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of transport connectivity</li> <li>▪ Few public transport options connecting young people</li> <li>▪ Public transport options are scarce and local people must rely on community transport run by volunteers</li> <li>▪ Corridor planning for freight transport that takes in regional and local road networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved engagement and strategic planning</li> <li>▪ More efficient point to point transport for freight e.g. road trains, rail connections, inland ports, driverless</li> <li>▪ Ridesharing apps, driverless options, hub and spoke, fast rail for the public</li> <li>▪ Greater modality for rail</li> <li>▪ Explore alternate transport options to improve connectivity within a region.</li> </ul>

### 5. ENERGY

Objective	Identified Issues	Possible Solutions
<p>To address regional energy security</p> <p>To encourage and support the renewable energy sector</p> <p>Energy pricing to attract and sustain business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sources, transmission and generation</li> <li>▪ The need for affordable and clean energy is important for for both economic prosperity and environmental sustainability</li> <li>▪ Increasing energy costs and high costs of connecting to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Risk and vulnerability assessments of energy security and procurement opportunities</li> <li>▪ Explore opportunities to support community and member council renewable energy uptake</li> <li>▪ LED with smart controls across NSW</li> <li>▪ Shade, storage, operating systems</li> </ul>

	<p>energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gaps in infrastructure - meaning demand often outstrips supply</li> <li>▪ Pressure to be more environmentally friendly through renewable energy generation</li> </ul>	<p>and electric vehicle charge stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Investment in energy infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Self-sustaining regions</li> <li>▪ Solar including facilitating economic development by solar communities e.g. Aboriginal, small communities</li> <li>▪ Micro grids in communities</li> <li>▪ Explore energy and water innovation in agriculture.</li> </ul>
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## 6. WATER

Objective	Identified Issues	Possible Solutions
<p>Sustaining water quality and security including availability, security and access to water</p> <p>Safe and secure water supplies for towns and industry and for agricultural production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environmental impacts of mining</li> <li>▪ Water pollution</li> <li>▪ River water quality</li> <li>▪ Storage issues</li> <li>▪ Murray Darling Basin Plan impacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cross catchment and cross local water utility security</li> <li>▪ Investment in drinking water quality</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure funding for key water and wastewater projects</li> <li>▪ Increased agricultural water supply and productivity</li> </ul>

## 7. ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY

Objective	Identified Issues	Possible Solutions
<p>Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading regional economy</p> <p>A sustainable Economy and a Connected Community requires access to quality infrastructure</p> <p>A growing economy delivers jobs, opportunities and property</p> <p>To support the priority economic sectors</p> <p>Ensure generations take advantage of new technology to improve quality of life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some economies are highly dependent on mining and power generation industries</li> <li>▪ Address all sectors and contributions to the Economy, Education and Employment</li> <li>▪ Economic change</li> <li>▪ Improve digital connectivity that could be undertaken by Mobile Network Operators</li> <li>▪ Large scale solar farms on prime agricultural land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific focus on Health, Education, Justice, Planning and the Visitor Economy</li> <li>▪ Support the region's economic growth while balancing development with the sustainable management of agricultural lands and natural resources</li> <li>▪ Facilitate economic development with solar communities</li> <li>▪ Work with local libraries and education providers to develop and implement technology for life learning schemes</li> <li>▪ Research – new technology &amp; micro hydro</li> <li>▪ Maximise potential of new technology infrastructure e.g. Internet of Things, Apps, Venuu etc</li> <li>▪ Support industries that deliver food security and support a focus on agriculture and agriculture-related industries.</li> <li>▪ Support access to high speed internet and mobile services</li> </ul>

## 8. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT (Canberra & Mid North Coast)

Objective	Identified Issues	Possible Solutions
Educational facilities that support and encourage our young people and foster lifelong learning Access to and the ability to participate in quality education Improve education pathways for young people Lower unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aspirations and achievement of tertiary and vocational education for primary and secondary school students</li> <li>▪ Skills shortages for local government and the regions as a whole</li> <li>▪ Youth unemployment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop an evidence base to prepare an agreed priority list of school infrastructure improvements</li> <li>▪ Work with Indigenous educational and community groups to support and encourage young Indigenous people into tertiary and vocational education</li> <li>▪ Develop and implement technology for life learning</li> <li>▪ Work with the region's education sector to ensure the region's future skills needs are met</li> <li>▪ Adopting place-based approaches to education</li> <li>▪ Identify opportunities to grow education, research and business development programs and institutions.</li> <li>▪ Identify local and regional skills gaps and employment opportunities for growth sectors and jobs of the future.</li> </ul>

**Recommendations**

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 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

**AGENDA ITEM 9 - Southern Lights Street Lighting Project – Update Report by Brad Ferris (RAMJO’s Representative on Project Working Group)**

A further workshop meeting of the Southern Lights Project Team and Essential Energy was held in Sydney on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018, with RAMJO’s Street Lighting Project representative Brad Ferris (Engineering Director with Albury City Council) attending the workshop.

As a result, Brad has provided the following report. It should be noted that subsequent to the meeting, the formal Business Case (currently Commercial in Confidence) has been finalised and submitted to the Department of Premier and Cabinet for review and assessment;

*“I attended a further Southern Lights Project Working Party meeting yesterday in Sydney. The project is still progressing well and listed below is a status update on key items:*

- *Project costs – these have been further refined based on close discussions with Essential Energy (EE). For the 75,000+ lights across 41 councils the estimated cost to convert all lights to LED,*

*including lighting smart controls on a two port fixture, the latest estimate is in the order of \$61M;*

- *Scope – the State Government is keen to make this an entire state project or at least all EE areas, which is all NSW except metro Sydney (165,000 lights);*
- *Funding – a number of meetings with DPC (Chris Hanger) who are really keen on the project, similar to many other government departments. We need to have a submission to Chris asap. This will be finalised this week for submission. Working Party to provide submission for original southern lights project scope and EE to extrapolate this across the state – both submissions within next two weeks. DPC stressed that the window for submissions is limited as election mode will kick in next month;*
- *State Government - is keen to fund this project through the JOs as a sign of support for the State working with newly formed JOs. My personal view is that funding EE direct would be more efficient and logical, however I appreciate their rationale;*
- *Funding split – to date the discussions have been around the State funding the entire capital project with no contribution from the participating JOs/councils. EE will part fund through a sinking fund mechanism included in our current charges (could be up to \$10M);*
- *Businesses case – will be completed for the entire project within the next few days. Shortly thereafter business cases for each individual council will be completed. All available for distribution next week;*
- *Payback – business cases will indicate a payback on investment in the order of 6-8 years. Therefore the project is still a viable investment without state government funding;*
- *Presentations – need to further consider how we explain the business case to member councils. CENTJO have convened a meeting of their councils and engaged Graham (our specialist consultant) to present;*
- *Fixture – the preferred fixture has been agreed, being the LED with a top port (NEMA) to control the light and an underside port (ZHARGA) which will allow individual councils to value add with a smart city device;*
- *Fixture tender – EE is finalising specification and contract documentation. Have to market by mid-November and close before Christmas. May also seek a price on just a NEMA port as some councils may not want to fund the preferred two port fixture, if no external funding is secured;*
- *Smart Meters – an EOI process was completed during September and received a high level of submissions. Panel (EE, JOs rep and consultant) working through these submissions to determine preferred product;*
- *Smart City IT Platform – the IT platform has not yet been considered and is not as time critical as the smart control and fixture procurements. Likely to be finalised in the new year;*
- *Timeframes – the aim is to have the entire project finalised by April next year to coincide with Bathurst's and Albury's Bulk Lamp Replacement Schedule (BLR). Again, based on discussions yesterday, I believe this timeframe is extremely optimistic and we will see further slippage in a complex project. Potential to further defer our (and Bathurst) BLR;*
- *Trials – Bathurst is trialling LED lighting within the city with some great results;*
- *Deployment – changing to LED in line with each council's BLR schedule will be the most effective and efficient method. Therefore a roll out over the next 4 years – unless the Government wish to fund bringing them all forward; and*
- *Promotion – continue to lobby government. Project recognised at a state level. Access to Treasurer would be beneficial. Each JO should lobby their local member. Proposed to present to next Country Mayors forum on 3 November.*

*There are a number of associated issues which we are working through, however most are being resolved along the way. There will also be ongoing items post the above, such as ownership, access etc., but these are not time critical at this stage.*



*Great result to date and hopefully we can secure some state funds, given it is an enabling project for non-metro NSW. In particular, Julie (RERO) and Jenny (CENTJO) have undertaken a power of work in this field and we have also been able to change the mindset of EE.*

Separately attached is an update report from Brad Ferris arising from the Working Group meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November, together with a copy of the Southern Lights Business Case presented to State Government.

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That the update report submitted by RAMJO's Street Lighting Representative Brad Ferris be received and noted**
- 2. That the supplementary update arising from the meeting of the Project Working Party on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be also received and noted.**

### **AGENDA ITEM 10 - Draft RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities – for submission to OLG by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

Separately attached is the Final Draft of the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP), which is now proposed for formal adoption by the Board, to enable it to be submitted to the Office of Local Government by the deadline date of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

This meeting is a final opportunity for Board Members to make any further changes or improvements to the Draft SSRP. Following adoption, arrangements will be made for the document to be professionally designed and printed, including the development of an easy to read one page summary of the key priorities and action strategies.

In essence, the key strategic Priority Pillars identified in the SSRP are as follows:-

1. Improve our Water Security
2. Improve our Energy Security
3. Improve Transport Connectivity
4. Improve Digital Connectivity
5. Better match Health Services to our changing needs
6. Boost our Industry/Workforce/Jobs

These priorities are underpinned by a Priority Foundation : Strengthen our Capacity to Act. The focus of RAMJO will be to explore opportunities to strengthen the capacity of Member Councils to act individually and collectively for the benefit of the region. This will be driven by the Executive Officer.

For each of the 6 Priority Pillars, the SSRP proposes the up-front establishment of a sub-committee to lead collaboration and the development of strategies and action plans. I suggest that each of the six sub-committees comprise at least 2 Mayors and 2 General Managers, with the power to co-opt as required from time to time the professional /technical resources that may be available within the Member Councils, and / or to source any specialist external expertise as necessary to achieve maximum outcomes.

This report recommends that Board Members (both Mayors and General Managers) be asked to nominate themselves for one or more of the sub-committees, so that they can be established before the end of the year and be in a position to commence their task under the direction of the incoming Executive Officer in early 2019.

In this regard, I would like to complete the following sub-committee membership table at this meeting:-

Priority 1 – Improve our Water Security

Nominated Mayors  
Nominated General Managers  
Other specialist/technical officers and/or external expertise

Priority 2 – Improve our Energy Security

Nominated Mayors  
Nominated General Managers  
Other specialist/technical officers and/or external expertise

Priority 3 – Improve our Transport Connectivity

Nominated Mayors  
Nominated General Managers  
Other specialist/technical officers and/or external expertise

Priority 4 – Improve Digital Connectivity

Nominated Mayors  
Nominated General Managers  
Other specialist/technical officers and/or external expertise

Priority 5 – Better match Health Services to our changing needs

Nominated Mayors  
Nominated General Managers  
Other specialist/technical officers and/or external expertise

Priority 6 – Boost our Industry/Workforce/Jobs

Nominated Mayors  
Nominated General Managers  
Other specialist/technical officers and/or external expertise

The RAMJO task ahead to implement the SSRP is critically important, particularly in the context of attracting funding from the NSW Government, both through the various Regional Growth Fund Programs (\$1.3 billion) and the recently announced \$ 4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.

The Deputy Premier the Hon John Barilaro MP issued on 25<sup>th</sup> October the following Media Release in relation to the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund:-

***John Barilaro Deputy Premier Minister for Regional NSW Minister for Skills Minister for Small Business***

***MEDIA RELEASE  
Thursday, 25 October 2018***

***-\$4.2 BILLION SNOWY HYDRO LEGACY FUND POWERING REGIONAL NSW***

*Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro today announced five priority areas the NSW Government will fund under the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.*

*The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government has committed every cent of the proceeds under the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund to be spent in regional NSW, backing transformational projects to build on the rapid growth and opportunities in the regions.*

*Mr Barilaro said water security, rail and road passenger connectivity, freight linkages, digital connectivity and special activation precincts are the key priorities for investment.*

*“The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is delivering a once-in-a-lifetime fund to build the infrastructure that will carry our state into the future and fulfill the bold legacy left by the Snowy Hydro Scheme,” Mr Barilaro said.*

*“These are big picture projects that generations before us have dreamed of and generations that follow us will benefit from.*

*“Dams and pipelines are a key priority and work is already underway on water security projects to enable NSW to better manage our most precious resource and the Minister for Regional Water Niall Blair is already developing regional water strategies across priority valleys to determine the best solution for each catchment area.*

*“Creating special activation precincts to attract and grow businesses in regional NSW will underpin economic growth in regional NSW. Work is underway to build an inland port at Parkes as a special activation precinct to leverage the investment in the inland rail.*

*“On top of this, we are investigating an international air freight hub which would allow producers to deliver meat, dairy, fruit, nuts and seafood around Australia and the world, as quickly as possible, which means significant competitive advantages for regional NSW exporters. This will open up opportunities for regional NSW to access higher value markets, which are critical during the current drought.*

*“Our Government will have more to say about these projects and other investment priorities in the coming months, all of which will be guided by the NSW Government’s 20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW, announced earlier this year in Bathurst with the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian.*

*The five priority areas:*

☐ **WATER SECURITY IN PRIORITY CATCHMENTS:** *Drought conditions across NSW highlight the importance of investing in water infrastructure at a regional and catchment level to increase community and industry resilience.*

☐ **INVESTING IN DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY:** *The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government will aim to make NSW mobile black spot free.*

☐ **IMPROVE PASSENGER ROAD AND RAIL:** *Making regional travel faster, safer and easier between regional and metropolitan centres.*

☐ **FREIGHT LINKAGES:** *Improving regional freight networks to global gateways to increase exports, including the investigation of international air freight.*

☐ **ESTABLISH SPECIAL ACTIVATION BUSINESS PRECINCTS:** *For investors this means access to unencumbered employment lands, streamlined planning approvals, investment in enabling infrastructure, and targeted financial incentives.*

*“Most importantly, the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund epitomises our message to the communities of regional NSW - ‘this is your time’. This fund will ensure regional NSW continues to receive the investment it needs to ensure our regions are a great place to live, raise a family, study, start a business or visit.*

*“This fund is also for our young people - building the business foundations that will provide a secure future for those who will be working and living in our regional towns for generations to come,” Mr Barilaro said.*

*The NSW Government’s \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund investment in regional NSW infrastructure builds on the \$1.6 billion Regional Growth Fund, which is already providing lifestyle, livability, business, investment and economic improvements.*

**MEDIA: James Jooste 0429 978 036 | Georgina Kentwell 0427 206 308**

One significant issue that arose during the preparation of the SSRP is that the population forecast projections undertaken by the Department of Planning through to 2036 do not appear to reflect the actual potential growth in development and economic activity taking place across the RAMJO region, and hence the Department's forward projections are considered to be somewhat unreliable.

Currently Albury City, Griffith City and Berrigan Shire use the excellent services of Forecat.id to undertake this work. Therefore, for the purposes of strategic planning into the future RAMJO has engaged population experts ID Consulting Pty Ltd to undertake demographic studies and population projections for the remaining eight RAMJO Councils commencing in early 2019. This engagement will be funded at a cost of \$16,700 from the Joint Organisation's Establishment Grant and will be reviewed annually.

### **Recommendations**

- 1. That subject to any final changes agreed by Board Members, 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 presented 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 Mayors and General Managers nominate themselves for membership of one or more of the Pillar Priority Sub-committees to progress the development of strategies and action plans;**
- 5. That the Executive Officer facilitate and service the work of each of the sub-committees and be authorised to engage external expertise and 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.**

### **AGENDA ITEM 11 - Provision of Health Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018, Gwydir Shire Council hosted a meeting in Albury to discuss concerns by Councils in relation to attracting and retaining doctors in rural NSW. This is an issue that has been impacting on many of the RAMJO Councils for a long time, as well as in other parts of the State.

The Albury meeting was attended by Mayors, Councillors and General Managers from the Riverina and Murray region and other parts of the state. Arising from the meeting the Gwydir Shire Council has written in the following terms. A package of the Meeting Minutes, Media Release, draft petition and other associated documentation referred to in the letter has been provided to facilitate actions proposed to be taken by Joint Organisations (copy of package attached).

*"Gwydir Shire Council hosted a meeting in Albury for all NSW councils prior to the recent LGNSW Conference to discuss concerns around in particular attracting and retaining doctors in rural NSW. There is a new Stronger Rural Health Strategy about to be introduced and this produces real fears that the situation will get worse.*

*While the meeting was well attended, there was a further 23 councils who expressed their support and interest but submitted apologies due to travelling arrangements. All relevant NSW and Federal Ministers and Shadow Ministers were invited to the meeting however none of them were able to attend.*

*The minutes of the meeting are attached.*

*The main outcomes of the meeting were for concerned councils to form a Health Alliance in their LGA similar to Gwydir Health Alliance, with each LGA Alliance then to join a NSW Alliance. Gwydir Health Alliance's Charter is attached for your information.*

*The meeting felt there was a real urgency to lobby state and federal governments for better health policies and funding that supports more equitable provision of health services in regional areas of NSW. It was agreed that concerned councils would seek signatures on a petition and representatives of concerned councils would seek a meeting with relevant Ministers in Canberra at the end of November, prior to Parliament rising.*

*Accordingly a draft Petition is attached for all concerned councils to seek signatures - the paper petition must contain a name, address and signature to be valid for use in the House. We are still waiting on approval of an e-petition from NSW Parliament and a link will be distributed once this has been received.*

*In order to receive a Ministerial Response, a Petition must have a minimum of 500 signatures and to facilitate a discussion in Parliament a petition must have a minimum of 10,000 or more signatures.*

*The paper petition MUST contain the name, address and original signature of each petitioner.*

*Another outcome was for interested councils, organisations and citizens to send letters to Ministers and Shadow Ministers expressing concern and seeking funding to attract and keep medical practitioners in rural areas. A draft letter is attached for your convenience.*

*This matter has been given media coverage last week via ABCradio. A media release is attached for concerned councils to distribute in their local media.*

*Also attached is the flyer distributed by the Department of Health with the details of the proposed Stronger Rural Health Strategy.*

*Gwydir Council was tasked with coordinating a Policy Platform to seek endorsement from other interested councils to take to Ministers in Canberra prior to Parliament rising at the end of November. This will be sent once developed.*

*Yours faithfully*



*Max Eastcott  
General Manager*

### **Recommendations**

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.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECRUITMENT PROCESS**

The following report has been submitted by Albury City Council, which is co-ordinating the Executive Officer recruitment process:-

*“At its meeting on 5 September 2018, the RAMJO Board resolved:*

***that a small Working Panel be formed to progress the EO recruitment function internally, comprising the Chairperson Cr Mack, Deputy Chairperson Cr Dal Broi, General Managers Frank Zaknich and Rowan Perkins and one other external independent female panel member***

*By way of an update, the Working Panel held a teleconference on 12 October to discuss the recruitment process, including associated timeframes. In this regard, the EO role was advertised on 26 October 2018 with applications closing on 16 November. Interviews are planned for the week of 3 December with a view to making an appointment prior to the end of 2018.*

*In the interests of continuing to progress the recruitment in a timely manner, and noting that the next Board meeting is not until 13 February, it is suggested that the Chair and Deputy Chair be provided with delegation from the Board to make an appointment and negotiate following the recommendation of a preferred candidate by the Working Panel.*

#### **Recommendation**

**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 .**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13 – Murray Region Tourism Board Report**

The following correspondence has been received from Wendy Greiner Chair of Murray Region Tourism Board:-

*“Dear RAMJO members,*

*On behalf of the board and team of MRT I would like to place on record our sincere appreciation for the outstanding contribution from Tracey Squire as the RAMROC representative on our board for more than eight years.*

*She has been a passionate supporter of our important and unique tourism cross border partnership and given a tremendous amount of time and commitment to this role. Tracey has been instrumental in the setting up of MRT and ensuring that we now have such strong foundations for our ongoing success. Her knowledge, commitment and strong strategic ability to grasp key issues has enabled us to succeed and grow the visitor economy along the river in conjunction with our LGAs and two state government agencies.*

Tracey will be sadly missed but we know she will continue to support our endeavours. We are also very pleased that Adam McSwain has agreed to take on the important role of RAMJO representative and I know he will add value to our team.

I also want to acknowledge your role as the Executive Officer for RAMROC and thank you most sincerely for all your support and effort. You too have been a real advocate of our cross-border partnership and this has enabled us to progress many key initiatives including importantly the continuation of our funding arrangement with the NSW government. Nothing has been too much, and you have always taken on matters with real professionalism and enthusiasm.

Thank you sincerely for your time, commitment and passion. We will all miss you greatly and I hope that you keep in touch.

All the very best for the future.”

Ms Greiner has also forwarded the following MRT update for October 2018. MRT will continue to provide regular updates for the information of the RAMJO Board

### **Key strategic initiatives**

#### **☒ NSW Government Funding**

*Our funding with NSW expires in June 2019 and meeting with Tourism Minister Adam Marshall to be set up next month to discuss long term funding for four years.*

*An amount of \$300,000 per annum has been requested to enable us to effectively work through our Destination Management Plan (DMP), better match Victorian funding of \$340,000 per annum and to meet the expectations of our local government partners.*

*Discussions have taken place with Destination Riverina Murray (DRM) who have supported in principle \$100,000 per annum.*

#### **☒ Murray Farm to Plate Strategy**

*A number of producers displayed their products for AGM attendees on 17 October and their contributions formed the very successful lunch at Morrisons Winery.*

*Board considered a number of documents and all to be completed by end of November including a MRT agritourism strategy document for the future.*

#### **☒ MRT Public Relations Strategy**

*Next 12-month program approved, and funding committed.*

#### **☒ Other strategic projects**

**Visitor Services project** -progressing well and will be completed in May 2019

**Murray River Road (MRR)**-a commercial and business strategy has been completed and the draft marketing plan which now requires consultation with our LGAs before finalising with the board in November.

*Commencement of this project to be determined at November board meeting with the critical need to seek some external funding to enable progression of this key project.*

**AGENDA ITEM 14 - Destination Riverina Murray – THRIVE Representative for reporting to RAMJO**

Leeton Shire Council has raised the importance of THRIVE (formerly Riverina Tourism) having a nominated person to report regularly to the RAMJO Board on its ongoing tourism activities.

In this regard, Leeton Shire has suggested that its Manager for Tourism and Board Member of THRIVE Mr Brent Lawrence be approved as the contact person to report to RAMJO on a regular basis in relation to the ongoing activities of THRIVE.

**Recommendation**

**That Brent Lawrence Manager Communications and Marketing 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 region**

**AGENDA ITEM 15 - Drought Assistance Program – Supporting Severely Drought Affected Communities**

A number of RAMJO Councils are considering the question of making a contribution to the current Drought Assistance Program.

It has been suggested that whilst the decision on making a contribution be left with the individual member Councils, that it would be appropriate for the Council contributions to be channelled through RAMJO, so as to provide a unified and regional perspective to the drought assistance program.

At this stage, I understand that the following contributions have been approved by Member Councils:-

- Albury City Council                      \$ 25,000
- Griffith City Council                      \$ 20,000
- Murray River Council                      \$ 20,000

Donations can be made through a number of charitable groups. I suggest that the NSW Farmers Drought Relief Fund would be an appropriate avenue.

**Recommendation**

**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.**

**AGENDA ITEM 16 – NSW Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) – Local Government Share of Revenue Generated by Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)**

As previously reported to the RAMROC and RAMJO Boards, MRA Consulting Pty Ltd (commonly known as Mike Ritchie & Associates) was commissioned some months ago to undertake a study of the provisions of the NSW Container Deposit Scheme, vis-à-vis the arrangements for Councils to receive a share of the revenue paid by the Scheme Coordinator to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for the processing of eligible containers collected under kerbside recycling contracts.

Eight of the 11 Councils in the RAMJO region have kerbside recycling contracts. These are Albury, Federation, Berrigan, Murray River, Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera and Murrumbidgee.

Unfortunately under the NSW legislation, Berrigan and Murray River Councils are not able to receive a share of the CDS revenue, because the containers are processed by MRFs in Victoria, which does not have a CDS Scheme in place.



The remaining six Councils are entitled to receive a share of the revenue commencing on 1st December 2017, provided that formal agreements with MRFs are in place by 1st December 2018, so there is urgency in finalising these negotiations during November.

The Final Report from MRA Consulting Pty Ltd demonstrates that the amounts of money involved for the Councils are very substantial. The next step is for the detailed negotiations to take place with the MRFs. There are two MRFs involved, these being Cleanaway at Albury (processing CDS containers for Albury, Federation Councils and Greater Hume Councils) and Kurrajong Recyclers at Wagga (processing containers for Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera and Murrumbidgee Councils).

Leeton Council had already separately contracted with MRA to facilitate its negotiations with Kurrajong Recyclers.

Arrangements have therefore been made for initial negotiation meetings between the Councils and the MRFs, to be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November in Albury with Cleanaway representatives, and separately in Wagga with Kurrajong Recyclers. Mike Ritchie and Emma Yuen from MRA Consulting will be assisting Councils in the negotiation proceedings.

The main advantages of commissioning MRA to assist in a combined Council process are firstly that it is more cost efficient for each of the Councils involved, and secondly it will help to achieve uniformity in the negotiated sharing arrangements across the RAMJO region.

I will provide a verbal update at the Board meeting on the status of the 9<sup>th</sup> November negotiations with the MRFs.

#### **Recommendation**

**For information and for a further verbal report to the Board meeting.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 17 - Murray Darling Basin Plan Implementation**

For information of Board Members, the following matters relate to issues surrounding the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan:-

a. Availability of environmental water during severe drought conditions for food and fodder production

Over recent months Chair Cr Mack and I have made a number of representations at Federal and State level in relation to the possibility of environmental water (either CEWH or OEH entitlements) being made available to approved irrigation landholders to assist in the finishing of their crops and/or to produce additional food and fodder for communities in the most severe drought stricken parts of the state.

Our endeavours have not been successful, principally because making environmental water available to some landholders outside of the normal water market trading would be difficult to administer and would interfere with the water market. A letter in relation to these issues was received from the NSW Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Water the Hon Niall Blair MLC through the Member for Murray Austin Evans MP (copy separately attached)

b. Productivity Commission Draft Report – Murray Darling Basin Plan: Five-year Assessment

In August 2018 the Australian Productivity Commission produced a draft report into its 5 year assessment of the Basin Plan and invited submissions thereon. A copy of the RAMJO submission in response to the Terms of Reference is separately attached.

A number of public hearings have been held and the final report by the Commission to the Australian Government is scheduled to be presented by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

c. Basin Plan - Infrastructure Efficiency Measures 450GL – Socio-economic neutrality criteria

In June 2018, the Murray Darling Ministerial Council agreed to develop additional program criteria so as to ensure neutral or beneficial socio-economic outcomes for on-farm infrastructure works proposed for the delivery of the additional 450GL "upwater" component of the Basin Plan (which increased the Plan's overall recovery target from 2,750 GL to 3,200GL).

Subsequently there have been a number of community consultation sessions regarding the neutrality criteria which has been developed. However, some councils and communities have been very dissatisfied with the inadequacy of the consultation processes, particularly in the Murray region.

The Murray Regional Strategy Group (a community driven group comprising councils, indigenous representatives, agricultural industries and other stakeholder organisations in the Central Murray area), has carried out extensive work in relation to this matter and recently met with the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources the Hon David Littleproud MP. As a result of those representations, the Minister has ordered his departmental officers to carry out further engagement, particularly with local government councils in areas that would be directly affected by any further water recovery.

The Minister has also extended the final date for feedback to 23<sup>rd</sup> November and a special consultation session with councils has been scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> November in Echuca, with invitations being extended to Mayors and GMs/CEOs.

The Basin Plan Ministerial Council will then be considering the socio-economic neutrality criteria matter at its December 2018 meeting. The Regional Strategy Group's key messages to the Ministerial Council are as follows:-

- The NSW Murray Valley is at tipping point, General Security Entitlement Holders have had their water access and reliability eroded due to a culmination of reasons;
- NSW Murray does not support further recovery of water entitlements under the 450 GL "upwater" program. The Government needs to focus on options relating to the 2,750 GL recovery.
- NSW Murray cannot withstand further negative impacts through Government water policies
- NSW Murray supports in principle the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM). However, the projects must be flexible, adaptive, and with capacity for new projects to be added;
- NSW Murray proposes an extension to the Water Resource Plan timeframe (currently 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019), to accommodate the disproportionate scale of NSW requirements in relation to the preparation of these critical plans

### Recommendations

- 1. That the report 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 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.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 18 - RAMJO Financial Statements as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Murray River Council is currently finalising the RAMJO Quarterly Financial Statements as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, which will be distributed as soon as possible prior to the Board meeting, or alternatively tabled at the meeting for consideration.

Being the first quarter statement for the financial year, it is most likely that all of the forecast expenditure and income items are on track at this stage.

As reported at the last meeting, the RAMROC surplus of funds of \$ 144,615 as at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 wind-up has now been distributed to the Member Councils, with a request that each of the RAMJO Councils consider making a contribution of those funds back to the RAMJO General Account , in order to provide additional working capital for the new Joint Organisation's ongoing operations.

Some Councils have advised of their commitment to re-contribute and two Councils have given conditional approval subject to there being a majority of Councils being prepared to re-contribute. An indication from other Member Councils at this meeting would be appreciated.

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That the quarterly RAMJO Financial Statement as tabled at the meeting be received and noted.**
- 2. That Member Councils advise of their position in relation to the re-contribution of the surplus RAMROC funds back to the new Joint Organisation.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 19 - RAMJO Working Group Minutes**

### **Item 19.1 – Engineers Group Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

**MINUTES OF RAMROC ENGINEERS GROUP MEETING HELD IN BERRIGAN SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - BERRIGAN ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018 AT 10.00AM.**

**PRESENT Chairperson David Tamlyn (Griffith City), Brad Ferris (Albury City Council), Shane Millett (Albury City), Andre Pretorius (Balranald Shire), Gary George (Berrigan Shire), Alan Kay (Berrigan Shire), Matthew Clark (Berrigan Shire), Samson Wang (Carrathool Shire), Mick Williams (Edward River), Peter Gall (Federation), Phil King (Griffith City), Jeet Dahal (Hay Shire), Jack Bond (Murray River), Krishna Shrestha (Narrandera Shire), Bruce McBeam (Narrandera Shire)**

**Welcome to following Guest Speakers**

- Graham Begg (Manager Water Information Solutions – Water NSW)**
- Alison Burgess (Senior Mine Safety Officer – Planning and Environment NSW)**
- Brian Jackson (Director-Consulting & Tech Advisory Services, Asset & Project Services. PEAK SERVICES)**
- Ray Paruchuri (GM Universal Technology Services P/L) presentation made by Jim French (Teletrac Navman)**

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES / Received:**

Ray Stubbs	- RAMJO Executive Officer
Fred Exton	- Berrigan Shire
Paul Farrell & Victoria Treacy	- Carrathool Shire

Oliver McNulty  
Manjit Chugha

- Edward River  
- Griffith City

## **ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE RAMROC MEETING HELD ON 9 February 2018.**

Resolved that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 February 2018 be adopted. Moved by Phil King, seconded by Matthew Clarke.

## **ITEM 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES / Nil**

## **ITEM 4 MEETING BUSINESS**

### **1. Graham Begg (Manager Water Information Solutions – Water NSW)**

Graham spoke about the work of Water NSW and their operating licence in conjunction with NSW Health and the water quality monitoring for water supply to towns. Water NSW consults regularly with each town's water utilities staff. Also currently monitoring Greater Sydney region, rural operations via scada and taking observations of wetlands and algae levels. Monitoring the Hydrometric status of the state. There has been an improvement in spatial tools available to Water NSW which includes every water utility offtake. There has been a recent survey undertaking and Graham discussed that the answers to question 5, what risk is most concerned about? The answers of turbidity and algae prompted some discussion.

There was also discussion about the MDBA predictions that were once provided. Graham discussed that there were a couple of issues around the use of the data request form, strong interest in activation notification and also that some site do not have hydrometric status. It was also discussed that there should some pathway for incidents being managed through Emergency Management Plans for example sewer contamination entering a river system.

### **2. Alison Burgess (Manager Water Information Solutions – Water NSW)**

Alison's presentation was entitled "Building a Better Safety Management System" (*This presentation was circulated to the email list on 29 August*)

The presentation highlighted that Safety Management Systems (SMS), Principal Hazard Management Plans (PHMP) & Principal Control Plans (PCP's) were required to be in place by 1 Feb 2017. Alison informed the meeting that the Department Planning and Environment have a current focus on personnel dust exposure and provided a case study and also showed examples of contractor machinery and operations that should not have been allowed into the mine site.

Some key points and questions raised identified that a borrow pit in a road reserve is covered in the Mining legislation and is required to be covered by Council's Corporate health and safety plan. Any incident of injury that occurs in a mine or quarry site must be reported to 1300 814 609 not work cover (Safe work NSW).

Alison also presented on the recent High Visibility Inspection Operation conducted in May 2018. 80 Inspectors visited 109 sites and generally found good compliance, although it was the small sites where the most issues were. Plant and equipment seemed to be the most neglected part of the site. Alison also provided some incident reporting statistics and discussed the need to be aware of "falling from height" which often included workers falling off an item of plant that has not got the appropriate safety railings.

During the meeting a number of Councils disclosed that they do not have current Quarry Managers appointed at their pits. Alison urged Councils to review their Pits to ensure a Quarry Manager is appointed under the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation clause 137.

The Mine Operator (Council) must appoint a Quarry Manager to supervise the mining operations of the site. The Quarry Manager must hold a suitable qualification to supervise the site, known as a Quarry Managers Practising Certificate – with conditions (site specific). This qualification is applied for via the attached application. This process is likely to take approximately one month and involves an interview with an Inspector on site so that he/she can assess the nominee's competence to supervise the operations.

Also a number of Councils have merged and have not notified the Department of the changes to the Mine Operator. If Council would like to check the DPE records on the pits that have been listed, email [cau@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cau@planning.nsw.gov.au) to clarify.

### **3. Brian Jackson (Peak Services)**

Brian introduced Peak services to the meeting – owned by Local Government Association of Queensland and their aim is to be the go to company for all Local Government's needs. Brian listed the services that Peak offer; Digitizing service, training services (to diploma level), workforce and recruitment services, Peak legal services, Energy and technology service, asset and project service (including disaster recovery), Asset management (includes framework, policy, improvement plan and strategies).

Brian went on to detail the Asset Management plan including levels of service, risk management and the use of the IIMM manual and the IPWEA knowledge bank.

### **4. Jim French (Teletrac Navman)**

Jim outlined the services offered by Teletrac Navman fleet management, and pointed out the various ability to record and track data that would otherwise go unseen. He discussed the ability to utilise vehicle tracking to identify fleet issues such as unusually high fuel burn, maintenance issues, driver behaviour (speeding, panic button, acceleration/deceleration).

Jim explained that fleet monitoring service is more than just looking at data, and that it can be used to coach drivers. One notable trend that Teletrac has noticed is that much of bad driver behaviour occurs after hours.

Teletrac Navman also have an electronic logbook product. This is supported by two NHVR accredited staff on site to provide fatigue and COR advice to heavy vehicle operators.

Other benefits of the system is asset location, which can be real time and also during extreme weather events. Maintenance scheduling, and monitoring i.e. tracking engine hours.

One significant benefit that Jim thought would be interesting to Councils was the ability to improve data for Fuel Tax credits. This allows "off road travel" i.e. worksites, to be measured using GPS fences and Jim was able to provide an example of a firm with 39 Heavy vehicles in their fleet and 25 lights being able to claim \$220,000 from their Fuel tax credits. Teletrac Navman have a free trial offer for Councils with no obligation.

## **5. Agenda Items**

Repair grant was received 7 August 2018.

Irrigations Crossings to be discussed at a later meeting

RMCC has been extended for a further 12 months

Griffith has completed their CSMP and awaiting review, other councils have had similar issues with not receiving timely reviews.

## **6. Brad Ferris - Southern Lights Presentation**

Southern lights is a joint, Local Government driven project that is working to change the way that street lighting is delivered across Southern NSW. Southern Lights aims to replace over 75,000 street lights with state-of-the-art LED lighting and smart controls technology across 42 Local Government Areas covering almost all of southern NSW.

The aim of the project is to see improved service levels, create a backbone for smart city developments and ultimately there will be reduced electricity use and improved lighting.

There are two models being considered NEMA & Zhaga. There are also three different platforms, Low, Medium and High. There are also potentials for private sector collaboration and Philips / Telstra has already teamed up to produce a smart city style product called city touch.

The NSW public lighting code is being reviewed, and there are existing arrangements to be considered, such as the previously agreed Tariff 2 lights replacement agreement. Also, the tender spec has been written.

Business Cases are currently in development and ought to be prepared in August. Bathurst City Council are going to be the pilot Council. Some decisions are expected to be made in October and it is possible that LED's will be available by Feb/Mar next year.

## **7. General Business**

Hunter H2O will be a possible attendee at the next meeting. Luke McGregor has also been in touch to discuss B-Double routes.

Melinda Hillary, who attended the May meeting is hoping to attract some pilot councils for the Climate Change project and requires 10 years of Data. Griffith, Leeton, Berrigan, Hay, Carrathool showed interest in being pilot Council's.

Jack Bond raised issue of Engineering Guidelines and spoke of the Victorian model, and he keen to see what other Councils have and would like to pull a document together of Engineering Guidelines.

Krishna discussed the issue of Bridge assessments and that a T44 standard assessment costs \$25,000 per bridge. When physical testing was undertaken, this revealed 3mm deflection. There was some discussion of Pier sonar testing as well.

Steve raised the issue of MDBA running river operations and various impacts this has on water supply.

Also a general reminder that the Regional Transport Plan is currently open for review and that every council ought to prepare their update to ensure that every twelve months updates are provided.

Meeting closed 2:00pm- next Meeting Wed 7 November 2018 Griffith City Council

**Item 19.2 - Development Services Group Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

<p>RAMJO RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS GROUP</p> <p>MINUTES</p> <p>Meeting held Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018</p> <p>Murrumbidgee Shire – Jerilderie, Monash Room @ 10.00 am</p>		
1	<p><b>Present</b></p> <p>David Christy – Team Leader Town Planning – Albury City - Chair Bridey Hugo – Development &amp; Environment Officer – Narrandera Shire – Note taker Helen Ryan – Manager Development &amp; Environment – Narrandera Shire Sarah Nash – Planning Trainee – Leeton Shire Matthew Carlin – Building &amp; Regulatory Services Manager – Carrathool Jason Nicholson – Building Surveyor A3 – Planning &amp; Project Officer - Carrathool Liz Schindler – Town Planner – Berrigan Shire Megan Leahy – Trainee Town Planner – Federation Shire Susan Appleyard - Director Environmental Services – Murrumbidgee Shire</p>	
2	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Julie Rogers – Manager Environmental Services – Edward River Shavaun Tasker – Town Planning Officer – Edward River Michael Keys – Albury City Kate Lanarch – Federation Council Laurie Stevens – Berrigan Shire Hayden Murdoch – Department of Planning Lillian Parker – Department Primary Industries</p>	
3	<p><b>Confirmation of Minutes</b></p> <p>Minutes of the RAMROC Planners Group Meeting held 14 June 2018</p> <p>Moved:               <b>Dave Christy</b>               Seconded:               <b>Helen Ryan</b></p>	
4	<p><b>Matters arising from minutes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RAMROC wrote to BPB in June regarding the issues councils are having meeting the latest reporting requirements. No formal response received, other than acknowledgement that the submission had been received. Albury are relying on an update from Civica to meet the requirements. Smaller Councils are relying on the CertAbility app or their own manually created databases.</li> <li>2. Narrandera Shire Council has formally joined the RAMJO group of councils.</li> <li>3. Group name change – in addition to changing from RAMROC to RAMJO, Dave Christy thought it appropriate to change the group’s name so it is</li> </ol>	

	<p>more inclusive of members who are not planners but still have a lot to contribute to meetings. It was moved that the group's name change from RAMJO Planners Group to RAMJO Development Professionals Group. All members were in favour of this move.</p> <p>Moved: <b>Dave Christy</b>      Seconded: <b>Sarah Nash</b></p>	
5	<p><b>Items</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Plans of Management for Crown Land</b>  With the management changes for Crown Lands, councils are required to categorise Crown Land usage and develop Plans of Management. Liz wishes to know if this is a project that RAMJO could manage as a joint contract. Councils may be able to create some generic PoM's that can be tailored to suit individual Councils. Marcus also foresees an opportunity for councils to take advantage of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme.  <u><b>ACTION</b></u> Members to discuss this with their individual council officers managing Crown Lands.  <u><b>ACTION</b></u> Marcus – follow up with OEH and send out information to Councils regarding Crown Land and the Biodiversity Offset Scheme.</li>   <li>2. <b>Availability of Building Surveyors</b>  Julie Rogers raised the issue of the building surveyor shortage in our area and the possibility of a regional trainee program. Dave detailed Albury City's comprehensive trainee program, which has been very successful.  <u><b>ACTION</b></u> Members to discuss the potential of developing a trainee program, mentoring program, resource sharing and the logistics of making this possible.</li>   <li>3. <b>10.7 Certificates (149's)</b>  Narrandera Council creates planning certificates manually and generates one certificate for each lot. While this captures the most accurate information for each lot, it is sometimes onerous when a property can have up to 100 lots. The meeting confirmed that a charge for each lot is applicable. Some councils produce one certificate with the varying lots tabled and charge per lot. A reminder to check the schedules periodically, for example every two months, to pick up changes.  <u><b>ACTION</b></u> Could members provide Bridey with a sample of their planning certificates. At the next meeting we can compare and look at standardising our processes.</li>   <li>4. <b>Air Babb/Short Term Holiday Letting</b>  With approvals being required dependent on the days of use, most are claiming to fall under the threshold. Albury has received 12 DA's to date for those wanting approval to use 365 days per year.</li>   <li>5. <b>Inland housing code</b>  No update and no detail as yet. Expected gazettal September or October 2018.</li> </ol>	



	<p><b>6. Regional roundtable</b> Dave has provided feedback about councils requiring more lead time for changes brought in by the Department. Improved communication and a better understanding of the implications of implementation would be helpful, e.g.: BPB changes that require software changes.</p> <p><b>7. Group name change</b> As per Matters Arising 4.3</p> <p><b>8. Riverina Murray Regional Planners Group – possible October Seminar</b> SAVE THE DATE 18 October 2018, proposed 12:30-4:00pm. Key note speaker DPE Chief Planner. Look out for further information.</p> <p><b>9. DoP update</b> No update – if DoP are unable to send a representative, we can ask for a written update to present to meetings.</p> <p><b>10. Biodiversity Conservation Act changes – Short Presentation – Marcus Wright</b> Councils have received the following:  a. Threatened Species Test of Significance Guidelines  b. RAMA amendment summary table August 31 2018  c. Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas SEPP Amendment 2018  d. Guidance on preparing conditions of consent from the BDAR  There is still a lot of discussion regarding the implementation of the Biodiversity Act. The upcoming Intensive Agriculture Workshop to be held Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 will be addressing Biodiversity Reforms and their Impact on Intensive Agriculture Developments (brochure attached) .  <b>ACTION</b> Could Council officers preparing Plans of Management for Crown Lands provide Marcus with feedback that could be relevant to the Biodiversity Conservation Act - <a href="mailto:mwright@reroc.com.au">mwright@reroc.com.au</a></p>	
	<p><b>General Business</b> Solar Farms – Councils are trying to negotiate VPA’s with developers in lieu of section 94 contributions that have been deemed not applicable to solar farms.</p>	
6	<p><b>Confirmation of next meeting</b> Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Jerilderie</p>	
7	<p><b>Lunch</b> 12.00 noon @ Colony Inn</p>	

## **Item 19.3 – General Managers Group Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> October 018**

### **MINUTES OF THE RAMJO GENERAL MANAGERS GROUP MEETING HELD IN THE MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT JERILDERIE ON FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**PRESENT:** Frank Zaknich (Albury City), Adam McSwain (Edward River), John Scarce (Murrumbidgee), Des Bilske (Murray River), Brett Stonestreet (Griffith City), George Cowan (Narrandera), Jackie Kruger (Leeton), Amanda Spalding (Hay), Rowan Perkins (Berrigan) and Interim Executive Officer Ray Stubbs (Meeting Chair)

**GUESTS:** Andrew Meurant – Solar Professionals (Wagga Wagga)  
Alan Davies – Connect U Regional Skills and Workforce Program  
Deanne Drage – Consultant RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

A warm welcome was extended to the recently appointed General Manager at Murrumbidgee Council John Scarce.

Apologies were received from Adrian Butler (Federation), Robert Rayner (Acting GM Carrathool) and James Bolton – Regional Director Riverina Murray DP&C.

**RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE RAMJO GENERAL MANAGERS GROUP MEETING – 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 be confirmed**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018 MEETING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> July Meeting

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4 - PRESENTATION BY ANDREW MEURANT - SOLAR PROFESSIONALS WAGGA**

Andrew advised that Solar Professionals is a member of the NSW Government Energy Solutions Panel and also the Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Panel, which comprises NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and Local Government Procurement.

Andrew is already working with some RAMJO Councils on the potential for solar energy PPAs on various Council owned facilities in the region and he invited other Member Councils to discuss opportunities at any time. He presented a Solar Professionals brochure to the GMs for information.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION BY ALAN DAVIES OF COMNNECT U - REGIONAL SKILLS AND WORKFORCE PROGRAM**

Following an earlier meeting with the General Managers Group in November 2017, Alan delivered a powerpoint presentation (copy distributed with the Minutes) to update Councils on further developments with the Connect U program and also in relation to a new Test and Learn program aimed at enabling disadvantaged mature and young people to re-enter the workforce. He also advised of opportunities available for RAMJO Councils under the Commonwealth Government's Better Regions Fund.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 – RAMJO STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

The meeting discussed refinements to RAMJO's Draft Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP), prior to presentation of a final draft to the next Board Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Particular attention was paid to the question of reliability of Department of Planning population projections. The Executive Officer advised that a cost estimate has been received from Forecast.id to extend coverage of its population statistics and projections across all of the RAMJO Councils.

The meeting also discussed options for final wording of the SSRP Vision statement and agreed on a timetable for preparation of the final draft to be submitted to the Board for final endorsement.

**RESOLVED that the Executive Officer be authorised to accept a quotation from Forecast.id to provide a regional profile of population data and projections across all RAMJO Councils and funded via the Establishment Funds provision in the 2018-2019 Budget; and that Forecast.id to undertake a review of the RAMJO region's Councils as soon as possible.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that the Vision Statement for the SSRP, to be proposed to the Board Meeting be as follows:-**

*“A thriving region abundant in sustainable communities”*

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 - NSW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME – LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF REVENUE GENERATED BY MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRFs) – FINAL REPORT FROM MRA CONSULTING**

Consideration was given to a report from the Interim Executive Officer in relation to a final report received from MRA Consulting to assist a number of Councils that have kerbside recycling contracts, in their negotiation with MRFs for a share of the revenue generated through the processing of eligible CDS containers. The IEO advised that he intends to accept the MRA proposal on the basis that the participating Councils (Albury, Federation, Greater Hume, Griffith, Narrandera and Murrumbidgee) will share the MRA upper limit cost of \$20,000 plus associated travel and accommodation expenses, on a proportional basis geared to the CDE annual revenue sharing generated for each of the Councils.

**RESOLVED that the action being taken by the Interim Executive Office be endorsed.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 8 – PROCUREMENT AUSTRALIA CONTRACTS FOR COUNCIL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

The Interim Executive Officer reported that RAMJO has now entered into an initial one year trial Memorandum of Understanding with Procurement Australia commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, with an option to extend that term for a further one year and potentially to then enter into a longer term MOU arrangement.

**RESOLVED that the IEO's report be received and noted and that the action taken be endorsed**

## **AGENDA ITEM 9 – RISK MANAGEMENT AND LIABILITY INSURANCES – PROCUREMENT AUSTRALIA - OPPORTUNITY FOR RAMJO REGIONAL REVIEW**

Consideration was given to a report from the Interim Executive Officer in relation to the acquisition of the JLT Group by global insurance broker company Marsh and McLennan Co (Marsh) and whether this acquisition could result in changes to the existing Statewide Mutual brokerage and management arrangements.

The IEO suggested that the time may now be right for RAMJO Councils to review their existing insurance and risk management /governance arrangements and costs, being members of the current Statewide Mutual /JLT scheme.

**RESOLVED that no action be taken at this stage and the matter be reviewed in 12 months after the Marsh acquisition of JLT is finalised and the performance of the new Statewide Mutual/ Marsh arrangements has been monitored.**

**AGENDA ITEM 10 – SOUTHERN LIGHTS STREET LIGHTING AND SMART CONTROLS – PROJECT UPDATE**

RAMJO's Street Lighting project representative Brad Ferris provided a comprehensive written update of the current status of the Southern Lights Project. He advised that the final Business Case has now been prepared and will be the basis of a formal proposal seeking NSW Government and Essential Energy funding of an estimated project cost of around \$ 61 million.

**RESOLVED that that the report by Brad Ferris be received and that the matter be referred to the November RAMJO Board meeting for further consideration.**

**AGENDA ITEM 11 – 2020 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSION REQUEST TO ADDRESS GENERAL MANAGERS GROUP**

The NSW Electoral Commission's Director of Customer Service and Relationship Management Steve Robb has requested the opportunity to address the General Managers Group in early 2019, in relation to arrangements leading up to the 2020 Local Government Elections.

**RESOLVED that Steve Robb be invited to address the next GMs Group meeting in early 2019.**

**AGENDA ITEM 12 – DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – SUPPORTING SEVERELY DROUGHT AFFECTED FARMERS**

The meeting discussed the various levels of drought assistance being determined by the individual RAMJO Member Councils.

It was agreed that it be left to each Council to make its individual decision in the matter. However, for those Councils that resolve to make a financial donation, it was agreed that these could be directed through RAMJO as providing a regional perspective to the campaign

**AGENDA ITEM 13 – PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES – RURAL AND REMOTE NSW**

Amanda Spalding referred to the motion being submitted by Hay Shire Council to the forthcoming LGNSW Conference and also to the pre-conference meeting of regional and rural councils which has been convened by Gwydir Shire Council and will be held at Albury on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**RESOLVED that the Conference motion and meeting arrangements be noted and supported**

## **AGENDA ITEM 14 – GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **14.1 – Heavy Vehicle National Law – Chain of Responsibility Legislation – Council Impacts**

Jackie Kruger tabled a Chain of Responsibility Overview report prepared by the Leeton Shire WHS Coordinator. The CoR legislation places obligations on parties, including councils, that have an ability to control or influence a transport activity, so as to ensure road safety and prevent breaches of road rules.

**RESOLVED that this matter be referred to the RAMJO Engineers Group for further consideration, including information from LGNSW as to what actions it is taking in the matter.**

### **14.2 - NSW Government – Interim Labour Co-Funding Arrangements**

Consideration was given to NSW Government documentation in relation to the fact that as from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018, the Government is removing restrictions on day labour (including internal plant and equipment hire) for those Councils that opt-in to the interim Day Labour Co-Funding Arrangements. Councils are to advise Office of Emergency Management (OEM) of their position in the matter.

**RESOLVED that the information be noted – for individual Councils to respond**

### **14.3 – RAMJO representative on the Board of THRIVE (formerly Riverina Tourism)**

Jackie Kruger proposed that RAMJO approve of a nomination of Brent Lawrence of Leeton Shire Council to report back to the RAMJO Board on activities relating to the ongoing operations of THRIVE

**RESOLVED that Brent Lawrence of Leeton Shire be approved as the THRIVE contact person to report from time to time to the RAMJO Board**

### **14.4 – Next meeting**

**RESOLVED that the next meeting of the General Managers Group be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019  
There being no further business, the General Managers Group meeting concluded at 1.15 pm**

## **AGENDA ITEM 20 – 12.00 noon - Presentation by TransGrid representatives Mitchell Hume and Andrew Lewis –Electricity transmission Network RAMJO region**

The following notes have been forwarded by Mitchell Hume:-

“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 will share 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.

My colleague Andrew Lewis (cc'd) will also be attending. We are also in the process of trying to get a NSW Government representative to accompany us to outline the Government's position on developing Renewable Energy Zones, and will let you know as soon as possible if they will be joining our presentation.

**AGENDA ITEM 21 – GENERAL BUSINESS MATTERS**

**End of RAMJO Board Meeting Agenda**