



RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION

BOARD MEETING INFORMATION

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

- **9:30AM for 10:00AM START: WEDNESDAY 28th AUGUST 2019**
- **JERILDERIE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE (35 Jerilderie Street, Jerilderie) of MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL**

Note: Board Members are advised that some photographs may be taken during the meeting.

MEMBER COUNCILS

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

BOARD MEMBERS – COUNCIL MAYORS (VOTING BOARD MEMBERS)

Cr Kevin Mack (Albury)	Cr Matthew Hannan (Berrigan)	Cr Peter Laird (Carrathool)	Cr Norm Brennan (Edward River)
Cr Patrick Bourke (Federation)	Cr John Dal Broi (Griffith)	Cr Bill Sheaffe (Hay)	Cr Paul Maytom (Leeton)
Cr Chris Bilkey (Murray River)	Cr Ruth McRae (Murrumbidgee)	Cr Neville Kschenka (Narrandera)	

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

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

NSW STATE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES (NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBER)

James Bolton	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Cameron Templeton	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

EXECUTIVE OFFICER (NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBER)

Bridgett Leopold	Executive Officer RAMJO
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GUESTS

Jillian Kilby	The Infrastructure Collaborative (via video link)
Ken Gillespie	Regional Infrastructure Coordinator (via video link)
Don Murray	John Holland (via video link)

AGENDA

1	Chairpersons Welcome	10:00
2	Apologies	10:00
3	Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons	10:05
4	Minutes of 8 th May 2019 Board Meeting	10:10
5	Matters Arising from Minutes of 8 th May 2019 Board Meeting	10:15
6	Cameron Templeton: DPIE update from OLG	10:25
7	Digital Connectivity: Summary results from the Digital Connectivity Survey	10:30
8	Jillian Kilby: John Holland Rail	10:40
9	Jackie Kruger: Agricultural Development Strategy Riverina and Murray <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional response to Strategy 	11:15
5 MINUTE TEA BREAK		
10	Executive Officer: Budget for 2019 – 2020 & RAMJO Advocacy	11:35
11	Executive Officer: Strategic Priorities – Presentation of Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.1: Water • 9.2: Energy • 9.3: Transport • 9.4: Digital • 9.5: Health • 9.6: Industry 	11:45
12	Executive Officer: Solar Farm RAMJO Paper	12:20
13	Executive Officer: Professional Officer Groups Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Managers Meeting Minutes – 26th July 2019 • Engineers Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Southern Lights Project Progress ○ Regional Freight Transport Plan • Property Working Group • LSPS Working Group • Development Professionals Working Group • Procurement Group • Contaminated Land Steering Committee • Integrated Planners Group • Records Working Group • Governance Group (proposed to be formed) • Economic Development Officers Group (in recess) • Community Services, Development and Planning Group (proposed to be formed) 	12:25
14	RAMJO Waste Update	12:35
15	Future Meeting Protocol	12:45
16	General Business Matters	12:50
17	Meeting Close	13:30

LUNCH

MEETING PAPERS AND AGENDA ITEM SUMMARIES

1. WELCOME

2. APOLOGIES

- Cr. Matthew Hannan – Mayor of Berrigan Shire Council
- Mr Rowan Perkins – General Manager Berrigan Shire Council
- Mr Des Bilske – General Manager Murray River Council
- Mr James Bolton – Regional Director DPIE

3. DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST – BOARD MEMBERS / DESIGNATED PERSONS

4. MINUTES OF 8TH MAY 2019 BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation, held in the Ian Gilbert Room of the Murrumbidgee Council on Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 10:00am.

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

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

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

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

MEETING PRESENTERS

Jillian Kilby	The Infrastructure Collaborative
Cr. Rowena Abbey	CRJO Chair & Yass Valley Council Mayor
Gabrielle Cusack	CRJO Director

GUESTS

Karen Purser	Office of Local Government
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EXECUTIVE OFFICER (NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBER)

Bridgett Leopold

Executive Officer RAMJO

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME

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

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES

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

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

(Moved Cr Laird and seconded Cr Bourke)

AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST

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

AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF 13TH FEBRUARY 2019 BOARD MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held on 13th February 2019 be confirmed.

(Moved Cr Kschenka and seconded Cr Maytom)

AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 13TH FEBRUARY 2019

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

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

RESOLVED that the Board Members note the verbal updates.

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

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

- Machinery of Government changes are in motion after the completion of the NSW election.
- Moving from 10 clusters down to 8 clusters.
 - Stronger Communities Cluster: former family and Community Services cluster are moving into the Department of Justice)
 - Planning, Industry and Environment Cluster: bringing planning and industry together as well as functions of the environment. Department of Premier and Cabinet regional team will also go into this cluster, along with Office for Local Government and the Cross Border Commissioner
 - Customer Service Cluster: digital technology and service NSW
 - Health cluster: remains largely unchanged
 - Premier and cabinet: aboriginal affairs moving to this cluster
 - Transport: RMS will be a function under transport NSW
 - Treasury Cluster: economic development clusters moving into this area
 - Education Cluster: focussed on child, primary, secondary with TAFE moving into this cluster.

- Regional Leadership Executive: agenda on how to work with JOs effectively. How does State Government help deliver those priorities and who will be accountable in supporting the JO in delivering those priorities. Meeting is scheduled for the 30th May 2019 in Sydney for all JO Chairs and their Executive Officers to discuss the future viability and financial status.

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

AGENDA ITEM 7 – CAMERON TEMPLETON OLG COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 8 – JILLIAN KILBY – THE INFRASTRUCTURE COLLABORATIVE

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

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

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

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 9 – CR. ROWENA ABBEY & GABRIELLE CUSACK

CANBERRA REGIONAL JOINT ORGANISATION (CRJO)

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

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

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 10 – BRIDGETT LEOPOLD – SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

IMPROVE WATER SECURITY

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

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

IMPROVE ENERGY SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY

The Energy Sub-Committee was yet to meet.

IMPROVE TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY

The Transport Sub-Committee was yet to meet.

IMPROVE DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

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

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

IMPROVE HEALTH SERVICES

The Transport Sub-Committee was yet to meet.

BOOST INDUSTRY, JOBS AND WORKFORCE

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

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER – RAMJO DRAFT BUDGET

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

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

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

(Moved Cr Bilkey and seconded Cr Bourke)

AGENDA ITEM 12 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER – REPORTING AND MONITORING TOOL

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

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

(Moved Cr McRae and Cr Kschenka)

AGENDA ITEM 13 – PROFESSIONAL OFFICER WORKING GROUP UPDATE

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

- General Managers Working Group
- Property Officer Working Group

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

AGENDA ITEM 14 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSW POLICING NUMBERS

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

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

(Moved Cr Ruth McCrae and seconded Cr Neville Kschenka)

AGENDA ITEM 15 – CORRESPONDENCE

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

AGENDA ITEM 16 – GENERAL BUSINESS

SOLAR FARMS

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

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

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

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

Recommendation:

1. That the RAMJO Board **endorse** the Minutes of 8th May Board meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 8TH MAY 2019 BOARD MEETING

- **Infrastructure Collaborative:** the Executive Officer has completed negotiations with the Infrastructure Collaborative and this matter will be discussed in Agenda Item 10.
- **Budget:** 2018-2019 budget reconciliation and 2019-2020 budget have been endorsed by the Board via an Extraordinary Meeting.
- **Solar Farms:** Meeting between Department of Planning and RAMJO Board Members and General Managers: this meeting was scheduled and completed. Follow up actions from this meeting in Agenda Item 12.

Recommendation:

1. That the RAMJO Board **note** the updates from matters arising from 8th May.

6. VERBAL UPDATE FROM CAMERON TEMPLETON – OLG ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Recommendation:

1. That the RAMJO Board **note** the verbal update from Cameron Templeton – OLG Council Engagement Officer.

7. UPDATE FROM RAMJO WIDE DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY SURVEY – BRIDGETT LEOPOLD

The RAMJO Digital Connectivity survey is now complete, and a high level summary of the findings is as follows:

- **Inequality:** regional families and businesses feel as though they are disadvantaged when compared to those who live in cities or regional centres. The cost of being 'digitally connected' comes at a premium to many RAMJO households, and is unreliable most times. Many have invested in satellite or boosters themselves, and still have to pay a premium for a package.
- **Wireless Connectivity:** this was the biggest 'service' issue, particularly the packages people purchase, the downtime or intermittent connectivity, the congestion and inability to rely on the service. Some people suggested they had worked in third world countries such as Myanmar and remote Indonesia... and that the connectivity there was better.
- **Congestion:** featured over and over again. Hot spots included tourist locations (such as Tocumwal & Corowa) and any time between 3pm – 11pm.
- **Mobile Phone coverage:** we received a lot of data of black spots, and those people who aren't connected in their homes or on major travel routes.
- **NBN Co:** this was a common complaint, with people venting their frustration at the 'downgrading' of the potential of NBN and the backing of copper over fibre optics.
- **Safety:** Many people reported safety incidents including being an in-home cancer patient (due to not having a treatment centre close)...but also not having reliable phone and internet connectivity. Same goes for families who reported in children with acute health issues such as asthma, those looking after elderly family members, and even some reporting serious car accidents of skilled farm workers with broken backs who couldn't get help in a timely manner. Similarly, those seeking out acute mental health services via an app or website, in line with drought support and other services, aren't even able to get on the internet to access them.
- **Telcos:** many people reported in pure frustration at dealing with the telcos.

Impacts included people saying they were preparing to move away, losing their business and not having access to

the same opportunities as others.

Next Steps

Following the discussion with the Sub-Committee, we agreed the next steps would be as follows:

1. **Canberra JO:** Bridgett to place a call to CRJO and see where they are at in this process, and align where possible. (complete)
2. **NBN Local:** set up a meeting with NBN Local, demonstrating the information received including common complaints, mapping and information sharing.
3. **Telcos:** commence a second stage of meeting with Telstra
4. **Local Members:** presenting our strategy, identified gaps and request to work on solving them

Recommendations

That the RAMJO Board **note** and **endorse** the following direction of the Digital Connectivity Sub-Committee:

1. That the Digital Connectivity Sub-Committee commence discussions with those bodies abovementioned, and reconvene to refine a set of policy positions on Digital Connectivity needs of our communities.
2. Continue advocacy actions with local members and other relevant MPs
3. Prepare a scope and draft points for future funding opportunities, possibly:
 - a. Increasing reliability and capacity of Council internet connectivity to allow possible future internet hubs, public office spaces, study hubs for distance learners
 - b. Advocating for drought affected farmers: seeking access to drought assistance, mental health assistance via web, apps, etc, but without the connectivity (boosters, small cell, etc)
 - c. Supporting families with students who are studying or are home schooled
 - d. Home Businesses: offering support or improvements for those who are currently disadvantaged due to their lack of internet connectivity.

8. JOHN HOLLAND – INLAND RAIL – JILLIAN KILBY, KEN GILLESPIE & DON MURRAY

Jillian Kilby is working with Don Murray from John Holland and Ken Gillespie (NSW Regional Infrastructure Coordinator) on the Country Regional Network as they prepare to bid on the (yet to be released) maintenance contract. They have requested an opportunity to discuss the bid with all regional Mayors and General Managers to understand the needs of regional NSW.

Recommendation

1. That the Board **note** the presentation from Jillian Kilby and consider the regional opportunities for RAMJO.

9. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY RIVERINA AND MURRAY – JACKIE KRUGER

Jackie Kruger represents RAMJO on the Riverina Murray Regional Plan Monitoring Committee. At the last meeting of this Committee, Jackie negotiated an extension of the timeline to input on the Agricultural Development Strategy so that the RAMJO Board could provide comment (if each Council has not already input individually).

Recommendation:

1. That the RAMJO Board **note** the update from RAMJO's representative on the Riverina Murray Regional Plan Monitoring Committee regarding the Agricultural Development Strategy and **consider** a collaborative approach to submitting input where logical.

10. RAMJO BUDGET FOR 2019-2020 AND ADVOCACY OUTCOMES

In July, the RAMJO Board approved the 2019-2020 budget, acknowledging that an annual commitment from the NSW State Government had not been forthcoming as anticipated.

Since that time, the RAMJO Chair and Executive Officer have attended several meetings in Sydney with:

- The Hon Shelley Hancock – Minister for Local Government
- Greg Warren – Shadow Minister for Local Government
- Joint Organisation Chairs Network Meeting
- Office of Local Government – workshop on JO matters

Following these meetings and discussions, an announcement was received 2 weeks later that the Minister for Local Government has announced \$150,000 in additional funding for JOs in a once off payment. This funding cannot be used for business as usual operations, but has to be allocated to delivering on one or more of the JOs strategic priorities and must demonstrate how they will become more sustainable.

While the JO welcomes the funding, delivering on a project with \$150,000 will not be a simple task, especially with eleven Councils in our JO.

Recommendation:

1. That the RAMJO Board **note** the successful advocacy outcomes and the awarding of an additional \$150,000 from the Office of Local Government via the Minister.
2. That the RAMJO Board **consider** the most efficient and practical application of this funding to meet requirements and achieve the greatest outcomes for RAMJO, in line with the identified work streams in agenda item 11.

11, STRATEGIC PRIORITY SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Officer will provide a presentation on the outcomes of the Sub-Committees and recommendations to the Board which have been further refined with the General Managers' Professional Officers group.

With limited resources and no further commitment from Member Councils or NSW Government for additional funding for staff, a cautious and realistic approach to recommending projects has been applied, with a lens that considers our ability to create change. This includes:

- What can we control?
- Where can we influence?
- In which areas are we only able to advocate?

WATER

- **Control:** IWCMs and Water Quality
- **Influence:** Social Media campaign and advocacy around "what the water situation is doing to us"
- **Advocacy:** continue to push NSW Government for clarity and commitment on future 'new water' infrastructure commitments.

ENERGY

- **Control:** RAMJO Energy Strategy
- **Influence:** Attracting Industry and Shaping the Region
- **Advocacy:** Solar Farm development regulation changes (Development Application process for State Significant Developments, Voluntary Payment Agreements, modelling for understanding net economic impacts for the 'life' of solar farms.

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

- **Control:** Apply for grants to boost Council internet connectivity and offer community grant campaigns, such as in-house boosters, internet study hubs, rented office spaces, etc. Remain on track to identifying and acting on “SMART” opportunities.
- **Influence:** Meet with telecommunication providers, NBN Co and local members to demonstrate evidence collated and press for support.
- **Advocacy:** Use survey data to demonstrate systematic disadvantages in our region and impacts to small business, education facilities and health facilities. Request equity of access to reliable and sustainable infrastructure.

HEALTH

- **Control:** None. RAMJO identified that taking on management of health services is not helpful given the duplication and difficulty navigating in this space. However, the JO should act on funding opportunities where there are prospects to deliver small scale projects for our communities as they arise. (e.g. Empowering Our Communities).
- **Influence:** Create policy positions via the next Sub-Committee meeting for the following:
 - GP postcode formulation
 - **Attraction and retention of GPs and nurses**
 - **Mobile diagnostics**
 - **Expansion of school based programs**
- **Advocacy:** advocate for a reform of the visibility, marketing and online accessibility of all general health, mental health and specialist health services provided in our region to reduce the complexity and difficulty in navigating the health system. Advocate for ‘low care’ aged care reform of funded standards given the ageing population and employment opportunities in our region if the business case for low care beds is more attractive.

INDUSTRY

- **Control:** Local Government Industry – procurement and supplier development program
- **Influence:** Buy local, attract industry, regional economic development group (and possible prospectus)
- **Advocacy:** RAMJO Prospectus - Aerospace

TRANSPORT

- TBC

SUMMARY

Recommendations:

1. That the RAMJO Board members discuss and endorse **three projects** which deliver on the following:
 - a. Can be undertaken with existing resources
 - b. Can be undertaken via the \$150,000 OLG grant within 1 year
 - c. Increase the financial sustainability of the Joint Organisation
 - d. Remain in our ability to control

13. RAMJO PROFESSIONAL OFFICER GROUP UPDATES

The minutes for the following working groups are attached:

- General Managers Meeting Minutes (Attachment 13.A)
- Engineers Working Group (Attachment 13.B)
 - Southern Lights Project Progress (Attachment 13.C)

- Regional Freight Transport Plan (still not complete)
- Property Working Group (Attachment 13.D)
- LSPS Working Group (first meeting on 10th September)
- Development Professionals Working Group (Attachment 13.E)
- Procurement Group (to be reconvened in September)
- Contaminated Land Steering Committee (Attachment 13.F)
- Integrated Planners Group (no longer operational)
- Records Working Group (no longer operational)
- Governance Group (proposed to be formed)
- Economic Development Officers Group (in recess)
- Community Services, Development and Planning Group (proposed to be formed)

Recommendation:

1. That the RAMJO Board **note** the minutes of the relevant RAMJO working groups.

14. RAMJO WASTE GROUPS UPDATE

As tasked at the Extraordinary Budget Meeting, the Executive Officer conducted a full day workshop with both Regional Waste Coordinators regarding the roll over funding within each of these groups over the last 8 years. The purpose of this workshop was to map current workload, achievements, targets and internal workings of each work group.

The Executive Officer workshopped the possible options for the 'roll over' funding and the Regional Waste Coordinators were in agreement that (while funded from OLG Establishment funds), administrative support for the RAMJO office would benefit them greatly. The Waste Coordinators expressed that they see risks with employing a RAMJO Waste Project Manager as this individual could create disarray in the waste groups unless a clear reporting structure is clarified. The Executive Officer has committed to creating clarity around this matter.

Furthermore, the structure and position outcomes were further workshopped with the General Managers' Professional Officer group to ensure a risk averse approach and further staff growth being based on demonstrated outcomes.

Status Update:

- Position Descriptions have been drafted with input and guidance from Albury City Council HR department.
 - **Office Manager:** Position Description complete, ready to advertise. Term of employment is 24 hours per week, until June 2020 or until all funds in the OLG Establishment Grant are expended.
 - **Regional Waste Project Manager:** Position description complete and circulated to all General Managers. Some input received and ready to advertise. 2 year full time role until October 2021.
 - **Regional Waste Project Officer:** Position description complete and circulated to all General Managers. 2 year full time role. Will not commence until Project Manager has identified scope, possible funding and tangible outcomes which benefit Councils and align with waste group priorities and/or tie waste and energy or other strategic priorities together.

Recommendation

1. That the RAMJO Board **agree** to proceed with the recruitment of the Office Manager role and Regional Project Manager role under the terms specified above, and in line with the funding arrangements presented at the RAMJO Extraordinary Board Meeting in July relating to the budget and surplus RAMJO funds.

2. That the RAMJO Board **note** the recruitment of the Project Officer will be suspended until such time that the Project Manager identifies projects for endorsement and progression to the Board and to the waste groups.
3. That the Board **note** detailed financial workings will be drafted with RAMJO's financial administrator, HR support services and the Executive, once salaries and on-costs are determined.

15. FUTURE MEETING PROTOCOL

In order to allow the appropriate and prudent consideration of the expansion of RAMJO work, the Executive Officer is requesting a change in protocol of the RAMJO meetings.

Recommendations:

That the RAMJO Board agree:

1. That each Board meeting be an overnight dinner with an early start the following morning to allow for a longer meeting and reducing travel time pressures. (e.g. 8am – midday).
2. That every second General Managers meeting be an overnight dinner with a longer meeting the following day.
3. That the location of each meeting change in an order or methodology open for discussion.
Suggestions include:
 - a. Alphabetical
 - b. Identification of other meetings in areas and align RAMJO Board meetings to align
 - c. Volunteering (or being volun-told)
4. The RAMJO budget has allocated funding to allow for this capacity building of the Board and General Managers Group, which can only be achieved with more detailed input or consideration of key topics (i.e. more time to do so).
5. That the Executive Officer will attempt to invite a local member or other distinguished guest to the RAMJO Board dinner to share the progress of RAMJO and build the RAMJO brand.
6. That the next Board meeting be held in Griffith a week early than planned, with a dinner on Tuesday 5th November and the Board meeting on Wednesday 7th. Steph Cooke MP Cootamundra has agreed to attend the dinner to learn more about RAMJO.

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

- o JO advocacy – RAMJO cooperating with Southern JOs

17. MEETING CLOSE