

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Friday 7 February 2025

MEETING	RAMJO Board Meeting		
DATE	Friday 7 February 2025		
TIME	9:30am – 12:30pm		
LOCATION	Hillston, Carrathool Shire Council, Hillston Ex-Servicemen's and Citizens Club		
CHAIR	Cr Ruth McRae		
ONLINE LINK	<p>Microsoft Teams Need help? Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 495 251 699 29 Passcode: J97Sqa</p>		
INVITEES	Council / Organisation	Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
	Albury City Council	Cr. Kevin Mack	Mr. Frank Zaknich
	Berrigan Shire Council	Cr. Julia Cornwell-McKean	Mrs. Karina Ewer
	Carrathool Shire Council	Cr. Darryl Jardine	Mr. Rick Warren
	Edward River Council	Cr. Ashley Hall	Mr. Gary Arnold
	Federation Council	Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mr. Adrian Butler
	Griffith City Council	Cr. Doug Curran	Mr. Brett Stonestreet
	Hay Shire Council	Cr. Carol Oataway	Mr. David Webb
	Leeton Shire Council	Cr. George Weston	Mrs. Jackie Kruger
	Murray River Council	Cr. John Harvie	Mrs. Sarah Ryan (Acting CEO)
	Murrumbidgee Council	Cr. Ruth McRae	Mr. John Scarce
	Narrandera Shire Council	Cr. Neville Kschenka	Mr. George Cowan
	Associate Members (non-voting)		
	Balranald Shire Council	Cr. Louie Zaffina	Mr. Glen Carroll
	Wagga Wagga City Council	Cr. Dallas Tout	Mr. Peter Thompson
	Wentworth Shire Council	Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mr. Ken Ross
RAMJO Staff			
Ms. Yvonne Lingua	Executive Officer		
Mrs. Susan Escott	Administration Officer		
Name	Role		
Mr. Giles Butler	<i>Director, Regional Coordination – South, Delivery & Engagement</i> NSW Premier's Department		
Mr. Cameron Templeton	<i>Council Engagement Manager – Riverina and Far South-West</i> NSW Office of Local Government		
Mr. Stephen Coates	<i>Chair</i> RAMJO's Audit Risk Improvement Committee (ARIC)		
STATE REPRESENTATIVES			
GUEST SPEAKERS			

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Item	Topic	Time
OPENING		
1	WELCOME Acknowledgement on Country	9:30
2	Apologies and Leave of Absence	9:31
3	Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons	9:32
4	MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS 8 November 2024 Board meeting – <i>Attachment 4.1</i> 29 November 2024 Extraordinary Meeting – <i>Attachment 4.2</i>	9:33
5	Matters and action items arising from previous Board meeting	9:35
6	GUEST SPEAKERS 6.1 ARIC Chair Stephen Coates and Model Risk Management Policy - <i>Attachment 6.1</i>	9:40
7	UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & ADVOCACY 7.1 Increase to Federal Assistance Grants – <i>Attachment 7.1</i> 7.2 Regional Express Update and Advocacy – <i>Attachment 7.2</i> 7.3 Progress and status of Sub-Committee's and working groups - <i>Attachment 7.3</i> 7.4 Regional Development Australia Proposed Partnership – <i>Attachment 7.4</i>	10:00
8	OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 8.1 Mr. Cameron Templeton	10:30
MORNING TEA BREAK – 15 MINUTES		
9	GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS 9.1 Financial Sustainability - Membership Fee Model – <i>Attachment 9.1 and 9.1.1</i> 9.2 Executive Officers Report – <i>Attachment 9.2</i> 9.3 Q2 Budget Review FY 2024/2025 – <i>Attachment 9.3</i> 9.4 Draft Minutes of General Managers Advisory Committee on 17 January - <i>Attachment 9.4</i>	11:00
10	NSW PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT 10.1 Mr. Giles Butler – Online presentation	11:30
11	PROJECT UPDATES 11.1 Primary Prevention Multi-Year Partnerships Grant Program 2025-2028 – <i>Attachment 11.1</i> 11.2 Panel of Conduct Reviewers – <i>Attachment 11.2</i> 11.3 Regional Town Water Strategy – <i>Attachment 11.3</i> 11.4 Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration – <i>Attachment 11.4</i> 11.5 Regional Resource Recovery Projects – <i>Attachment 11.5</i>	12:10
12	GENERAL BUSINESS 12.1 Call for general business by the Chair 12.2 2025 Board Meeting dates and locations	12:50
13	MEETING CLOSE	12:30

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AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chair to welcome attendees and acknowledgement of country.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies have been received by Mr. Peter Thompson.

Recommendation:

- That apologies be **accepted** and that leave of absence be granted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST

- Attendees to note any declarations.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Tabling of Draft minutes of 8 November 2024 Board Meeting – *Attachment A*

Recommendation:

- That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held 8 November 2024 be **received** and **noted**.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS RAMJO BOARD MEETINGS

ACTIONS ARISING FROM NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING

ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
6.1 Office of the Cross Border Commissioner, Ms. Kalina Koloff	Contact details for Kalina to be shared by RAMJO with Border Councils	Complete
6.2 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Mr. James Bolton and Ms. Harriet Whyte	Invite James and Harriet to Water Subcommittee meetings	In Progress
12.0 General Business	RAMJO to provide information on subcommittees and roles to Councils during induction but noted these subcommittees could all shift with change in strategic plan.	Complete
12 General Business	Executive Officers Remuneration and KPI's by end of February	In progress

ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
8.1 Update on sub-committees and working groups	Pursue the motion relating to Water sub-committee and development of an economic impact statement for each RAMJO LGA.	In Progress Update to be provided at item 7.3

Recommendation:

- That the RAMJO Board **note** the status of matters arising from previous Board meetings.

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AGENDA ITEM 6 – GUEST SPEAKERS

6.1 Mr. Stephen Coates - RAMJO Audit Risk Improvement Committee (ARIC) Chair

Function and purpose of RAMJO ARIC, and tabling of the model Risk Management Framework which is noted at *Attachment 6.1*.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by the RAMJO ARIC Chair; and
- **Endorse** the adoption of the model Risk Management Policy for RAMJO.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ADVOCACY

7.1 Increase to Federal Assistance Grants – General Advocacy

Attachment 7.1 notes a report prepared for the board's consideration, calling for increased advocacy around the percentage distribution of Federal Assistance Grants for rural and regional councils, prepared by Cr. John Harvie.

Recommendation:

- Through the RAMJO Executive Officer and General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC), that the Board **endorse** an increase to RAMJO's advocacy efforts, calling for an increase to the annual Federal Assistance Grants % allocation for Rural and Regional Councils.

7.2 Regional Express Update

Attachment 7.2 notes a report for the boards information and consideration surrounding Regional Express Airlines being in voluntary administration.

Recommendation:

- That the board **endorse** the RAMJO Executive Officer write a letter to both the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, The Hon. Catherine King, and to the Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, The Hon. Kristy McBain, highlighting the services importance to RAMJO communities and economy, and calling for the Federal Government to extend the Regional flight booking guarantee.

7.3 Progress and status of sub-committee's and working groups

Attachment 7.3 notes progress made and the current position of RAMJO's sub-committee's, which directly link to RAMJO's *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities*.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update provided on RAMJO sub-committees and working groups

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7.4 Regional Development Australia – Proposed Partnership

Please refer to *Attachment 7.4* for details on a proposed partnership between RDA Murray, RDA Riverina and RAMJO, seeking non-voting board representation from each organisations Chief Executive Officer.

Recommendation:

- That the board **endorse** the pursual of a partnership governed by a non-legally binding MOU between RDA Murray, RDA Riverina and RAMJO, for non-voting representation on each board.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

8.1 Office of Local Government Update

Mr Cameron Templeton, Council Engagement Manager - Riverina and Far South-West will give an update on the work and current focuses of the Office of Local Government.

Recommendation:

1. That the Board **note** the update provided by the Office of Local Government.

10:45 am - 15 MINUTE BREAK

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AGENDA ITEM 9 – GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

9.1 Financial Sustainability – Membership Fee Model – Attachment 9.1 and 9.1.1

Please refer to *Attachment 9.1* for a spreadsheet document showing member fee modelling and draft budgets for the 25/26 FY.

Attachment 9.1.1 provides a written summary outlining the differences between the two models tabled for the boards consideration.

Recommendation:

That the Board **move** to, effective from 1 July 2025:

- **Adopt** membership fee scenario one; or
- **Adopt** membership fee scenario two.

9.2 Executive Officers Report

Please refer to *Attachment 9.2* in support of a verbal update to be provided by the Executive Officer, on operational matters and other focuses.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the Executive Officers update.

9.3 2024/2025 Q2 Budget Review

Please refer to *Attachment 9.3* in support of a verbal update of the Q2 24/25 FY position and income v. expenditure.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the Q2 budget review update.

9.4 Draft Minutes - General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) held 17 January 2025

Attachment 9.4 provides a draft copy of the Minutes from the GMAC meeting held 17 January 2025.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the draft minutes from GMAC Meeting held 17 January 2025.

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AGENDA ITEM 10 – NSW PREMIERS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

10.1 NSW Premiers Department Update

Mr Giles Butler, Director - Regional Coordination – South, Delivery & Engagement, will provide an update on the work and focuses of the NSW Premiers Department.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update provided by the NSW Premiers Department.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – PROJECT UPDATES

11.1 Primary Prevention Multi-Year Partnerships Grant Program 2025-2028

Attachment 11.1 provides a written report in support of a verbal presentation provided by the Executive Officer, seeking the boards endorsement to pursue an EOI for grant funding relating to a domestic violence prevention program.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **endorse** the pursual of a RAMJO led EOI to the *Primary Prevention Multi-Year Partnerships Grant Program 2025-2028*, with further project scope and development to take place following an approved EOI.

11.2 Regional Panel of Conduct Reviewers

Please refer to *Attachment 11.2* outlining a proposal for RAMJO to undertake an EOI process on behalf of member councils, for the sourcing of a Regional Panel of Conduct reviewers.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **endorse** pursual of option two, enabling RAMJO to manage a selective EOI process via Local Government Procurement (LGP) Legal Services Panel, appoint the panel and share the panel with member councils to adopt their own list, in-line with Code of Conduct requirements per the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

11.3 Regional Town Water Strategy

Attachment 11.3 provides further detail on a proposed application to the Safe and Secure Water Program for development of a Regional Town Water Strategy.

Recommendation:

- **Endorse** pursual of a Safe and Secure Water Program funded development of a Regional Town Water Strategy.

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11.4 Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA)

Attachment 11.4 provides an update on the current status of the JONZA project, the vehicle for advancing RAMJO's broader Energy Security and Affordability priorities per the Regional Energy Strategy 2022.

11.5 Regional Resource Recovery Projects

Attachment 11.5 provides an update on the current position of the Regional Resource Recovery Projects, run by AlburyCity's Regional Resource Recovery team.

Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the project updates provided at items 11.4 and 11.5

AGENDA ITEM 12 – GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 2025 Board Meeting dates and locations

Please note that the May and August dates have been updated to accommodate Country Mayors Association meeting dates.

GM's/CEO's Forum	RAMJO Board	Proposed Location
Friday 17 January	Friday 7 February	Carrathool
Friday 18 April	Friday 2 May	Edward River
Friday 18 July	Friday 1 August	Murrumbidgee
Friday 10 October	Friday 31 October	Leeton

12.2 Call for General Business by the Chair