

# BOARD MEETING AGENDA

8 November 2024 – Hay Shire

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>RAMJO Board Meeting</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	Friday 8 November 2024		
<b>TIME</b>	9:30am – 1:00pm		
<b>LOCATION</b>	TAFE NSW Connected Learning Centre - Hay (Corner Pine Street and Cadell Street, Hay New South Wales 2711)		
<b>CHAIR</b>	TBC		
<b>ONLINE LINK</b>	<b>Microsoft Teams</b> <a href="#">Join the meeting now</a> Meeting ID: 429 004 317 669 Passcode: VjyLNM		
<b>INVITEES</b>	<b>Council / Organisation</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>	<b>Non-Voting Member</b>
	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
	<b>Associate Members (non-voting)</b>		
	Balranald Shire Council	Cr. Louie Zaffina	Mr. Glen Carroll
	Wagga Wagga City Council	Cr. Dallas Tout	Mr. Peter Thompson (Apology)
Wentworth Shire Council	Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mr. Ken Ross	
<b>RAMJO Staff (non-voting)</b>			
Ms. Yvonne Lingua	Executive Officer		
Mrs. Susan Escott	Administration Officer		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>		
Mr. Giles Butler	<i>Director, Regional Coordination – South, Delivery &amp; Engagement</i> <b>NSW Premier's Department</b>		
Mr. Cameron Templeton	<i>Council Engagement Manager – Riverina and Far South-West</i> <b>NSW Office of Local Government</b>		
<b>GUEST SPEAKERS</b>	Mr. James Bolton	<i>Deputy Secretary – Regional Development and Delivery</i> <b>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</b>	

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	Ms. Harriet Whyte	<i>Executive Director – Regional Programs and Partnerships</i> <b>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</b>
	Ms. Kalina Koloff	<i>NSW Cross Border Commissioner</i> <b>Office of the Cross Border Commissioner</b>
	Ms. Sue Pritchard	Director – Financial Audit <b>NSW Audit Office</b>
	Mrs. Margie Wiseman	Senior Partner – Accountant <b>Candour Solutions Financial Services</b>

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Item	Topic	Time		
	<b>OPENING</b>			
1	<b>WELCOME</b> Acknowledgement on Country	9:30		
2	Election of RAMJO Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson – <i>Executive Officer</i>	9:31		
2	Apologies and Leave of Absence	9:40		
3	Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons	9:41		
4	<b>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b> 16 August 2024 Board meeting – <i>Attachment A</i>	9:42		
5	Matters and action items arising from previous Board meeting	9:45		
6	<b>GUEST SPEAKERS</b> <b>6.1 Office of the Cross Border Commissioner</b> Ms. Kalina Koloff – NSW Cross Border Commissioner	9:50		
	<b>6.2 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</b> Mr. James Bolton – Deputy Secretary of Regional Development and Delivery Ms. Harriet Whyte – Executive Director of Regional Programs and Partnerships	10:30		
7	<b>GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS</b> <b>7.1</b> Q1 Budget Review FY 2024/2025 – <i>Attachment B</i> <b>7.2</b> Audit Risk Improvement Committee Update – <i>Attachment C</i> <b>7.3</b> Tabling of Returns of Interest of Designated Persons – <i>Attachment D</i> <b>7.4</b> Tabling of Draft Policies Round 4 – <i>Attachment E</i> <b>7.5</b> Draft Minutes - <i>General Managers Advisory Committee 11 October – Attachment F</i>	11:15		
	<b>BREAK</b>			
	8	<b>AUDIT OFFICE</b> <b>8.1</b> Ms. Sue Pritchard: Update on RAMJO Annual Financial Audit	12:00	
	9	<b>OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b> <b>9.1</b> Mr. Cameron Templeton: Office of Local Government Update	12:10	
	10	<b>UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES &amp; ADVOCACY</b> <b>10.1</b> Draft Annual Performance Statement 2023/2024 FY – <i>Attachment G</i> <b>10.2</b> Progress and status of Sub-Committee's and working groups - <i>Attachment H</i> <b>10.3</b> Update to Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities in 2025 <b>10.4</b> Digital Connectivity Project	12:20	
11		<b>PROJECT UPDATES</b> <b>11.1</b> Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration – <i>Attachment I</i> <b>11.2</b> Regional Resource Recovery Projects – <i>Attachment J</i> <b>11.3</b> NSW Southern Lights Group – <i>Attachment K</i>	12:40	
		12	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> <b>12.1</b> Call for general business by the Chair <b>12.2</b> 2025 Board Meeting dates and locations	12:50
			<b>MEETING CLOSE</b>	

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## AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME, 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, General Manager of Wagga Wagga City Council.

**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 16 August Board Meeting – *Attachment A*

**Recommendation:**

- That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held 16 August be **received** and the recommendations therein **adopted**.

## AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS RAMJO BOARD MEETINGS

### ACTIONS ARISING FROM AUGUST 2024 MEETING

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.	<b>In Progress</b> The sub-committee has recently learnt that the Federal Government has commissioned its own economic impact report – RAMJO is engaging with the Commonwealth on understanding the findings.

### ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
7.2 2024/2025 Operational budget	Continue with a focus on improving RAMJO's long-term Financial Sustainability	<b>ONGOING</b>
-	Board to consider coordinating a regional list of events so councils are not competing with each other for attendances.	<b>COMPLETE</b> RAMJO newsletter now in circulation and contains council events.

**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 Office of the Cross Border Commissioner

Ms. Kalina Koloff – NSW Cross Border Commissioner

### 6.2 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Mr. James Bolton – Deputy Secretary of Regional Development and Delivery

Ms. Harriet Whyte – Executive Director of Regional Programs and Partnerships

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentation by the NSW Cross Border Commissioner and the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

## AGENDA ITEM 7 – GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

### 7.1 2024/2025 Q1 Budget Review

Please refer to *Attachment B* parts 1 and 2, in support of a verbal update of the Q1 24/25 FY position and income v. expenditure tracking of all RAMJO projects.

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the Q1 budget review update; and
- **Note** tracking of current RAMJO projects income v. expenditure to date.

### 7.2 Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)

*Attachment C* provides the most recent minutes of the RAMJO ARIC meeting, held 14 August 2024.

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update provided on ARIC operations.

### 7.3 Tabling of Returns of Interest of Designated Persons

*Attachment D* provides an update on the of this requirement, tabled here in line with OLG requirement (MCC cl 4.25).

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the tabled returns.

### 7.4 Tabling of Draft Policies - Round Four

*Attachment E* outlines policies RAMJO currently has in place, and outlines other required policies for adoption by the Board. The attached also includes v1 drafts of the following policies and plans:

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- Work Health and Safety Policy
- Communications Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Email and Internet Usage Policy

The Proposed polices consider RAMJO's current and future needs and have been cross-checked against other established Joint Organisations Policies, including the Central NSW Joint Organisation (**CNSWJO**) and the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (**ISJO**).

## Recommendation:

- That the Board **endorse** and **adopt** the fourth round of RAMJO policies and plans.

## 7.5 Draft Minutes - General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) 11 October Office

Attachment F provides a draft copy of the Minutes from the GMAC Meeting held 11 October 2024.

## Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the draft minutes from GMAC Meeting held 11 October 2024.

## 15 MINUTE BREAK

## AGENDA ITEM 8 – NSW AUDIT OFFICE

### 8.1 Update on RAMJO Annual Financial Audit for 2023/2024 FY

Representatives from the NSW Audit Office will provide an update on the status of the 2023/2024 FY Annual Audit for RAMJO. Key points to note include:

- Delays in submission - An extension has been sought from and granted by, the Office of Local Government for submission of the Financial Statements by 30 November 2024;
- Delays in submissions of the financials are due to a number of reasons, including amendments to the draft statements per requests by the Audit Office;
- A number of prior year adjustments are being managed as part of this years audit, resulting in some increased work for the Audit Office; and
- This is the first year an external accounting firm have taken the lead in developing the financial statements for RAMJO, a significant shift from previous years approaches, resulting in some minor transitional challenges.

## Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update provided by the NSW Audit Office.

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## AGENDA ITEM 9 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

### 9.1 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.

## AGENDA ITEM 10 – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ADVOCACY

### 10.1 Draft Annual Performance Statement 2023/2024 FY

*Attachment G* provides a copy of the Draft Annual Performance Statement for the 2023/2024 FY, in-line with Office of Local Government regulations.

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **endorse** the Draft Annual Performance Statement for the 2023/2024 FY, for submission to the Office of Local Government.

### 10.2 Progress and status of sub-committee's and working groups

*Attachment H* 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

### 10.3 Update to Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities in 2025

The Executive Officer will summarise for incoming board members, initial planning and action taken to date on the process of updating the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities, an Office of Local Government requirement for all Joint Organisations. An updated set of priorities must be completed within 12 months of the September 2024 Local Government Elections.

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update provided on updating the Statement of Strategic Priorities, and **endorse** the proposed time-line and process for their development by June 2025.

### 10.4 Digital Connectivity Project

A verbal update will be given on developments had on a proposed major Digital Connectivity project that will improve mobile phone coverage and help alleviate mobile data bottlenecks within the RAMJO region and across the Murray Region Group of Councils area.

#### Recommendation:

1. That the Board **note** continued progress on the major digital connectivity project.

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## AGENDA ITEM 11 – PROJECT UPDATES

### 11.1 Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA)

*Attachment I* 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.

### 11.2 Regional Resource Recovery Projects

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

### 11.3 NSW Southern Lights Group

*Attachment K* provides an update on recent outcomes achieved for Member Councils through their participation in the NSW Southern Lights project.

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the project updates provided.

## AGENDA ITEM 12 – GENERAL BUSINESS

### 12.1 Call for General Business by the Chair

### 12.2 2025 Board Meeting dates and locations

GM's/CEO's Forum	RAMJO Board	Proposed Location
Friday 17 January	Friday 7 February	Deniliquin
Friday 18 April	Friday 9 May	Murrumbidgee
Friday 18 July	Friday 8 August	Carrathool
Friday 10 October	Friday 31 October	Leeton

## MEETING CLOSE