



RAMJO
Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation

ADVOCACY POLICY

February 2024

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Policy #	Adoption Date	Effective Date
1	23 February 2024	23 February 2024

Revision History

Version	Adoption Date	Authorised by	Approved by	Revision Date
1	23 February 2024	Executive Officer	RAMJO Board	November 2025

Advocacy Policy

1 Purpose

This purpose of this policy is to provide structure for RAMJO Board and staff members, in relation to advancing advocacy priorities. This policy notes how advocacy should be pursued by all RAMJO representatives and how advocacy in general, should be conducted. This is necessary to ensure consistency across messaging and ensure RAMJO members advocacy work is consistent with key matters and focus areas.

2 Objectives

Advocacy for the RAMJO Region is informed by the following principles:

- a. Effective and efficient and share costs with other stakeholders where possible,
- b. Remain flexible to shifting political positions and focuses, whilst ensuring messages are consistent and in alignment with RAMJO's *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities* and other endorsed strategies,
- c. As a general rule and where possible, have elected officials meet with elected officials and
- d. Align advocacy work to, and seek opportunities arising from, the electoral cycle.

3 Roles and responsibilities

This policy directs all RAMJO staff, sub-committee members and Board members when they are acting in their professional capacity and advocating on behalf of RAMJO, as follows:

3.1 Board Members

- To direct and control the affairs of RAMJO, including to set and drive its strategic direction.

3.2 RAMJO Sub-committees

- To meet at least quarterly, remaining abreast of challenges, opportunities and the political landscape relating to each sub-committee.
- Develop an annual Advocacy Plan for the board's approval, outlining:
 - a broader advocacy position that can be used to inform submission papers, strategies in development and other discussions as they arise and
 - proposed focus areas for that year, including a brief action plan on how objectives within the *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities* aim to be met.
- Each sub-committee Chair or in their absence, the Executive Officer, will report to the board at each board meeting, on the progress of sub-committees.

3.3 Executive Officer and Staff

- To provide strategic input and facilitate the development of strategic planning and prioritisation,
- To support and action the work of each the sub-committee, assisting with development and implementation of each sub-committee's Advocacy Plan and
- Ensure RAMJO maintains a regional profile as the leading local government advocate for the region.

3.4 Applicable to all

- a. Promotion and dissemination of Board approved Advocacy Plans where the opportunity arises, is encouraged,
- b. Emergent and time sensitive matters, such as short submission deadlines and at times between board meetings, are managed through sub-committee chairpersons and the Executive Officer, under the direction of the Chair and
- c. Care should be taken when referring to RAMJO that commentary reflects positively on the organisation.

4 Foundational Procedures

4.1 The Chair approves all public advocacy commentary on behalf of RAMJO

Input into Advocacy Plans is the responsibility of the Executive Officer, who will seek feedback from stakeholders as appropriate, with Advocacy Plans being subsequently approved by the Board. All RAMJO media and other statements are prepared in accordance with RAMJO's standard format and approved prior to release by the Chair. The Chair or designated nominee provides all media comment and is the voice of RAMJO. The Chair may delegate these functions to other Board members including sub-committee Chairpersons, or other RAMJO representatives, as appropriate.

4.2 Key Stakeholders will be made aware of RAMJO Advocacy Plans and use them as a guide when advocating on behalf of the region

Advocacy Plans will be used by RAMJO when advocating with its stakeholders and in accordance with RAMJO's *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities*. These Plans are reviewed and updated annually by each sub-committee and subsequently endorsed by the Board. The Plans are iterative, responding to advocacy opportunities as and when they may arise.

4.3 In collaboration with other Joint Organisations, Local Government NSW (LGNSW), Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), Regional Leadership Executive, Regional Development Australia (Murray and Riverina) and other peak regional organisations, RAMJO will collaborate valuing the following:

1. mutual respect;
2. thoughtful contribution;
3. acting in the public interest;
4. intergenerational equity;
5. timely and appropriate responsiveness;
6. willingness and commitment;
7. accountability and transparency;
8. sharing and positive intent; and
9. adding value.

RAMJO supports the Joint Organisation Chairs' Forum and will receive advice and provide feedback accordingly.

END OF POLICY