

# BOARD MEETING AGENDA

23 February 2024 – Albury

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>RAMJO Board Meeting</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	Friday 23 February 2024		
<b>TIME:</b>	9:30am – 1:00pm		
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Albury City Council – Robert Brown Room		
<b>CHAIR:</b>	Cr. Patrick Bourke		
<b>ZOOM:</b>	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81473412851?pwd=b2r4Snbt2e3mZoseHKugdkaV7zIYBL.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81473412851?pwd=b2r4Snbt2e3mZoseHKugdkaV7zIYBL.1</a> Meeting ID: 814 7341 2851 Passcode: 721608		
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	<b>Council / Organisation</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>	<b>Non-Voting Member</b>
	Albury City Council	Cr. Kylie King	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. Peta Betts	Mr. Philip Stone (apology)
	Federation Council	Cr. Pat Bourke	Mr. Adrian Butler
	Griffith City Council	Cr. Doug Curran	Mr. Brett Stonestreet
	Hay Shire Council	Cr. Lionel Garner (online)	Mr. David Webb (online)
	Leeton Shire Council	Cr. Tony Reneker (online)	Mrs. Jackie Kruger (online)
	Murray River Council	Cr. Frank Crawley	Mr. Terry Dodds (apology)
	Murrumbidgee Council	Cr. Ruth McRae	Mr. John Scarce
	Narrandera Shire Council	Cr. Neville Kschenka	Mr. George Cowan
	Wentworth Shire Council		Cr. Daniel Linklater Mr. Ken Ross
	Office of Local Government		Mr. Cameron Templeton
	Regional NSW		Mr. Giles Butler
<b>RAMJO STAFF</b>	Ms. Yvonne Lingua - Executive Officer		
	Ms. Carolyn Clancy - Office Manager		
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	
	Mrs. Rose Jackson MLC	NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast	
	Mrs. Helen Dalton	Independent Member for Murray	

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Item	Topic	Time
	<b>OPENING</b>	9:30
1	<b>WELCOME</b> 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	<b>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:</b> 10 November 2023 Board meeting – <i>Attachment A</i>	9:33
5	Matters and action items arising from previous Board meeting	9:34
	<b>GUEST SPEAKERS</b>	
6	<b>6.1 Mrs. Rose Jackson MLC</b> - NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast – <i>Attachment B</i>	9:35
	<b>6.2 Mrs. Helen Dalton</b> - Independent Member for Murray	10:30
7	<b>GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS</b> <b>7.1</b> 2023/2024 Q2 Budget Review – <i>Attachment C</i> <b>7.2</b> Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee – <i>Attachment D</i> <b>7.3</b> Tabling of Draft Policies – <i>Attachment E</i> <b>7.4</b> Update on Regional Resource Recovery Model – <i>Attachment F</i> <b>7.5</b> Terms of Reference for General Managers Advisory Committee – <i>Attachment G</i> <b>7.6</b> Draft Minutes - General Managers Advisory Committee 2 Feb - <i>Attachment H</i>	11:00
	<b>BREAK</b>	11:30
8	<b>UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b> <b>8.1</b> Progress and status of Sub-Committee's – <i>Attachment I</i> <b>8.2</b> RAMJO Strategic Development – Institute for Sustainable Futures	11:40
9	<b>OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b> <b>9.1</b> Mr. Cameron Templeton: Office of Local Government Update	11:50
10	<b>REGIONAL NSW</b> <b>10.1</b> Mr. Giles Butler: Department of Regional NSW Update	12:00
11	<b>PROJECT UPDATES</b> <b>11.1</b> Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration – <i>Attachment J</i> <b>11.2</b> Disaster Risk Reduction Fund – <i>Attachment K</i> <b>11.3</b> Regional Resource Recovery – <i>Attachment L</i>	12:10
12	<b>ADVOCACY</b> <b>12.1</b> Proposal for increased advocacy on water buy-backs - <i>Attachment M</i> <b>12.2</b> Quarter 2 and current update on advocacy advancements - <i>Attachment N</i>	12:20

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Item	Topic	Time
13	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> 13.1 Call for general business by the Chair.	12:30
Meeting Close		1:00pm



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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:** Cr. Carol Oataway is an apology and will be attended by Deputy Mayor Lionel Garner. Mr. Terry Dodds and Phil Stone are apologies.

**Recommendation:**

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

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

- Attendees to note any declarations.

## AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Tabling of Draft minutes of 10 November Board Meeting – *Attachment A*

**Recommendation:**

- That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held 10 November 2023 be **received** and the recommendations therein **adopted**.

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

ITEM	STATUS
Invite Water NSW Director to RAMJO Water Security Sub Committee meeting to seek clarity on planned infrastructure changes.  <i>Update:</i> This action will be advanced by the Water sub-committee under a new committee chair.	<b>NOT COMPLETED</b>
Board to consider coordinating a regional list of events so councils are not competing with each other for attendances.  <i>Update:</i> Events will be noted in the RAMJO E-Bulletin. Councils Events and Communications teams are being liaised with here.	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>
Circulate for the boards review, the final draft of the updated Water Position Paper  <i>Update:</i> This Action was discussed at the last Water sub-committee meeting held in December 2023, with required tweaks discussed and drafted.	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>
<b>Item 7.1</b> - Request a copy of the Regional Digital Connectivity Programs presentation and distribute  <i>Update:</i> Emails and voicemails have been left requesting a copy of the presentation.	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>
<b>Item 7.2</b> - Request a copy of and circulate to members, the Annual State of the Region's Economic Dataset Presentation and query member councils access to Profile ID datasets	<b>COMPLETE</b>
<b>Item 10.1</b> - Invite Wentworth, Balranald and Wagga Councils to join RAMJO as Associate Members	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>

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<b>Update:</b> Wentworth have accepted the invitation. No response yet from Balranald, EO working with our OLG representative to advance this. EO working with the Chair on progressing Wagga membership.	
<b>Item 14.2</b> - Purchase thank-you gifts from the RAMJO board for Cr. Matt Hannan and Cr. Chris Bilkey.	<b>COMPLETE</b>
<b>Recommendation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>That the RAMJO Board <b>note</b> the status of matters arising from previous Board meetings.</li></ul>	

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## AGENDA ITEM 6 – PRESENTATIONS

**6.1 Mrs. Rose Jackson MLC** - NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast

**6.2 Mrs. Helen Dalton** – Independent Member for Murray

### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the presentations by Minister Jackson and Helen Dalton.

## AGENDA ITEM 7 – GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

### 7.1 2023/2024 Q2 Budget Review

*Attachment C* contains the 2023/2024 FY Q2 budget review. Key points include:

Budgeted income for the quarter = \$275,432.00; Actual income for the quarter = \$58,244.06

Budgeted expenses for the quarter = \$237,356.00; Actual expenses for the quarter = \$87,417.53

Work continues on strengthening RAMJO's internal financial processes, including setting up tracking categories to better differentiate between grant funds tied to projects and operational funds. This is evidenced by the addition of Project Funding streams at the bottom of the Q2 report, however note that not all projects are listed yet and budgets for each project have not yet been uploaded. The ARIC are aware of and help to oversee the work being undertaken here, and agree that there needs to be a focus on improving our internal system in this space.

### Recommendation:

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

### 7.2 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

*Attachment D* notes the ARIC agenda for the February 2024 meeting and minutes from the November 2023 meeting.

The GMAC moved at its February 2024 meeting to help ensure increased RAMJO board participation at ARIC meetings going forward, with Adrian Butler attending the last meeting held on 14 February.

Work to date includes development of a RAMJO Risk Register and Assurance Map, with the ARIC aiming to keep RAMJO's internal audit workload as minimal as possible by implementing a range of satisfactory oversight mechanisms that feed into to the risk register.

### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update provided regarding RAMJO's ARIC.

### 7.3 Tabling of Draft Policies

*Attachment E* notes three (3) policies for the Boards endorsement and adoption, which have been reviewed by the GMAC. Going forward, more required policies that will help ensure RAMJO's overall compliance will be developed and shared with the GMAC for their review and input, prior to a request for endorsement by the RAMJO board.

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The first round of proposed policies are as follows, and are intended to:

1. *Advocacy Policy*: Provide structure for RAMJO Board and staff members, in relation to advancing advocacy priorities
2. *Social Media Policy*: Provide direction to employees and Board members while informing the community, regarding the use of social media by RAMJO
3. *Related Parties Policy*: Provide a framework to report appropriate disclosures in the Joint Organisation's Financial Statements, as required by the Accounting Standard.

## Recommendation:

- That the Board **endorse** and **adopt** the first round of proposed RAMJO policies.

## 7.4 Renewal of the Regional Resource Recovery Model

*Attachment F* notes an update to recent discussions had surrounding an assessment of and subsequent renewal of, the current Regional Resource Recovery Model.

## Recommendation:

That the Board:

- **Acknowledge** the difficulties and challenges with the contract/MoU between RAMJO and AlburyCity in relation to the Regional Resource Recovery Model, and note and appreciate the transparency with which both RAMJO and AlburyCity have navigated these; and
- **Endorse** pursual of the development of a new agreement or similar within the next six months in relation to the Regional Resource Recovery Model, with the current model remaining in place on a month-by-month basis, until a new agreement is reached.

## 7.5 Terms of Reference for the General Managers Advisory Committee

*Attachment G* notes proposed Terms of Reference for effective management of the General Managers Advisory Committee (**GMAC**), for the boards consideration and adoption.

## Recommendation:

- That the Board **endorse** and **adopt** the proposed Terms for Reference for the General Managers Advisory Committee.

## 7.6 Draft Minutes – General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting – 2 February 2024

*Attachment H* notes the meeting minutes from the GMAC meeting held 2 February 2024.

## Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the minutes from General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting held 2 Feb. 2024.

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## AGENDA ITEM 8 – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### 8.1 Progress and status of sub-committee's

Attachment 1 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 the progress and status of RAMJO sub-committees.

### 8.2 RAMJO Strategic Development – Institute for Sustainable Futures – Verbal update

Following discussions had at the November 2023 board meeting around an apparent siloed approach to RAMJO strategy and advancement of the *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities*, the EO is currently exploring options for the engagement of the University of Technology Sydney's - *Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF)* research and development team, to help review and link RAMJO's *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP)*.

The ISF is an independent research institute within the University of Technology Sydney who conduct transdisciplinary, project-based research in line with a vision of creating positive change towards sustainable futures. ISF researchers bring together expertise in a wide range of areas including engineering, architecture, economics, science, social science, international studies and political studies, to deliver practical and holistic solutions to complex problems.

Given the complexity and vast interconnectedness of RAMJO's focus areas within its SSRP and the current limited resources of RAMJO, a holistic approach to advancing priorities may prove more effective in advancing RAMJO's objectives. The EO is seeking approval to utilize an underspend in JONZA funds and investigating other funding opportunities available to Joint Organisations, to help fund such work, pending GMAC and Board approval. The EO will continue to advise the GMAC and board of progress and options in this space.

The board can view the work and areas of expertise of the ISF using this link: [Services and capabilities | University of Technology Sydney \(uts.edu.au\)](https://servicesandcapabilities.uts.edu.au)

## AGENDA ITEM 9 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

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

**Recommendation:**

- That the Board **note** the briefing from the Office of Local Government.

## AGENDA ITEM 10 – REGIONAL NSW UPDATE

### 10.1 Mr Giles Butler Director - Riverina Murray, Regional Development will provide an update on the work of the Department of Regional NSW.

**Recommendation:**

- That the Board **note** the briefing by the Dept. of Regional NSW.



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## AGENDA ITEM 11 – PROJECT UPDATES

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

*Attachment J* provides an update on the current status of the JONZA project, which is also the vehicle for advancing RAMJO's broader Energy Security and Affordability priorities.

### 11.2 Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Project

*Attachment K* provides an update on the current position of the DRRF project.

### 11.3 Regional Resource Recovery Projects

*Attachment L* provides an update on the current position of the Regional Resource Recovery Projects.

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the updates provided on current RAMJO projects.

## AGENDA ITEM 12 – ADVOCACY

### 12.1 Proposal for increased advocacy on water buy-backs

*Attachment M* contains a motion prepared by Cr. Julia Cornwell McKean of Berrigan Shire Council.

#### Recommendation:

That:

1. RAMJO Councils (or a subset of) seek a meeting with the Premier and Minister on or about 14 March through the RAMJO Executive Officer and other Council Executive Officers
2. RAMJO Councils attend Sydney on or about 14 March and congregate at Parliament House in order to meet with the Premier and Minister
3. RAMJO release the media release attached immediately following this meeting.

### 12.2 General update on advocacy

*Attachment N* notes an update on quarter 2 and current advocacy work.

#### Recommendation:

- That the Board **note** the update provided on Quarter 2 and current advocacy work.

## AGENDA ITEM 13 – GENERAL BUSINESS

A call for General Business items will be made by the Chair.

## MEETING CLOSE