

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (RAMROC), HELD IN THE IAN GILBERT ROOM AT THE JERILDERIE OFFICES OF MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL, ON FRIDAY 22ND JULY 2016 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT

Albury City:	Cr Kevin Mack (RAMROC Chairperson) Cr Henk van de Ven Ms Tracey Squire
Balranald:	Cr Leigh Byron Mr Aaron Drenovski
Berrigan:	Cr Bernard Curtin Mr Rowan Perkins
Carrathool:	Cr Peter Laird Mr Phil Marshall
Edward River:	Mr Ashley Hall (Administrator) Mr Des Bilske
Federation:	Mr Mike Eden (Administrator)
Greater Hume:	Cr Heather Wilton Mr David Smith
Griffith City:	Cr John Dal Broi Mr Brett Stonestreet
Hay:	Cr Bill Sheaffe Mr Allen Dwyer
Leeton:	Cr Paul Maytom Ms Jackie Kruger
Murray River:	Ms Margot Stork
Murrumbidgee:	Mr Austin Evans (Administrator) Mrs Ruth McRae (Chair Local Representation Committee) Mr Craig Moffitt
Narrandera:	Cr Jenny Clarke Ms Judy Charlton
Wentworth:	Mr Peter Kozlowski
RAMROC	Mr Ray Stubbs (Executive Officer)

MEETING GUESTS:

Mr Mark Ritchie – Executive Officer
Riverina RDA
Ms Trudi McDonald –Regional Co-ordinator
NSW Premier and Cabinet

MRRR 1 - WELCOME TO MEETING

The RAMROC Chairman Cr Kevin Mack extended a welcome to the new Council Administrators, Mayors, Delegates, General Managers and guests from Riverina RDA and NSW Premier and Cabinet.

MRRR 2 - APOLOGIES:

Mr David Shaw (Administrator) - Murray River Council
 Cr Peter Nunan - Wentworth Shire
 Cr Mick Rutledge - Hay Shire
 Mr Steven Pinnuck – Greater Hume Shire
 Mr Chris Gillard - Federation Council

**RESOLVED that the apologies be received and accepted
 (Moved Griffith and seconded Albury)**

MRRR 3 - MINUTES OF RAMROC MEETING HELD AT JERILDERIE ON 11TH MAY 2016

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 11th May 2016 be confirmed.
 (Moved Edward River and seconded Leeton)**

MRRR 4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 11TH MAY 2016 MEETING

Apart from the matters reported by the Executive Officer in the agenda papers, there were no other matters arising.

MRRR 5 – RAMROC SECTION 355 AGREEMENT PROVISIONS

Consideration was given to the Executive Officer's Report outlining a number of matters contained in the Section 355 Agreement which need to be addressed following the recent Council mergers across the region, as follows:-

5.1 Clause 11 - Administrators automatically become RAMROC Delegates for Councils

**RESOLVED that the information regarding Administrators as RAMROC Delegates be noted
 (Moved Griffith and seconded Berrigan)**

5.2 Clause 25 - Appointments to fill vacancies in RAMROC Executive Committee following mergers

The Executive Officer advised that the vacant position of Chairperson needs to be formally filled, in order to replace the former Chairperson Cr Terry Hogan AM.
 Nominations were invited and the Deputy and Interim Chairperson Cr Kevin Mack of Albury City Council was the only nomination received for the position.

The EO declared that Cr Kevin Mack is elected unopposed as Chairperson to hold office until the forthcoming election of Office Bearers at the November 2016 Annual General Meeting

Nominations were then invited for the vacant position of Deputy Chairperson. Administrator of Murrumbidgee Council Mr Austin Evans was the only nomination received.

The Executive Officer declared that Administrator Austin Evans is elected unopposed as Deputy Chairperson to hold office until the forthcoming election of Office Bearers at the November 2016 Annual General Meeting

5.3 Clauses 34 and 36 – Budget Estimates and Member Contributions

RESOLVED that the Executive Officer's Report be endorsed, which proposes that the 2016-2017 Budget Estimates and Member Contributions will be prepared and submitted to Councils during October, for consideration at the November 2016 Annual General Meeting (Moved Griffith and seconded Balranald)

5.4 Clause 42 – Membership of Councils

RESOLVED

- a. That it be noted that the membership of the former Corowa, Urana, Jerilderie, Murrumbidgee, Murray, Wakool, Deniliquin and Conargo Councils is automatically terminated as a result of the Local Government re-structuring
- b. That the following newly constituted Councils become members by resolution of the Committee:-
 - Federation Council
 - Murrumbidgee Council
 - Edward River Council
 - Murray River Council

(Moved Berrigan and seconded Greater Hume)

5.5 Clauses 27 and 28 – Employment of Executive Officer

The Executive Officer Ray Stubbs, whose current contract expires on 30th September 2016, retired from the meeting during discussion of this matter.

RESOLVED that the current Executive Officer Ray Stubbs be appointed to fill the role of Interim Executive Officer for a 12 month contract period from 1st October 2016, with provision for 3 months' notice of termination by RAMROC or by mutual agreement (Moved Griffith and seconded Leeton)

MRRR 6 – JOINT ORGANISATIONS – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT JO PROPOSALS AND BACKGROUND PAPER

Consideration was given to the matters contained in the Office of Local Government's JO Model Proposals and JO Background Paper, together with the Executive Officer's Discussion Paper and Supplementary Report set out in the meeting agenda. As part of the discussion on JO boundaries, Acting Albury City General Manager Ms Tracey Squire facilitated a SWOT Analysis of the following JO options:-

1. One overarching and strategic Riverina Murray Joint Organisation (compatible with the Department of Planning's Riverina Murray regional boundaries), with the establishment of three sub regional groups (i.e Murray, Riverina East and Riverina West (or perhaps named Murrumbidgee))
2. An overarching Murray and Murrumbidgee Joint Organisation (i.e. the MAMJO Model), with the establishment of two sub regional groups (Murray and Murrumbidgee) and retaining a distinctly separate Riverina Joint Organisation based around the Wagga region.
3. Three individual Joint Organisations nesting within the DoP regional boundaries (i.e. a Riverina JO, a Murray JO and a Murrumbidgee JO)

The meeting also considered a number of associated matters relating to Governance (Board Membership, Voting Rights and JO Resourcing) and the OLG's intention to invite expressions of interest for "Early Starter" Joint Organisations to commence around September 2016.

RESOLVED that the submission in response to OLG in relation to JO boundaries indicate that RAMROC's preferred Joint Organisation structure to be established within the Riverina Murray region be Option 2 (an overarching Murray and Murrumbidgee Joint Organisation (i.e. the MAMJO Model), with two sub regional groups (Murray and Murrumbidgee) and a distinctly separate Riverina Joint Organisation based around the Wagga region (Moved Griffith and seconded Hay) (Balranald and Wentworth Shires elected not to vote)

FURTHER RESOLVED that in relation to JO Board Membership, the RAMROC submission propose that the legislation allow for Member Councils to have authority to appoint either the Mayor or another Councillor as the Delegate to the JO Board
(Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Berrigan)

FURTHER RESOLVED that in relation to Board Voting Rights, the RAMROC submission propose that the Board Chairperson must have and exercise a casting vote, where required to break a deadlock in voting on any matter
(Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Edward River)

FURTHER RESOLVED that in relation to the appointment of a JO Executive Officer, that the legislation provide for each JO to have the authority to appoint an Executive Officer on a full time, part time or shared JO basis, or the flexibility to fill the Executive Officer position on an external consultancy contract basis
(Moved Greater Hume and seconded Murrumbidgee)

FURTHER RESOLVED that in relation to OLG's intention to invite Expressions of Interest for "Early Starter" Joint Organisations that RAMROC indicate its intention to submit a nomination for selection as one of the two proposed "Early Starter" Joint Organisations
(Moved Griffith and seconded Federation)

MRRR 7 – DRAFT RAMROC SUBMISSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND ENDORSEMENT

7.1 – Department of Environment and Planning – Draft Riverina Regional Plan

Consideration was given to the draft RAMROC submission prepared by the Executive Officer, together with a subsequent letter from Narrandera Shire Council seeking RAMROC's support in relation to including in the DPE Plan a reference to the Narrandera to Tocumwal rail freight corridor.

RESOLVED that the draft submission be endorsed and that it be now formally submitted to DPE. Further that RAMROC advise DPE that it supports the correspondence from Narrandera Shire Council in relation to the noting in the Figure 11 Map the Narrandera to Tocumwal rail corridor as a potential freight network improvement.
(Moved Carrathool and seconded Berrigan)

7.2 – NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee into Water Augmentation for Regional and Rural New South Wales

Consideration was given to the Executive Officer's Draft Submission to the Standing Committee investigating a range of issues relating to water augmentation for regional and rural NSW.

RESOLVED that the Draft Submission be endorsed and that it be now formally submitted to the Legislative Council Standing Committee
(Moved Albury and seconded Edward River)

MRRR 8 – DESTINATION NEW SOUTH WALES – ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW TOURISM DESTINATION NETWORKS

The NSW Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events has announced a major overhaul in the way that regional and rural areas attract visitors, including the creation of six new Destination Networks, one new region being "Destination Riverina Murray"

The re-structuring will have implications for the current Murray Region Tourism and Riverina Tourism. MRT Board Member Tracey Squire reported on discussions with DNSW regarding the cross border importance with Victoria and ways to ensure that the successful outcomes of the model will be continued. She advised that across the State DNSW has confirmed funding for the 2016-2017 year.

RESOLVED that the DNSW information and report be noted pending further information
(Moved Albury and seconded Edward River)

MRRR 9 – RAMROC INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2016

The Executive Officer submitted the interim Financial Statements of all RAMROC Accounts for the financial year ended 30th June 2016 which, subject to any necessary late adjustments, will now be submitted for formal Audit.

**RESOLVED that the Interim Financial Statements and results for the 2015-2016 year be received and noted
(Moved Balranald and seconded Hay)**

MRRR 10 – MINUTES OF RAMROC WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**10.1 – Minutes of the Riverina Waste Group Meeting – 22nd June 2016**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Riverina Waste Group be received and noted
(Moved Berrigan and seconded Hay)**

MRRR 11 – GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS**11.1 – Riverina RDA Update**

RDA Riverina Executive Officer Mark Ritchie provided a brief update and spoke on the importance of close collaboration between the new Joint Organisations and RDAs

11.2 – NSW Premier and Cabinet Update

DPC Regional Co-ordinator Trudi McDonald reported on progress with the "Making it Happen in the Regions" program. She also reported that the DPC relationships with State Government Agencies through the Regional Leadership Group on which RAMROC is represented by the Executive Officer, together with the Regional Leadership Network which includes Councils' General Managers, are to be reviewed.

11.3 – NSW Rural Fire Service Levies

The General Manager of Hay Shire Council Allen Dwyer raised the issue of very substantial increases in Council's levies payable to the NSW Rural Fire Service.

RESOLVED that RAMROC express its strong disappointment with the lack of consultation by the State Government in changing the methodology of assessing Rural Fire Service levies, which has caused some Councils to suffer large increases. For example up to 88% in the case of Hay Shire, from \$72,001 estimated by RFS in March 2016, to a final account of \$135,066 in July 2016.

**Further that letters in relation to this matter be sent to Premier the Hon Mike Baird MP, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services the Hon Troy Grant MP, the Member for Murray the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP, the Member for Albury Greg Aplin MP and the LGNSW President Cr Keith Rhoades
(Moved Hay and seconded Carrathool)**

There being no further business, the RAMROC meeting concluded at 1.00 pm