

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (RAMROC), HELD IN THE IAN GILBERT ROOM OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION CENTRE AT JERILDERIE ON WEDNESDAY 9TH AUGUST 2017 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT

Albury City:	Cr Kevin Mack (RAMROC Chairperson) Mr Frank Zaknich
Balranald:	Cr Leigh Byron Mr Aaron Drenovski
Berrigan:	Cr Daryll Morris Mr Rowan Perkins
Carrathool:	Cr Darryl Jardine Ms Joanne Treacy
Edward River:	Mr Ashley Hall (Administrator) Mr Adam McSwain
Federation:	Apology
Greater Hume:	Apology
Griffith City:	Cr John Dal Broi Mr Brett Stonestreet
Hay:	Cr Bill Sheaffe Ms Kirstyn Thronder
Leeton:	Cr Paul Maytom Ms Jackie Kruger
Murray River:	Apology
Murrumbidgee:	Mr Austin Evans (Administrator) Mrs Ruth McRae (Chair Local Representation Committee) Mr Andrew Crakanthorp
Narrandera:	Cr Neville Schenka Ms Judy Charlton
Wentworth:	Apology
RAMROC	Mr Ray Stubbs (Executive Officer)

MEETING GUESTS:

Mr Gary White – Chief Planner NSW Department of Planning
 Ms Penny Measham PhD – Fruit Fly Control and
 Queensland Management Horticulture Innovation
 Cr Tammy Galvin - Riverina LLS Fruit Fly Communication
 Officer

Transport for NSW Officials - as follows:-

Mr Raphael Miller – Acting Principal Manager Freight
 Strategy and Investment
 Mr Kirk Bendall – Manager Freight, Port and Precinct
 Strategies
 Ms Pat Chalacheva- Acting Manager Freight Infrastructure
 Funding
 Ms Trudi McDonald – Regional Co-ordinator NSW
 Department of Premier and Cabinet
 Mr Gary Saliba – CEO RDA Murray

MRRR 3 – MINUTES OF RAMROC MEETING HELD AT JERILDERIE ON WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY 2017

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the RAMROC Meeting held at Jerilderie on Wednesday 10th May 2017 be confirmed
 (Moved Griffith and seconded Leeton)

MRRR 4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 10TH MAY 2017 MEETING

There were no other matters arising from the Minutes of the 10th May 2017 meeting.

MRRR 5 – PRESENTATIONS**Item 5.1 - Queensland Fruit Fly Control and Management
 Penny Measham, PhD – Queensland Management Co-ordinator Horticulture
 Innovation Australia, together with Cr Tammy Galvin Communications Officer
 Riverina Land Services**

Tammy Galvin and Penny Measham addressed the meeting in relation to current development in relation to the area wide control and management of Queensland Fruit Fly and sterile insect techniques.

A copy of the Powerpoint Presentation delivered by Penny has been distributed to RAMROC Councils.

Item 5.2 - Transport NSW – introduction and briefing on meetings with Councils regarding their draft Fixing Country Roads Applications

Raphael Millar and Pat Chalacheva from Transport for NSW addressed the meeting and advised that the team will be meeting with Council representatives during the afternoon to discuss the Councils' draft applications under the Fixing Country Roads Program

Item 5.3 - Gary White Chief Planner NSW Department of Planning - agricultural opportunities for future planning, growth and efficiencies

Gary delivered a comprehensive Powerpoint presentation in relation to the global influences of megatrends that are impacting on all aspects of the economy and how in the Riverina Murray Regional Plan these megatrend influences will provide opportunities for the region's agriculture,

manufacturing and tourism industries. A copy of Gary's powerpoint Presentation has been distributed to all Member Councils.

MRRR 6 – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

RESOLVED at 10.05 am that Items 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 be dealt with in Confidential Session for reasons of commercial in confidence

Item 6.1 – Local Government Procurement – Group Rebate Offer Agreements for ROCs and Member Councils

Consideration was given to the Executive Officer's written report and follow up verbal reports by the Chair and Executive Officer, including the intended courses of action proposed.

**RESOLVED that the Chair and EO's reports be received and noted and that the actions taken and as now proposed be endorsed
(Moved Griffith and seconded Narrandera)**

Item 6.2 – LED Street Lighting and Smart Controls – Implementation and Management

The Executive Officer reported on the current status of Business Case preparation and stakeholder negotiations in relation to the potential for improved control and management of street lighting across southern NSW, being undertaken in collaboration with REROC, CENTROC and CBRJO

**RESOLVED that the EO's report be received and noted and that the actions taken to date and as now proposed by the ROCs be endorsed
(Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Hay)**

Item 6.3 – Creation of Energy Savings Certificates – Street Lighting Upgrades

Consideration was given to the EO's report in relation to the potential benefits to Member Councils through the earning of Energy Savings Certificates (ESCs), in relation to the upgrading of street lighting and other energy systems, in accordance with the NSW Energy Savings Scheme

**RESOLVED that RAMROC proceed to with a Request for Proposal process for the creation of Energy savings Certificates on behalf of interested participating Member Councils
(Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Edward River)**

RESOLVED at 10.30 am that the meeting move out of Confidential for the remaining RAMROC Agenda items

Item 6.4 – Joint Organisations – Current Status

The Executive Officer reported on the current status in relation to the State Government's intentions regarding the establishment of Joint Organisations across regional and rural NSW. At this stage there has been no further action or indication by the State Government as to what course of action may eventuate.

**RESOLVED that the EO's report be received and noted
(Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Narrandera)**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Officer pursue representations already made to the Minister for Local Government in relation to the availability of TCorp reduced loan interest rates for Councils which were previously deemed to be financially sound under the Fit for the Future criteria, but which were ruled on an overall basis as FFT unfit because of lack of Scale and Capacity.
(Moved Berrigan and seconded Narrandera)**

Item 6.5 – Department of Planning – Riverina Murray Regional Plan – Delivery, Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee (DCMC)

The Department of Planning has revised its criteria for ROC membership of the DCMC and the Minister has now requested that RAMROC formally appoint one of the region's General Managers as the RAMROC representative.

RESOLVED that Jackie Kruger General Manager of Leeton Shire Council be appointed as the RAMROC representative on the Delivery, Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee responsible for implementation of actions identified in the Riverina Murray Regional Plan (Moved Albury and seconded Griffith)

Item 6.6 – Staff Matters – Murray Waste Group and the Contaminated Land Management Program

The Executive Officer reported on the resignation of Nigel Taylor as the Murray Waste Group Co-ordinator after 10 years of service and also that Jessica Conner will be leaving at the end of August, being the finalisation date of the CLM Program funded by EPA

RESOLVED that RAMROC note the resignation of Nigel Taylor and commend him on his excellent service as the Murray Waste Group Co-ordinator for the past 10.8 years and that it also be noted that Jessica Conner's contract will terminate on 31st August and that she also be commended on her service. (Moved Leeton and seconded Albury)

Item 6.7 – NSW Community Cabinet – Griffith 17th August 2017

The NSW Premier and Cabinet Ministers will be visiting Griffith on 17 August for its scheduled Cabinet Meeting and to undertake engagement with local Councils and communities. It was noted that Mayors and General Managers across the region have been invited to attend.

The Chair and EO had planned to attend and to meet with the Minister for Resources, Energy and Utilities the Hon Don Harwin MLC regarding renewable energy programs. However circumstances now prevent that attendance and alternative arrangements to meet with the Minister at a future time will be taken up with his officials.

RESOLVED that the EOs report be received and noted (Moved Griffith and seconded Narrandera)

Item 6.8 – LGNSW Engagement with RMS – Road Maintenance Council Contracts

RAMROC has proposed to LGNSW and RMS that a Council General Manager or Senior Director be appointed to the RMCC Steering Committee. This was agreed to by RMS at the June 2017 RMCC meeting and an Expression of Interest process is intended to be undertaken in the near future.

RESOLVED that the Executive Officer's report be received and noted and that RAMROC press for the EOI process to be undertaken as soon as possible (Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Berrigan)

Item 6.9 – Cobar, Central Darling and Balranald Shire Councils- Request for Support for sealing of the Wool Track Road between Cobar and Balranald

The Cobar, Central Darling and Balranald Shire Councils have submitted an application for \$ 55 million under the Fixing Country Roads Program to complete the all weather construction of the Wool Track freight road. The upgrading will save travel time and operating expenses for freight vehicles travelling through Balranald and Cobar via Ivanhoe and to Queensland. The route has been identified in the RAMROC Regional Freight Transport Plan. The meeting also discussed the importance of other freight transport routes through the region, including Carrathool Road as an important route.

**RESOLVED that RAMROC provide support to the joint application being made by Cobar, Balranald and Central Darling Shire Councils for funding towards improvements to road freight transport routes under the Fixing Country Roads Program
(Moved Balranald and seconded Murrumbidgee)**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that as a matter of policy RAMROC be prepared to support other worthy funding applications for upgrading of freight transport routes through the region that have been identified in the RAMROC Regional Freight Transport Plan
(Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Carrathool)**

Item 6.10 – Inland Rail – Stakeholder Engagement Workshop held at Narrandera on 4th July 2017

Narrandera Shire recently hosted a regional stakeholder workshop in relation to road and rail freight transport needs across the Western Riverina and Goulburn Valley transport networks, with a particular focus on the requirement for rail infrastructure upgrading. The Narrandera Council Mayor and General Manager provided further verbal reports and sought RAMROC's support for the actions being taken by the Council.

**RESOLVED that RAMROC lend support to the actions being taken by the Narrandera Shire Council arising out of the 4th July road and rail transport workshop
(Moved Narrandera and seconded Berrigan)**

Item 6.11 – Murray Darling Basin Plan Issues

The Executive Officer submitted a status report in relation to recent issues concerning the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan and actions taken by MDBA to provide a regional presence outside of the Canberra Head Office. He also reported on the recent ABC 4 Corners report on water practices being taken by large irrigators in the Barwon-Darling River systems, which are adversely impacting on the availability of water for downstream agriculture and communities.

**RESOLVED that the Executive Officer's report on Murray Darling Basin issues be received and noted
(Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Griffith)**

MRRR 7 – RAMROC 2017-2018 BUDGET AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2017-2018

Consideration was given to the draft 2017-2018 Budget and proposed Membership Contributions as presented by the Executive Officer, together with the EO's comments on the Budget's proposed small deficit for the year. The General Managers Group has recommended the adoption of the Budget and the Contributions Schedule.

RESOLVED that RAMROC formally adopt the proposed 2017-2017 Budget and Membership Contributions, and that the Executive Officer make arrangements for the issuing of Tax Invoices for the Member Councils' contributions for the 2017-2018 year

**FURTHER RESOLVED that RAMROC receive and note the formal notification from Greater Hume Shire Council of its withdrawal from RAMROC as from 31st December 2017
(Moved Balranald and seconded Leeton)**

MRRR 8 – RAMROC 2016-2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2017

Consideration was given to the interim and unaudited Annual Financial Statements of RAMROC's activities for the 2016-2017 financial year and noting the Executive Officer's report thereon.

**RESOLVED that the interim 2016-2017 Financial Statements be adopted, noting that the final Financial Statements will be submitted for audit in the near future
(Moved Albury and seconded Hay)**

MRRR 9 – RAMROC WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following RAMROC Working Group Minutes:-

- 9.1 - Planners Group – 1st June 2017
- 9.2 - Riverina Waste Group – 21st June 2017
- 9.3 - Contaminated Land Management Committee – 30th June 2017
- 9.4 - Records Management Group – 4th July 2017
- 9.5 - General Managers Group – 21st July 2017

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the RAMROC Working Groups be received and that the actions taken therein be endorsed
(Moved Edward River and seconded Murrumbidgee)**

MRRR 10 – GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS**Item 10.1 - Trudi McDonald Regional Co-ordinator Department of Premier and Cabinet**

Trudi addressed the meeting relation to the following matters:-

- Regional Growth Fund – Stronger Country Communities Fund and the Regional Cultural Fund
- Regional Economic Development Strategies – assisting 16 sub-regional areas across the state – focus on the Griffith Functional Region Strategy

Item 10.2 Executive Officer Employment Contract – Working Party

The Chairman informed the meeting that the current Employment Contract for the Executive Officer is due to end on 1st October 2017 and that an appropriate extension of the Employment Contract has been recommended by the General Managers Group at its 21st July meeting.

RESOLVED that a Committee of 4 be established with delegated authority to negotiate the employment contract arrangements in respect of the Executive Officer position, noting that the current contract is due to terminate on 1st October 2017

**FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee comprise Chairman Cr Kevin Mack, Councillor John Dal Broi, Administrator Ashley Hall and General Manager Rowan Perkins and that the Committee report back on the matter to the November RAMROC Meeting
(Moved Griffith and seconded Leeton)**

Item 10.3 – Policing Numbers and Services for the Narrandera Region

Narrandera Shire Council Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka raised the issue of an inadequate police presence in Narrandera and surrounding region generally.

**RESOLVED that RAMROC make representations to the Deputy Commissioner in charge of Regional Policing, requesting a greater presence of police numbers and station hours for the Narrandera Shire area and surrounding region
(Moved Narrandera and seconded Leeton)**

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