

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (RAMROC), HELD IN THE MOUNTBATTEN ROOM OF THE DENILQUIN RSL CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT

Albury City:	Cr Kevin Mack (RAMROC Chairperson) Ms Tracey Squire
Balranald:	Apology
Berrigan:	Cr Matthew Hannan Mr Rowan Perkins
Carrathool:	Cr Darryl Jardine Mr Ken Murphy
Edward River:	Ashley Hall (Administrator)
Federation:	Mr Paul Miegel (Chair Local Representation Committee)
Greater Hume:	Apology
Griffith City:	Cr John Dal Broi Mr Brett Stonestreet
Hay:	Cr Bill Sheaffe Mr Jack Terblanche
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 Neville Kschenka Ms Judy Charlton
Wentworth:	Cr Susan Nichols Mr Peter Kozlowski
RAMROC	Mr Ray Stubbs (Executive Officer)

MEETING GUESTS:

The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC – Parliamentary Secretary to
the Deputy Premier and Southern New
South Wales

Professor Ross Garnaut – Chairman ZEN Energy
Richard Turner – Founder and Director Innovation ZEN
Energy

Annabel Gebbie - Chairman's Executive Assistant and Office
Manager ZEN Energy

Jane Spring – Executive Director NSW Department of
Industry - Regional Development

Suzie Matthews – Director of Small Business Engagement
– NSW Department of Industry
Karen Ballantyne – Manager Special Projects and Programs
NSW Small Business
Graeme Sayer - CEO Murray Hume and Riverina Business
Enterprise Centres
Kylie Walker – Clean Energy Regional Co-ordinator NSW
Office of Environment and Heritage
Gary Saliba – CEO RDA Murray
Margaret O'Dwyer - Regional Director NSW Department of
Industry
Paul Miegel – Chair Local Representation Committee –
Federation Council
Patrick Bourke – Former Mayor Urana Shire

MRRR 1 - WELCOME

The Chairperson Cr Kevin Mack extended a warm welcome to all of the meeting guests.

MRRR 2 - APOLOGIES

Cr Leigh Byron and Aaron Drenovski (Balranald Shire)
Cr Heather Wilton and Steven Pinnuck (Greater Hume Shire)
Cr Peter Laird (Carrathool Shire)
Administrator David Shaw (Murray River Council)
Administrator Mike Eden and Chris Gillard (Federation Council)
Cr Mick Rutledge and Allen Dwyer (Hay Shire)
Frank Zaknich (Albury City)
Barry Barlow (Edward River Council)
Trudi McDonald – Regional Co-ordinator NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
Wendy McPherson – Executive Assistant Department of Premier and Cabinet
Jennifer Weller (Chair RDA Murray)

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

MRRR 3 - MINUTES OF RAMROC MEETING HELD AT JERILDERIE ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2016

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the RAMROC General Meeting held on 2nd November 2016 be confirmed.
(Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Griffith)**

MRRR 4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 2ND NOVEMBER 2016 MEETING

There were no other matters arising from the Minutes of the 2nd November 2016 meeting.

MRRR 5 – PRESENTATION – NSW DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY - REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS

Jane Spring, Executive Director NSW Department of Industry - Regional Development addressed the meeting and outlined the current range of regional development programs administered by the Department

Suzie Matthews, Director Small Business Engagement Department of Industry gave a powerpoint presentation of the activities currently being undertaken. A copy of the presentation has been distributed to Councils with these Minutes.

MRRR 6 – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

Item 6.1 – RAMROC Operational Areas – Action Plan for 2017

The Executive Officer presented a proposed Action Plan to guide RAMROC's operational areas for the year 2017

RESOLVED that the Executive Officer's Operational Plan for the 2017 year be endorsed (Moved Murrumbidgee seconded Hay)

Item 6.2 – Contaminated Land Management – Project Officer's Progress Report

The Contaminated Land Management Project Officer Jessica Conner submitted her quarterly progress report on the RAMROC / REROC CLM program.

RESOLVED that the Project Officer's report be received and noted (Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Hay)

Item 6.3 – NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee Inquiry into Water Augmentation in Rural and Regional New South Wales

RAMROC's Chair and Executive Officer have been invited to appear as witnesses at the Standing Committee Public Hearing in Deniliquin on 28th February, specifically in relation to the RAMROC submission made to the Committee in July 2016, a copy of which was separately attached to the EO's report for information.

RESOLVED that the Executive Officer's Report be received and noted and that Member Councils be invited to provide any additional information which should be raised by RAMROC at the Standing Committee Hearing (Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Hay)

Item 6.4 – Fit for the Future Reform Program- Joint Organisations

The Executive Officer presented a current status report in relation to the State Government's proposals and timetable for the establishment of Joint Organisations. As at this time, the final Joint Organisation boundaries have yet to be announced and there is uncertainty as to when the draft JO legislation will be presented to Parliament. An announcement by Premier the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP and the Minister for Local Government the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP is expected to be made in the near future.

RESOLVED that the Executive Officer's report be received and noted (Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Hay)

Item 6.5 – Murray Darling Basin Plan – Speak Up Community Campaign for Food Production, Environment and Vibrant Communities

Consideration was given to a written progress report on activities and financial management to date submitted by the Speak Up Campaign Co-ordinator Shelley Scoullar, to which RAMROC contributed an amount of \$10,000 in early 2016. RAMROC has been requested to consider making a further contribution in the 2017 year, although no provision has been made in the 2016-2017 RAMROC Budget.

RESOLVED that the Speak Up Campaign Co-ordinator be commended on the program to date and thanked for her update report, and that Speak Up be advised that RAMROC has made no provision in its 2016-2017 Budget for a further contribution to Speak Up in 2017 (Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Hay)

AGENDA ITEM MRRR 7 – RAMROC 2016-2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

The Executive Officer submitted the quarterly 2017-2017 Financial Reports as at 31st December 2016 and reported that the Budget estimates are on track, with no significant deviations evident or anticipated

**RESOLVED that the quarterly Financial Statement of RAMROC's various accounts be noted and endorsed
(Moved Narrandera and seconded Griffith)**

AGENDA ITEM MRRR 8 – RAMROC WORKING GROUP MINUTES

The Minutes of the following Working Group meetings were submitted for information and discussion:-

- 8.1 Records Management Group – 8th November 2016
- 8.2 Riverina Waste Group – 30th November 2016
- 8.3 Planners Group – 1st December 2016
- 8.4 Murray Waste Group – 14th December 2016
- 8.5 General Managers Group – 24th January 2017
- 8.6 Economic Development Officers Group – 24th January 2017

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the various RAMROC Working Group meetings be received and noted and that the actions taken therein be endorsed.
(Moved Narrandera and seconded Leeton)**

AGENDA ITEM 9 – GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

9.1 – Indexation of Financial Assistance Grants and Roads to Recovery Funding

Mayor of Hay Shire Cr Bill Sheaffe raised the importance of RAMROC maintaining its strong representations to the Federal Government in relation to its commitment for the removal of the Government's freeze on the indexation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government Councils, as well as ensuring the retention of recent increased levels of Roads to Recovery funding into the future.

**RESOLVED that the RAMROC Executive Officer liaise with ALGA and LGNSW in making appropriate representations on these issues to the Prime Minister and Federal Treasurer and that RAMROC seek the support of the Member for Farrer Sussan Ley MP
(Moved Hay and seconded Narrandera)**

AGENDA ITEM 10 – WORKSHOP WITH ZEN ENERGY CHAIR AND OFFICIALS – RENEWABLE ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES FOR RAMROC REGION'S COUNCILS AND COMMUNITIES

Chair Cr Kevin Mack welcomed Professor Ross Garnaut Chairman of ZEN Energy, Richard Turner Founder / Director of Innovation and Annabel Gebbie Executive Assistant / Office Manager to the RAMROC meeting.

Richard tabled for information of Mayors, Administrators and General Managers a summary of the ZEN Energy's Expression of Interest to the NSW State Government for assistance under the Advanced Energy Challenge Program, which proposes the following four elements for the implementation of solar, biogas, biothermal and battery storage renewable energy systems within the region:-

1. Economically efficient combinations of solar and other renewables with high technology battery storage at a central location within each Council area, which will supply low cost power to industrial areas and adjacent users
2. Utilisation of this large scale local power to supply Council, State Government and other commercial and industrial users, at lower average cost than the conventional sources of power delivered through the grid
3. Working with Councils to encourage household and small businesses to generate solar PV power and to store it in batteries for use at peak times, which will lower annual power costs across the board
4. Working with Councils and State Government agencies to reform local network pricing, which will support greater use of the network for local trade in power at times when the network is underutilised, and to reduce the demand for power in peak times when the network is constrained

A copy of the ZEN Energy EOI Summary has been distributed to Member Councils with these Minutes.

These proposals were discussed at length with ZEN Energy and in particular potential opportunities for the renewable energy technology to be applied to industries, businesses and households across the region.

ZEN Energy is prepared to visit and discuss opportunities with individual councils and communities and indicated that a favourable response from the Advanced Energy Challenge EOI would certainly facilitate early progress to bring these opportunities to fruition.

Arising from the workshop discussions, RAMROC delegates unanimously passed the following resolution:-

RESOLVED that RAMROC endorse working with ZEN Energy to explore renewable energy opportunities for Councils and communities in the Riverina Murray region and advise the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW the Hon John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Resources, Energy and Utilities the Hon Don Harwin MLC that RAMROC strongly supports the ZEN Energy Expression of Interest lodged with the NSW Government under the Advanced Energy Challenge Program.

FURTHER that RAMROC Member Councils be encouraged to participate in ZEN Energy's offer to engage one-on-one with individual Councils to discuss potential renewable energy opportunities within their respective areas; and further that Councils maintain communication with Renewable Energy officials in the NSW Department of Industry (Resources and Energy) and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage"

(Moved Murrumbidgee and seconded Griffith)

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.33 pm