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 FRIDAY 18TH MAY 2018 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT

Albury City: Cr Kevin Mack (RAMROC Chairperson) Mr Frank Zaknich
Balranald: Apology
Berrigan: Cr Daryll Morris Mr Rowan Perkins
Carrathool: Cr Peter Laird Ms Joanne Treacy
Edward River: Cr Norm Brennan Mr Adam McSwain
Federation: Cr Patrick Bourke Mr Adrian Butler
Griffith City: Cr John Dal Broi Mr Brett Stonestreet
Hay: Cr Mick Rutledge Ms Amanda Spalding
Leeton: Cr Paul Maytom Ms Jackie Kruger
Murray River: Cr Chris Bilkey Mr Des Bilske
Murrumbidgee: Cr Ruth McRae Mr Craig Moffitt
Narrandera: Cr David Fahey Mr George Cowan
Wentworth: Apology
RAMROC Mr Ray Stubbs (Executive Officer)

MEETING GUESTS:

Ms Genevieve Fleming – Chair Destination Riverina Murray
Mr Richie Robinson – Exec Officer Destination Riverina Murray
Ms Wendy Greiner – Chair Murray Regional Tourism Board
Mr Mark Francis – Exec Officer Murray Regional Tourism

Appendix "G"
MRRR 1 - WELCOME

The Chairperson welcomed Mayors and General Managers to the meeting and in particular he welcomed Cr Daryll Morris of Berrigan Shire representing the Mayor.

MRRR 2 - APOLOGIES

Cr Bill Sheaffe (Mayor Hay Shire), Cr Neville Kschenka (Mayor Narrandera Shire), Cr Melisa Hederics (Mayor), Cr Susan Nichols and Mr Peter Kozlowski (Wentworth Shire), Cr Matt Hannan (Mayor Berrigan Shire), Cr Leigh Byron (Mayor) and Mr Michael Kitzelmann (Balranald Shire), Mr Austin Evans MP, Ms Bronnie Taylor MLC, and Ms Trudi McDonald (Regional Co-ordinator Department Premier and Cabinet)

RESOLVED that the apologies be received and accepted
(Moved Griffith and Hay)

MRRR 3 – MINUTES OF RAMROC MEETING HELD AT JERILDERIE ON WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the RAMROC Meeting held at Jerilderie on Wednesday 14th February 2018 be confirmed
(Moved Griffith and seconded Murray River)

MRRR 4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 14TH FEBRUARY 2018 MEETING

The Executive Officer verbally updated the meeting on the current status of the Southern Lights LED and Smart Controls Street Lighting Project – a joint initiative of RAMROC, REROC, CENTROC, Canberra Region JO and Broken Hill City.

MRRR 5 – PRESENTATION BY DESTINATION RIVERINA MURRAY CHAIR GENEVIEVE FLEMING AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER RICHIE ROBINSON AND MURRAY REGIONAL TOURISM CHAIR WENDY GREINER AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER MARK FRANCIS

This presentation was made later in the meeting at 11.30 am – refer to details later in these Minutes

MRRR 6 - EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

ITEM 6.1 - JOINT ORGANISATIONS PROCLAMATION AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

Consideration was given to the Executive Officer’s report in relation to the Governor’s Proclamation on 11th May 2018 for the establishment of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO).

The meeting also discussed the proclamation of other Joint Organisations across the Riverina Murray region, as well as the winding up of RAMROC as an organisation as from the end of the current financial year on 30th June 2018.

The meeting agreed that a workshop of the RAMJO Mayors and General Managers would be held this afternoon, to consider a range of matters that require decision prior to the first formal meeting of RAMJO.

RESOLVED
1. That the Executive Officer’s report be received
2. That the RAMROC Board formally resolve the following:-
   - To formally wind up and terminate the RAMROC S.355 Agreement as at 30th June 2018, being the end of the current 2017-2018 annual budget period;
   - To propose to the new Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) that the remaining period of the Executive Officer’s RAMROC Employment Contract, scheduled to terminate on 1st October 2018, be replaced by the appointment of the RAMROC
Executive Officer as the Interim Executive Officer of the new Joint Organisation from 1st July 2018 to 31st October 2018 under the same employment remuneration and performance provisions as currently apply. Thereafter that the Interim Executive Officer position be continued on a month to month basis at the discretion of the JO Board, pending the advertising and appointment of a new fixed term Executive Officer position;

- To propose to the new JO Board that it task the Interim Executive Officer with establishing the operations and requirements of the new Joint Organisation as from 1st July 2018, as well as the winding up the operational and financial affairs of RAMROC and the transitioning of specific contractual arrangements, functions and activities to the new JO, including the following:-

  a. managing the two consultancy contractual arrangements for the Murray Waste Group Coordinator and the Riverina Waste Group Coordinator;
  
b. arranging for the sale of RAMROC assets, or transfer of those assets to the new JO, including motor vehicle, IT equipment and mobile phones and office furniture;
  
c. closing RAMROC bank accounts, credit cards and ABN registration etc;
  
d. settling of all debts and other liabilities out of the assets of the RAMROC Committee and arranging for the balance of monetary assets to be distributed to the current RAMROC Member Councils, in accordance with the S.355 Agreement (this distribution is based on each Council’s percentage of current year membership contributions);
  
e. making administrative arrangements with EPA for the ongoing funding and contractual operations of the Murray Waste Group and the Riverina Waste Group and any other contractual agreements or MOUs in place at the time of termination (e.g. the LGP Memorandum of Understanding and the Procurement Australia Memorandum of Understanding),
  
f. arranging for the continuation of the work of the Officer Working Groups;
  
g. finalising 2017-2018 Financial Statements and commissioning of the final Audit Report;
  
3. That the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) establishment matters (i.e. before the first JO meeting, at the first JO meeting and after the first JO meeting), as identified in the EO’s report be referred to an implementation workshop of Mayors and General Managers of RAMJO following the conclusion of the RAMROC Board meeting

(Moved Griffith and seconded Leeton)

FURTHER RESOLVED that in relation to dot point (d) above regarding the distribution of net assets to the RAMROC Member Councils under the Section 355 Agreement, that it be recommended to each of the RAMJO Member Councils that they consider contributing those distribution funds back to RAMJO in order to supplement the funding of RAMJO operations commencing on 1st July 2018

(Moved Griffith and seconded Leeton)

FURTHER RESOLVED that the matter of increased RAMJO membership be the subject of review by the RAMJO Board at the appropriate time following commencement of its operations

(Moved Albury and seconded Federation)
ITEM 6.2 - COUNCILS’ PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES

The Executive Officer reported on the current status of negotiations with Local Government Procurement in relation to the LGP{ Group Rebate Scheme and also on separate negotiations with Procurement Australia for a 2 year trial MOU for a rebate scheme regarding PA Contract purchases by Member Councils.

RESOLVED that the Executive Officer’s report be adopted and that it be recommended to the new joint Organisation RAMJO that the trial 2 year Memorandum of Understanding with Procurement Australia be proceeded with to commence during July 2018.
(Moved Murray River and seconded Leeton)

ITEM 6.3 – MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN PRODUCTIVITY AND ROYAL COMMISSIONS

Consideration was given to written and verbal reports presented by the Executive Officer in relation to RAMROC’s submissions made in respect of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, firstly the Productivity Commission’s 5 year review of the Basin Plan implementation, and secondly the South Australian Royal Commission’s Inquiry into the legislative provisions of the 2007 Water Act and the MD Basin Plan.

RESOLVED that the written and verbal reports by the Executive Officer be received and endorsed
(Moved Griffith and seconded Federation)

ITEM 6.4 - POTENTIAL FOR SOLAR SAVER ENERGY PROGRAM FOR RAMROC COMMUNITIES

The Chair and Executive Officer reported on the potential for RAMJO and its Member Councils to implement a bulk Solar Saver Energy Program across the region, similar in nature to other solar energy programs being undertaken by Councils and communities throughout the eastern States. Particular reference was made to schemes underway in Darebin Council in Melbourne and in the Shoalhaven region of NSW.

RESOLVED
That it be recommended to the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) that it carry out a feasibility study into the potential for a bulk Councils’ sponsored program of solar energy installation for residents, small businesses and industries, school and other organisations across the region in partnership with the Member Councils
(Moved Leeton and seconded Federation)

FURTHER RESOLVED that it be recommended to RAMJO that the Chair and Interim Executive Officer make appropriate representations to the NSW Minister for Energy and Utilities the Hon Don Harwin MLC, in relation to the importance of de-regulation of the energy industry and the potential for State Government financial assistance towards the cost of commissioning the proposed feasibility study into the Solar Saver Energy Program
(Moved Federation and seconded Leeton)

ITEM 6.5 – NSW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME – LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF REVENUE GENERATED BY MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRFs)

The Executive Officer reported on the legislative provisions of the NSW Container Deposit Scheme in relation to negotiations for the sharing of revenue generated through the kerbside recycling of eligible containers by Material Recovery facilities (MRFs), these sharing agreements between Councils and MRFs to be finalised by 1st December 2018. The RAMROC Waste Groups will fund the commissioning of expert assistance for Councils participating in negotiations for CDS revenue sharing and also for assistance, where requested by Councils, in negotiating new or extended kerbside recycling contracts.

RESOLVED
That the RAMROC Board endorse the action taken to date and the proposed invitation of Requests for Proposals to provide expert assistance to Member Councils in relation to Council and MRF negotiations for sharing of revenue for the processing of eligible containers, as well as for Councils negotiating new or amended kerbside recycling contracts
(Moved Griffith and seconded Federation)
The RAMROC Quarterly Financial Statements for the General Account, Murray Waste Group Account and the Riverina Waste Group Account were submitted to the meeting for consideration.

The Financial Statements indicate that the expenditure and Income items are still well on track with the 2017-2018 Budget Estimates.

**Recommendation**

That the Quarterly Financial Statements for RAMROC Accounts as at 31st March 2018 be received and adopted

(Moved Federation and seconded Leeton)

**MRRR 8 - RAMROC WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

The following RAMROC Working Group Meeting Minutes were set out in the meeting agenda papers, for consideration and endorsement of actions taken by the Groups.

8.1    RAMROC Engineers Group – meeting of 14th February 2018
8.2    Riverina Waste Management Group Meeting – meeting of 28th February 2018
8.3    RAMROC Planners Group – meeting of 15th March 2018
8.4    RAMROC General Managers Group – meeting of 20th April 2018

RESOLVED that the various Working Group Minutes be received and noted and that the actions taken therein be endorsed.

(Moved Griffith and seconded Murrumbidgee)

**MRRR 9 – GENERAL BUSINESS MATTERS**

**Item 9.1 – Silverleaf Nightshade Infestations in the Region**

Cr Paul Maytom advised of a Silverleaf Nightshade infestation that has become a serious weed problem in Leeton Shire. He requested that the Executive Officer seek information regarding the management and control of this weed and take this matter up with the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee and with the Minister for Primary Industries the Hon Niall Blair MLC.

**Item 9.2 – Qantas Pilot Academy**

Narrandera Shire raised the issue of EOIs sought by Qantas for the training of pilots and suggested that a region wide collaborative approach could be beneficial. However, it was agreed that as individual Councils have already registered their interest with Qantas and that these EOIs are already under consideration, that the time for an alternative region wide approach is no longer appropriate.

**MRRR 5 – PRESENTATION BY DESTINATION RIVERINA MURRAY CHAIR GENEVIEVE Fleming AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER RICHIE ROBINSON AND MURRAY REGIONAL TOURISM CHAIR WENDY GREINER AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER MARK FRANCIS**

At 11.30 am, the Chairpersons and CEOs of Destination Riverina Murray and Murray Regional Tourism gave a comprehensive presentation to the meeting, supported by informative Powerpoint slides which will be distributed to the Member Councils with these Minutes.

The RAMROC Chairman Cr Kevin Mack also gave a very informative Powerpoint presentation of slides prepared by Juddy Roller Cultural Agency, which demonstrates the potential to develop a Silos Arts Touring Trail for the Riverina Murray region. It was agreed that this tourism opportunity be taken up with the NSW Minister for Tourism and Major Events the Hon Adam Marshall MP seeking the possibility of State Government funding assistance.

There being no further business, the RAMROC meeting concluded at 12.50 pm