



RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION

Member Councils: Albury, Berrigan, Carrathool, Edward River, Federation, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Murray River, Murrumbidgee and Narrandera

MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT A MEETING OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION (RAMJO) WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2018 IN THE IAN GILBERT ROOM AT THE JERILDERIE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE OF MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM (MORNING TEA AT 9.30 AM)

BOARD MEMBERS – MEMBER COUNCIL MAYORS (Voting Board Members)

Cr Kevin Mack (Albury) Chairperson, Cr Matthew Hannan (Berrigan), Cr Peter Laird (Carrathool), Cr Norm Brennan (Edward River), Cr Patrick Bourke (Federation), Cr John Dal Broi (Griffith), Cr Bill Sheaffe (Hay), Cr Paul Maytom (Leeton), Cr Chris Bilkey (Murray River), Cr Ruth McRae (Murrumbidgee) and Cr Neville Kschenka (Narrandera),

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET (Non-Voting Board Member)

James Bolton DPC Regional Director Riverina Murray

GENERAL MANAGERS (Non-Voting Board Members)

Frank Zaknich (Albury), Rowan Perkins (Berrigan), Joanne Treacy (Carrathool), Adam McSwain (Edward River), Adrian Butler (Federation), Brett Stonestreet (Griffith), Amanda Spalding (Hay), Jackie Kruger (Leeton), Des Bilske (Murray River), Craig Moffitt (Murrumbidgee) and George Cowan (Narrandera)

INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ray Stubbs

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Chairpersons Welcome to new JO Member Councils (Carrathool and Narrandera) and to other Meeting Guests (page 3)**
- 1A Cameron Templeton OLG Engagement Officer for Joint Organisations will provide a 5 minute OLG update**
- 2. Apologies (page 3)**
- 3. Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons (page 3)**
- 4. Minutes of Inaugural Board Meeting – held at Jerilderie on 29th June 2018 (pages 3 to 12)**
- 5. Matters Arising from Minutes of 29th June 2018 Board Meeting (page 13)**
- 6. Joint Organisations Network Meeting 15th and 16th August 2018 – see separate attachment *Appendix 1*) – page 13**
- 7. Southern Lights Street Lighting Project – Presentation by Brad Ferris (RAMJO Representative on Project Working Group) - 15-20 minutes (page 13)**

8. Regional Development Australia Committees – Introductions and brief presentations by RDA Murray CEO Edwina Hayes (5-10 minutes) – Note that the Riverina RDA CEO Rachel Whiting is unfortunately an apology for the meeting (page 14)
9. Workshop Session – Development of the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (facilitated by Kate de Hennin and Deanne Drage – see separate workshop papers) (pages 14 to 16)
10. RAMROC Final Financials – Distribution of unspent funds as at 30th June 2018 wind up (pages 16 to 17)
11. Status of Joint Organisation Implementation and OLG Engagement Arrangements (pages 17 to 18)
12. Draft Revenue Policy, Budget and Schedule of Member Council Contributions for 2018-2019 Financial Year (see separate attachment (*Appendix 2*) – (pages 18 to 19)
13. Draft Riverina and Murray JO Charter (*Appendix 3*) – (page 19)
14. Draft Code of Meeting Practice (*Appendix 4*) – (page 20)
15. Draft Expenses and Facilities Policy (*Appendix 5*) – (page 20)
16. Draft Communications and Engagement Plan (*Appendix 6*) – (page 20)
17. RAMROC representative on Murray Region Tourism Board (pages 20 to 21)
18. Waste to Energy - Feasibility Study Proposal by Tenterfield Shire Council (pages 21 to 23)
19. RAMJO Executive Officer - Recruitment Methodology and Timetable (page 24)
20. RAMJO Working Group Minutes (packaged in *Appendix 7*) – (page 24)
 - Engineers Group Meeting – 9th May 2018
 - Riverina Waste Group Meeting – 23rd May 2018
 - Planners Group Meeting - 14th June 2018
 - General Managers Group Meeting – 20th July 2018
 - Murray Waste Group Meeting – 18th July 2018
 - Riverina Waste Group Meeting – 8th August 2018
 - Murray Waste Group Meeting – 8th August 2018
21. General Business



Ray Stubbs
Interim Executive Officer

AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Welcome to new JO Member Councils (Carrathool and Narrandera) and to Meeting Guests

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Apologies

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons

AGENDA ITEM 4 - Minutes of Inaugural Board Meeting – held at Jerilderie on 29th June 2018

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION HELD IN THE IAN GILBERT ROOM OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL ON FRIDAY 29TH JUNE 2018 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

Cr Kevin Mack	Mayor Albury City Council
Cr Matthew Hannan	Mayor Berrigan Shire Council
Cr Norm Brennan	Mayor Edward River Council
Cr Patrick Bourke	Mayor Federation Council
Cr John Dal Broi	Mayor Griffith City Council
Cr Bill Sheaffe	Mayor Hay Shire Council
Cr Paul Maytom	Mayor Leeton Shire Council
Cr Chris Bilkey	Mayor Murray River Council
Cr Ruth McRae	Mayor Murrumbidgee Council

NON VOTING BOARD MEMBER – NSW GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr James Bolton	Director Riverina Murray - Department Premier and Cabinet
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OTHER NON VOTING BOARD MEMBERS – COUNCIL GENERAL MANAGERS

Mr Frank Zaknich	Albury City Council
Mr Rowan Perkins	Berrigan Shire Council
Mr Adam McSwain	Edward River Council
Mr Adrian Butler	Federation Council
Mr Brett Stonestreet	Griffith City Council
Ms Jackie Kruger	Leeton Shire
Mr Des Bilske	Murray River Council
Mr Peter Chudek (Acting GM)	Murrumbidgee Council

INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr Ray Stubbs

OBSERVER COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVES

**Cr Mick Rutledge
Mr George Cowan
Ms Joanne Treacy**

**Deputy Mayor Hay Shire Council
General Manager Narrandera Shire Council
General Manager Carrathool Shire Council**

OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

**Ms Melissa Gibbs
Mr Cameron Templeton**

**Director Policy and Sector Development
Joint Organisation and Council Engagement Officer**

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME

The inaugural meeting of the Board was opened by Frank Zaknich General Manager of Albury City Council, under delegation by the OLG Chief Executive.

The meeting opened with the acknowledgment of the original custodians of our land.

Mr Zaknich welcomed Melissa Gibbs (Director Policy and Sector Development) and Cameron Templeton (JO and Council Engagement Officer) from the Office of Local Government, as well as James Bolton recently appointed DP&C Director Riverina Murray, meeting observers Cr Mick Rutledge Deputy Mayor Hay Shire Council, George Cowan General Manager Narrandera Shire Council and Joanne Treacy General Manager Carrathool Shire.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Amanda Spalding General Manager Hay Shire Council, Craig Moffitt General Manager Murrumbidgee Council, Cr Peter Laird Mayor Carrathool Shire Council and Cr Neville Kschenka Mayor Narrandera Shire Council.

The apologies were received and noted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – ANNUAL REMUNERATION FOR CHAIRPERSON

RESOLVED that the annual remuneration for the Chairperson position be determined for the two year Chairperson term, prior to the conduct of the election of Chairperson, in accord with the Draft Charter's roles and responsibilities for the position.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the remuneration for the Chairperson position be set at \$10,000 per annum for each of the forthcoming two year Chairperson term.

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Bourke)

AGENDA ITEM 4 - ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

The election of Board Chairperson was carried out by Frank Zaknich, appointed as Returning Officer under delegation by the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government.

The Returning Officer informed the meeting that he had received one formal nomination in writing, that being in respect of Cr Kevin Mack Mayor of Albury City. The Returning Officer invited any further nominations, however none were forthcoming.

The Returning Officer therefore declared Cr Kevin Mack elected unopposed for the ensuing two year term.

Cr Mack took the chair for the remainder of the meeting and he thanked the Board Members for their confidence in electing him as the inaugural Chairperson of the Joint Organisation.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON POSITION

RESOLVED that the Board reaffirm the intention to elect a Deputy Chairperson in accordance with the Draft Charter, which sets out the role and responsibilities of the position.

FURTHER RESOLVED that following the formal adoption of the Draft JO Charter that the Returning Officer undertake the process for election of a Deputy Chairperson.

(Moved Cr Bilkey and seconded Cr McRae)

AGENDA ITEM 6 – PROCLAMATION AND REGULATIONS – RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION

RESOLVED that the Board receive and note both the Joint Organisation Proclamation and the LG Act Regulations.

(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Brennan)

AGENDA ITEM 7 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT – JOINT ORGANISATION IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE AND DELEGATIONS BY THE OLG CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RESOLVED that the Board receive and note the Joint Organisation Implementation Guidance document and the OLG Chief Executive's Delegation of Functions to Mr Frank Zaknich for the calling of the inaugural Board meeting and for the election of Chairperson process.

(Moved Cr Bourke and seconded Cr Maytom)

AGENDA ITEM 8 – DRAFT RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION CHARTER

RESOLVED that the Draft Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation Charter as prepared for the agenda be adopted for consultation with Member Councils for a period of 42 days, and that feedback be sought from Member Councils, including suggestions for any changes to the wording of the "Vision" for the organisation.

(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Maytom)

AGENDA ITEM 9 – ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

The Returning Officer informed the meeting that he had received one formal nomination in writing for the position of Deputy Chairperson, that being in respect of Cr John Dal Broi mayor of Griffith City.

The Returning Officer invited any further nominations, however none were forthcoming.

The Returning Officer therefore declared Cr John Dal Broi elected unopposed as Deputy Chairperson for the ensuing two year term.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – BOARD MEMBERS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS

RESOLVED that the Board:

1. note that all Board Members and the Executive Officer are automatically designated persons for the purposes of Section 449 of the Local Government Act;
2. note that as alternates for the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor or other Councillor appointed by a Member Council as an alternate representative, is also a designated person for the purposes of Section 449; and
3. note the responsibility of designated persons to complete the Disclosures of Interest forms.

Footnote: OLG advises that Board Member Mayors, or an alternate Deputy Mayor or Councillor Joint Organisation representative, can simply amend their current Disclosure of Interest Form held by their Member Council, by including on that form reference to it being applicable also to the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation.

(Moved Cr Sheaffe and seconded Cr McRae)

AGENDA ITEM 11 – APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RESOLVED

1. That Raymond Stubbs be appointed as the Interim Executive Officer of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation on a contract basis for the period Monday 2nd July 2018 to Wednesday 31st October 2018 and thereafter on a month to month basis at the discretion of the Board, pending the advertising and recruitment of a permanent Executive Officer;
2. That the Total Remuneration Package for the Interim Executive Officer be in accordance with the TRP payable under the previous RAMROC contract as applicable at termination on 1st July 2018;
3. That the Chairperson Cr Kevin Mack and Albury City General Manager Frank Zaknich be delegated authority to finalise the Employment Contract documentation with Ray Stubbs.

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Hannan)

AGENDA ITEM 12 – DELEGATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RESOLVED that the delegations to the RAMJO Executive Officer, as set out in the meeting agenda report to the Board, be formally approved.

(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Bilkey)

AGENDA ITEM 13 – CODE OF CONDUCT AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

RESOLVED

1. That the Board formally adopt the current Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (the Model Code) and the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Council in NSW (the Procedures);
2. That the Board note that the Interim Executive Officer will take prompt action to formally appoint a Code of Conduct Complaints Coordinator and Disclosures Coordinator;
3. That the Board adopt the Public Interest Disclosures (Protected Disclosures) Policy as set out in the agenda report.

(Moved Cr Bourke and seconded Cr McRae)

AGENDA ITEM 14 – PANEL OF CONDUCT REVIEWERS

RESOLVED

That the Board endorse the appointment of a Joint Organisation Panel of nine (9) Conduct Reviewers for a three (3) term expiring on 30th June 2021, comprising the following:-

1. The Centium Group, Level 8, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney
2. Harris Wheeler Lawyers, Level 3, 175 Scott Street, Newcastle
3. Sinc Solutions Strategic Independent Consulting (Kath Roach) – PO Box 455 Glebe NSW
4. Mediate Today Pty Ltd, PO Box 4191, Shellharbour, NSW
5. HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, Level 14 Australia Square 264-278 George Street, Sydney NSW
6. Prevention Partners, 19 Sutherland Road, North Parramatta NSW
7. O’Connell Workplace Solutions – 6 O’Connell Street, Sydney
8. Workplace Investigation Services – 4 Rowell Marine, 1 Queens Parade, Newport NSW
9. BAL Lawyers (Bradley Allen Love), Level 9, Canberra House, 40 Marcus Street, CANBERRA ACT

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Maytom)

AGENDA ITEM 15 – DRAFT CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

RESOLVED

1. That the draft Code of Meeting Practice as set out in the agenda report be now referred to Member Councils for their comment for a period of 42 days.
2. That the draft Code of Meeting Practice and feedback comments from Member Councils be referred to a future meeting of the Board for consideration and final adoption of the policy as amended (if required).

(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Bourke)

AGENDA ITEM 16 – DRAFT EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY

RESOLVED

1. That the draft policy for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to Board Members and the Chairperson be referred to Member Councils for their comment for a period of 42 days.
2. That the draft policy and comments from Member Councils be referred to a future meeting of the Board for consideration and adoption of the policy as amended (if required).

(Moved Cr Bilkey and seconded Cr McRae)

AGENDA ITEM 17 – PRIVACY MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLVED that the Joint Organisation Board adopt the Privacy Management Plan as per the OLG Model, under the Privacy and Personal Protection Act (1998).

(Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr McRae)

AGENDA ITEM 18 – JOINT ORGANISATION ESTABLISHMENT GRANTS

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Board resolve to support the inclusion of Carrathool and Narrandera Shire Councils in the Riverina and Murray Regional Joint Organisation;
- (2) That the Chairperson and Executive Officer be authorised to sign the RAMJO Funding Agreement to be lodged with OLG by 29th June 2018;
- (3) That the resolution of the RAMROC meeting on 18th May in relation to the suggestion that Member Councils contribute back their share of surplus RAMROC funds as at time of wind up be noted and agreed to in principle, for review in due course when the financial affairs of RAMROC have been finalised.

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Bilkey)

AGENDA ITEM 19 – RAMJO MEETINGS SCHEDULE

RESOLVED that at this stage the ensuing RAMJO Board Meetings be scheduled for Wednesday 8th August 2018, Wednesday 14th November 2018, Wednesday 13th February 2019 and Wednesday 8th May 2019.

(Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr Dal Broi)

AGENDA ITEM 20 – ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

Item 20.1 – Business Name and Trading Name for Operational Purposes – ABN and Taxation Registration

RESOLVED

1. That the Business Name “Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation” and Trading Name “RAMJO” as proposed in the agenda report be adopted and that action be taken by the Interim Executive officer to implement the registration processes;
2. That the OLG Implementation Actions and Timeline be received and noted and that the steps be adopted for implementation purposes.
(Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr Bourke)

Item 20.2 – Logo and Common Seal

RESOLVED That the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation:-

- (a) Adopt a Logo and Seal of the JO which contains the wording “Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation” within a tricoloured arc representing the land, environment and water as indicated in the report;
- (b) Resolve that the Seal be kept by the Executive Officer ;
- (c) Resolve that the use of the Seal be in accordance with the provisions of Clause 400 of the Local Government (General) Regulation (2005).

(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr Dal Broi)

Item 20.3 – Domain Name

RESOLVED that the Board adopt www.ramjo.nsw.gov.au as the official Domain Name and that the Interim Executive Officer proceed to complete the registration process.

(Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr Dal Broi)

Item 20.4 (a) – Headquarters and Office Location

RESOLVED that the headquarters and office location be established in Albury within the Albury City Council offices and that the Interim Executive Officer liaise with the ACC General Manager to finalise office lease and IT arrangements.

(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Maytom)

Item 20.4 (b) – Financial Management

RESOLVED that the Murray River Council be engaged to undertake the day to day financial management on behalf of the Joint Organisation and that the Interim Executive Officer liaise with the MRC General Manager to finalise administrative, banking and audit arrangements.

(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Dal Broi)

Item 20.4 (c) – Legal Services

RESOLVED that the Interim Executive Officer invite Expressions of Interest from reputable legal firms with the appropriate Local Government experience for the provision of legal advice and services for

the Joint Organisation and that the Interim Executive Officer be delegated authority to negotiate an arrangement.

(Moved Cr Bourke and seconded Cr Maytom)

Item 20.4 (d) – Website

RESOLVED that the Interim Executive Officer invite Expressions of interest for the development of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) website and that he be delegated authority to negotiate an arrangement.

(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr Sheaffe)

AGENDA ITEM 21 – TRANSFER OF VARIOUS RAMROC FUNCTIONS, PROGRAMS AND WORKING GROUPS

Item 21 (a) – Officer Working Groups

RESOLVED

That the following RAMROC Working Groups and Councils’ representation thereon continue to operate and be under the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation’s control and management:-

- **General Managers Group**
- **Engineers Group**
- **Environmental Services / Planners Group**
- **Records Management Group**
- **Integrated Planning and Reporting Group**
- **Procurement Group**
- **Economic Development Group**
- **Others - as may be established from time to time.**

(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr Dal Broi)

Item 21 (b) – Regional Waste Management

RESOLVED

- 1. That both Murray Region Waste Management and Riverina Region Waste Management continue to operate in their present format and membership and that they be under the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation’s control and management;**
- 2. That the Waste Management Funding arrangements with the NSW Environment and Protection Authority (EPA) now be controlled and managed by the Joint Organisation;**
- 3. That the contractual arrangements with the Murray Waste Coordinator and Riverina Waste Coordinator become the responsibility of the Joint Organisation and managed by the Executive Officer.**

(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Maytom)

Item 21 (c) – Current RAMROC Programs and Agreements

RESOLVED

That the Joint Organisation accept transfer and responsibility for the following current programs and agreements:-

- (i) Procurement - Group Rebate Schemes Memoranda of Understanding with Local Government Procurement and with Procurement Australia;**
 - (ii) Solar Saver Renewable Energy Program for RAMJO Councils and Communities;**
 - (iii) NSW Container Deposit Scheme – consultancy program for negotiations of revenue sharing with Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and for kerbside recycling contracts;**
 - (iv) The Southern Lights LED and Smart Controls Street Lighting Joint JO Project with Central NSW JO, Riverina JO, Canberra Region JO and Broken Hill City Council.**
- (Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Bourke)**

Item 21 (d) – Representation on External Stakeholder Organisations

RESOLVED

That the Board note the current RAMROC representation of a range of stakeholder organisations and that they be continued as Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) representatives:-

- 1. Executive Officer**
 - Murray Hume and Riverina Business Enterprise Centres**
 - NSW Regional Organisation of Councils Network - Executive Officers Group**
 - Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) Riverina Murray Region - coordinated by NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet – Regional Directors and Managers of NSW Agencies**
 - NSW Cross Border Commissioner’s Southern Region Business Advisory Group**
 - Murray Local Land Services - Travelling Stock Reserves Steering Committee**
 - Murray Local Land Services – Pest Management Advisory Group**
 - Murray and Murrumbidgee Environmental Watering Advisory Committees (EWAGs)**
 - REROC and RAMROC Biodiversity Support Program**
- 2. Other Representatives**
 - Cr Chris Bilkey (Mayor of Murray River Council) - Murray Lower Darling Water Resource Plan – Stakeholder Advisory Group**
 - Cr Paul Maytom (Mayor of Leeton Shire Council) – Murrumbidgee Customer Advisory Group**
 - Cr Henk Van de Ven (Councillor on Albury City Council) – Murray Lower Darling Customer Advisory Group**
 - Ms Tracey Squire (Director Economic Development and Tourism at Albury City Council) – Murray Region Tourism Board**
 - Mr Brad Ferris (Director Engineering at Albury City Council) – Southern Lights LED and Smart Controls Street Lighting Project**
 - Ms Jackie Kruger – Department of Planning - Riverina and Murray Regional Plan Implementation Committee**

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Brennan)

AGENDA ITEM 22 - GENERAL BUSINESS MATTERS

Item 22.1 – Engagement with Member Councils

Cr Dal Broi raised the importance of strong RAMJO engagement with Councils and Councillors across the region. It was agreed that the Interim Executive Officer write to the Member Councils and extend an offer for the Chairperson and Interim Executive Officer to make a presentation to Councillors in relation to the establishment, role and functions of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation.

Item 22.2 – Proposed Qantas Pilot Training Academy

Cr Mack advised that Wagga has been shortlisted by Qantas for more detailed consideration for the establishment of a Qantas Pilot Training Academy and that the Wagga Mayor has asked RAMJO to provide a letter of support for the Wagga Wagga City bid.

RESOLVED that RAMJO write a letter of support for the Pilot Training Academy to be located at Wagga.

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Bourke)

Item 22.3 – Condolences to Narrandera Shire Council Mayor

Cr Mack referred to the recent death of the mother of Cr Neville Kschenka Mayor of Narrandera Shire.

RESOLVED that RAMJO Member Councils convey their sincerest sympathy to Cr Neville Kschenka and family,

(Moved Cr Mack and seconded Cr Brennan)

Item 22. 4 – Appointment of Tim Hurst as Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government

Melissa Gibbs informed the meeting that Mr Tim Hurst has now been officially confirmed as the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government.

Melissa also advised that two Far West Joint Organisations will be proclaimed in early July. Balranald and Wentworth Shires will be Members of the South Far West JO with Broken Hill City and Central Darling Shire Councils.

RESOLVED that the Interim Executive Officer convey RAMJO's congratulations to Tim Hurst on confirmation of his appointment as Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government.

(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Sheaffe)

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11.15 am.

END OF MINUTES OF 29TH JUNE BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 5 - Matters Arising from Minutes of 29th June 2018 Board Meeting

For discussion on any matters arising from the 29th June meeting, not covered by any of the new agenda items

AGENDA ITEM 6 - Joint Organisations Network Meeting 15th and 16th August 2018

The Chairperson Cr Kevin Mack and I attended an OLG convened Joint Organisations Forum of Chairpersons and Executive Officers, held at Parliament House in Sydney On Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th August 2018.

Copies of the Agenda Papers for each day's forum, together with the notes from the Chairpersons' Thursday Forum, are separately attached as **Appendix 1** for information of Board Members.

The next meeting of the 13 Joint Organisations will be held in Albury on Sunday 21st October between 2.00pm and 4.00 pm (prior to the LGNSW Conference in Albury from 21 to 23 October).

The agenda for that meeting will be co-ordinated by RAMJO and the Office of Local Government and the main agenda item will be to workshop the outcomes of the various JO Statements of Strategic Regional Priorities and in particular to identify the key state wide priorities that can then be advocated collaboratively with both the Federal and State Governments.

Recommendation

For information and discussion

AGENDA ITEM 7 - Southern Lights Street Lighting Project – Presentation by Brad Ferris (RAMJO Representative on Project Working Team)

As previously reported to RAMROC and RAMJO Board Meetings, the Southern Lights Street Lighting project is an collaborative initiative between Canberra Region JO, Central NSW JO, REROC, RAMJO and including Broken Hill City, Balranald Shire and Wentworth Shire Councils. There are 42 Council areas involved in the project.

The purpose of this project is to transition some 75,000 to 80,000 street lights across southern New South Wales to the latest technology LED, and to incorporate smart control devices, which have capacity to manage and monitor the street lights themselves, as well as undertaking a range of other Smart City type data gathering and analysis.

Because this project of a tremendous significance, it is sometimes difficult for Council representatives to fully understand the full extent of what is intended to be achieved. For that reason, RAMJO's representative on the Southern Lights Project Team Brad Ferris (Director Engineering at Albury City Council) will provide a project update and a powerpoint presentation and video which clearly explains the project, and in particular the potential benefits of incorporating smart control devices.

Recommendation

For project presentation and status update

AGENDA ITEM 8 - Regional Development Australia Committees – Introductions and brief presentation by RDA Murray CEO Edwina Hayes

The Chief Executive Officers of Murray RDA (Edwina Hayes) and Riverina RDA (Rachel Whiting) have been invited to attend the Board Meeting as observers and to participate in the meeting workshop on RAMJO's Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities.

Unfortunately Rachel Whiting is unable to be present at the meeting.

Edwina Hayes has been recently appointed to the position following on from Gary Saliba and she has met with the Chairperson and myself and some of the Murray RDA Councils. Edwina will provide a brief presentation regarding the new role and functions of the RDAs and the importance of engagement with Joint Organisations across the State

Recommendation

For introduction of the RDA CEOs and to receive an update on the current role and status of the RDA network

AGENDA ITEM 9 - Workshop Session – Development of the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP)

The principal task that needs to be addressed urgently by RAMJO is to develop the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP), which must be finalised by the end of December 2018.

In order to best develop the RAMJO SSRP, a small Working Group of General Managers was formed to oversight the project. Albury City offered the services of the Council's Head Corporate Planner Kate de Hennin to bring together all of the background information and to facilitate a workshop at the 5th September Board Meeting.

Because of the enormity of the task in collating background material and seeking initial feedback from RAMJO Mayors and General Managers, as well as Premier and Cabinet and other Agencies, I commissioned local strategic planning Consultant Deanne Drage to work on this project. Deanne will co-facilitate the workshop with Kate and will then prepare a draft SSRP document for the November Board meeting and she will proceed to finalise the SSRP documentation by the December deadline.

The cost of this consultancy work is extremely reasonable (circa \$20,000) and will be funded from the OLG Establishment Grant of \$300,000. Workshop documentation for Board Members will be distributed separately as early as possible before the workshop.

It is expected that an outcome of the workshop will be for the Board to agree on a draft list of strategic priorities, to enable these to be further developed with action strategies and performance measures.

As indicated earlier, all of the State's Joint Organisations have the task of developing their draft strategic priorities for discussion at the next JO Network Forum to be held in Albury on 21st October, so that some common priorities might be able to be collaboratively advocated on a state wide basis with the State Government and where applicable also pursued with the Commonwealth Government.

Indications from the Premier and Deputy Premier at the JO Forum in Sydney on 16th August are that there are considerable funds available for regional infrastructure projects, from both the Regional

Growth Fund programs and also from Snowy Hydro Scheme sale proceeds. Regions are encouraged to develop proposed “big ticket” projects that are game changing for the economic and social development for the region and which deliver a long term legacy benefit.

The following information has been set out in the OLG Fact Sheet for developing the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities, which the State Government suggests be limited initially to approximately five (5) absolutely key priorities.

Summary

The Local Government (General) Amendment (Regional Joint Organisations) Regulation 2018 (the Regulation) requires that each joint organisation prepare a statement of strategic regional priorities and the strategies and plans to achieve them.

The statement of strategic regional priorities (statement) should set out a vision for the region and an overview of the joint organisation’s strategic work program to deliver this vision.

The statement is a key tool for joint organisations and must be developed by 31 December 2018 or within six months of establishment, whichever is later.

Content

Under the integrated planning and reporting framework, all NSW councils must engage with their community to prepare a community strategic plan. Community strategic plans identify community aspirations and priorities for the future of the local area

These priorities may include issues that are common across the region and are better addressed by working through the joint organisation. Local and regional priorities are also described in many NSW Government documents.

The statement should draw from community strategic plans, regional plans and other strategic documents to clearly identify the top regional priorities for the joint organisation. It should focus on the highest priorities for the region.

The statement does not need to list every activity the joint organisation may work on, or all the issues which are important to each member council. These activities and issues can be documented in other, more detailed supporting plans.

Due to the long-term nature of strategic projects, the priorities identified in the statement are likely to extend over a number of years. It is therefore suggested that the statement covers four years and is aligned to the integrated planning and reporting cycle.

At a minimum, each statement of regional priorities should include:

- a vision—the joint organisation’s vision for the region
- priorities—approximately five strategic priorities the joint organisation plans to focus on
- strategies—a small number of strategies the joint organisation will undertake to deliver each priority
- stakeholders—agencies and organisations the joint organisation will work with to deliver actions and achieve priorities.

In addition to the vision, priorities, strategies and stakeholders, the statement may also describe the knowledge or evidence base used to identify the priorities and a small number of measures which the joint organisation will use to demonstrate its success.

If the statement does not include timelines, it should be supported with documentation that sets out

key milestones for achieving each of the identified activities. This documentation can also be used for more detailed implementation planning and to monitor progress.

An example of a joint organisation’s vision for a region is provided by Namoi Unlimited, which has a vision of, “A productive, smart and liveable Namoi Region that is recognised for its strong leadership, innovation and excellence in regional collaboration”.

Where existing regions have already prepared strategic plans or similar documents, these may fulfil the requirement to prepare a statement of regional priorities.

Joint organisations will need to assess that the requirements have been met, and the plan meets the needs of the board, prior to formally adopting the plan.

Audience

The audience for the statement includes member councils, regional communities, government agencies, neighbouring councils and other key stakeholders.

The statement will be an important communication tool about the joint organisation’s vision and priorities, particularly in the first year or of its operation.

Recommendation

That the IEO’s report be noted and dealt with in conjunction with the workshop on 5th September to develop a draft Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities

AGENDA ITEM 10 - RAMROC Final Financials – Distribution of unspent funds as at 30th June 2018

Following the preliminary wind up of all RAMROC financial transactions as at 30th June 2018 (subject to final audit), the indicative amount to be distributed to the RAMROC Member Councils is \$143,378.57

The distributions are calculated on the basis of each Council share being in proportion to the actual 2017-2018 membership contributions paid.

Accordingly, the estimated distributions totalling \$143,378.57 will be in accordance with the following table:-

Member Council	2018-2019 Member Contribution (ex GST)	% of total	Anticipated distribution to Councils
Albury City	\$ 39,153.72	19.97%	\$ 28,632.70
Balranald Shire	\$ 3,029.13	1.54%	\$ 2,208.03
Berrigan Shire	\$ 14,809.00	7.55%	\$ 10,825.08
Carrathool Shire	\$ 6,602.00	3.36%	\$ 4,817.52
Edward River Council	\$ 15,470.20	7.89%	\$ 11,312.57
Federation Council	\$ 18,435.88	9.40%	\$ 13,477.58
Greater Hume Shire	\$ 4,327.78	2.21%	\$ 3,168.67
Griffith City	\$ 25,485.00	12.99%	\$ 18,624.88
Hay Shire	\$ 6,886.20	3.51%	\$ 5,032.59
Leeton Shire	\$ 17,990.24	9.17%	\$ 13,147.82
Murray River Council	\$ 17,929.92	9.14%	\$ 13,104.80
Murrumbidgee Council	\$ 8,502.95	4.33%	\$ 6,208.29
Narrandera Shire	\$ 11,172.40	5.70%	\$ 8,172.58
Wentworth Shire	\$ 6,347.45	3.24%	\$ 4,645.46
Totals	\$ 196,141.87	100.00%	\$143,378.57

As previously resolved by the Board, the suggestion has been made that the current RAMJO Member Councils (i.e. excluding Greater Hume, Balranald and Wentworth Councils) agree to re-contribute those funds back to RAMJO, in order to provide additional working capital on which to progress into future years.

That request will now be formalised in company with the distribution payments to the RAMJO Councils. If there is agreement across the board, the income derived from those Councils will amount to \$ 133,356.41.

Recommendation

That the IEO's report be noted and that the previous RAMJO resolution calling upon Member Councils to agree to re-contribute the shared distribution of unused RAMROC funds back to RAMJO for the purpose of establishing a sound level of working capital for the future.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - Status of Joint Organisation Implementation and OLG Engagement Arrangements

Following the inaugural Board Meeting on 29th June 2018, the following JO actions have been taken

1. Workers Compensation and Other Insurances – arranged through StateCover and Statewide Mutual;
2. Website Domain name has been registered as www.ramjo.nsw.gov.au and a new website is currently being developed through Stones Throw IT of Wodonga, who have managed the RAMROC website for a number of years;
3. Office space and Administration / IT support with Albury City – arrangements regarding office space lease and administration support (as may be required from time to time) are in hand;
4. Financial Management — agreement has been reached with Murray River Council in relation to annual costs charged by MRC and for the purchase of new Xero software system;
5. Actions are almost finalised to wind up RAMROC as at 30th June and to transfer grants and contracts to RAMJO and distribute unexpended funds to the former RAMROC Member Councils;
6. Consultation with Member Councils on Draft Charter, Draft Code of Meeting Practice and Draft Policy on Expenses and Facilities Policy as endorsed at the 29th June Board Meeting – details were sent on 8th July to Councils inviting feedback by 20th August. These policies are now being re-submitted to this meeting for final endorsement;
7. New Bank Accounts have been established with NAB Swan Hill, who are also the bankers for MRC;
8. Establishment Funding Agreement signed and returned to OLG 29th June and the funds have now been received;
9. The Employment Contract for Interim Executive Officer position was finalised and signed on 9th July, effective from 2nd July 2018;
10. ABN , PAYG and GST Registrations with ATO have been finalised;
11. A draft Communications and Engagement Plan has been developed, which is now submitted to this Board Meeting for consideration;
12. The 2018-2019 Revenue Policy and Annual Budget has been distributed for Member Council feedback and are submitted to this Board meeting for consideration;
13. Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities – this important task is to be workshopped on 5th September, which will be co-facilitated by Kate de Hennin (Albury City) and Consultant Deanne Drage. A small Working Group was established to prepare workshop documentation;

14. Code of Conduct – Murray Watson Group Public Officer and Group Leader Human Resources at Albury City has been appointed as the RAMJO Code of Conduct Complaints Co-ordinator and Public Interest Disclosures Co-ordinator;
15. Expression of Interest and appointment of MRA Consulting to undertake the CDS Revenue Sharing Agreements between 8 Member Councils and the various Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs);
16. Expressions of Interest for provision of legal services will be sought in the near future;
17. Chairperson and IEO attended a combined Joint Organisations Forum in Sydney on 16th and 17th August.

Other major tasks that are ahead for RAMJO are as follows.

1. Finalise RAMJO's Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities and the Strategies and Plans to achieve those priorities (OLG deadline is 31 December 2018)
2. Seek stakeholder feedback in relation to the draft Communication and Engagement Plan (deadline is 30th September 2018)
3. Formally adopt the Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget for 2018-2019 (deadline is 31st August 2018)
4. Formally adopt the final JO Charter, Code of Meeting Practice and Expenses and Facilities Policy (deadline is 30th September 2018)
5. Submit a plan to OLG for the expenditure of the Establishment Fund (deadline 28th September 2018)
6. Develop the new website www.ramjo.nsw.gov.au – this is in progress (deadline 31st December 2018)
7. Review the framework, structure and membership of the Professional Officer Working Groups
8. Review structure and contractual arrangements for the Murray Waste Management Group and Riverina Waste Management Group and with EPA as the Funding Agency
9. Finalise regional procurement MOU arrangements with Local Government Procurement (LGP) and Procurement Australia (PA)
10. Convene and host the second meeting of the combined Joint Organisations' Chairpersons and Executive Officers Network – to be held in Albury on 21st October 2018
11. Determine a pathway for the recruitment of a new RAMJO Executive Officer

Recommendation

For information and discussion

AGENDA ITEM 12 - Draft Revenue Policy, Budget and Schedule of Member Council Contributions for 2018-2019 Financial Year

The draft RAMJO Revenue Policy, Annual Budget and Schedule of Member Council Contributions is attached as **Appendix 2**.

Total expenditure is \$ 517,800, and less the amount of \$ 271,700 being funded from the Establishment Grant of \$300,000, there is a remaining income amount to be raised of \$246,100.

The amount from Council contributions, after sourcing some of the Establishment Funds and other income sources of \$71,000, then means that a minimum amount of \$175,100 is required to be raised from Member Councils' Contributions.

To maintain individual Council contributions at the 2017-2018 RAMROC levels – i.e. a base contribution of \$ 2,600, a per capita of \$1.45 up to 10,000 population, and a per capita of 52 cents over 10,000 in population, would actually raise \$183,205.

However, bearing in mind that Joint Organisation cost are expected to be higher in the future rather than in the past, and noting that the \$300,000 Establishment Grant is currently intended by the State Government to be only a one-off, it would be financially prudent to increase the Council contributions to at least a level of around \$205,000.

The suggestion therefore is that the base contribution be increased to \$3,000, that the per capita up to 10,000 in population be increased to \$1.60 and thereafter be set at 60 cents per capita.

This would raise \$205,305 and this amount has been included in the Draft Budget and Schedule of Member Council contributions.

On this basis, funds on hand at the end of 2018-2018 would be \$ 58,505, which includes unspent Establishment Grant funds of \$ 28,300.

To augment the above working capital, the RAMJO Member Councils are being requested to contribute back the amount being paid to them from the distribution of unspent RAMROC funds as at 30th June 2018. Potentially, this could raise additional income for in 2018-2019 of around \$133,000

Recommendation

That the RAMJO Draft Revenue Policy, Annual Budget and Schedule of Membership Contributions for the 2018-2019 financial year be adopted

AGENDA ITEM 13 - Draft Riverina and Murray JO Charter

An initial RAMJO Draft Charter was submitted to the 29th June Board meeting and was adopted for the purpose of ascertain feedback from the Member Councils, deadline for responses being 20th August 2018.

As a result, no changes have been proposed by Member Councils and therefore the draft Charter is being re-submitted for consideration by the Board at this meeting (**Appendix 3** is attached)

One of the issues discussed at the Board meeting in June was the question of adopting a Vision statement for RAMJO's Charter. It was decided to seek suggestions from Councils and to again discuss the Vision statement at this Board Meeting

As a guide, I have proposed a few suggestions (shown in red in Section 2.1) and would encourage the Board to arrive at a consensus position on this aspect.

Similarly, I have suggested the inclusion in red of some "Our Values" in a new Section 2.3 and "Role" statements in a new Section 2.4. Again these warrant consideration by the Board.

Following the Government's Proclamation of Carrathool Shire and Narrandera Shire on 10th August as members of RAMJO, these Member Councils have been added in Section 3.1.

Recommendation

That subject to amendments agreed to by the Board, that the Charter for the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) be formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website

AGENDA ITEM 14 - Draft Code of Meeting Practice

A draft Code of Meeting Practice was submitted to and adopted at the 29th June Board Meeting and was then referred to the Member Councils for feedback by 20th August 2018.

There have been no responses seeking changes to the initial draft. Therefore it is now re-submitted to the Board for final adoption.

A copy of the draft Code is attached as **Appendix 4**

Recommendation

That the Draft Code of Meeting Practice be now formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website

AGENDA ITEM 15 - Draft Expenses and Facilities Policy

A draft Expenses and Facilities Policy was submitted to the 29th June Board Meeting and was adopted for consultation with the Member Councils, with feedback due by 20th August 2018.

No proposals for amendment have been received from the Member Councils and the Draft Policy is now re-submitted for final adoption.

A copy of the Draft Policy is attached as **Appendix 5**

Recommendation

That the Draft Expenses and Facilities Policy be now formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website

AGENDA ITEM 16 - Draft Communications and Engagement Plan

Attached as **Appendix 6** is a Draft Communications and Engagement Plan, which demonstrates the ways in which RAMJO intends to effectively engage with the Member Councils, communities and other stakeholders in developing its Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities and undertaking a range of projects and activities that will benefit the whole of the RAMJO region.

The Draft Plan is submitted for the Board's consideration and potential amendments

Recommendation

That the Board formally adopt the Draft Communications and Engagement Plan as submitted by the Interim Executive Officer and that the Plan be placed on the RAMJO website

AGENDA ITEM 17 - RAMROC representative on Murray Region Tourism Board

As previously reported to the Board, the RAMROC / RAMJO representative on the Board of Murray Region Tourism for a number of years has been Ms Tracey Squire Director of Economic Development and Tourism at Albury City Council, who has decided to now stand down from the Board as from September 2018.

The MRT Board has invited RAMJO to appoint a new representative, who can be either a Councillor or Senior Council Officer. The appointment is for a three year period commencing October 2018 and is subject to endorsement by the MRT Board at its AGM in October 2018

The matter is submitted for consideration at this meeting. Following discussion at the July General Managers Group meeting, Adam McSwain General Manager of Edward River Council has expressed a keen interest in being appointed, although there may be other Councillors or Officers interested in being nominated.

The matter is submitted for decision by the Board. If possible, MRT has asked that RAMJO Nominees be lodged by 10th September if possible.

Recommendation

For consideration by the Board of nomination to the Murray Regional Tourism Board.

AGENDA ITEM 18 - Waste to Energy - Feasibility Study Proposal by Tenterfield Shire Council

The following information has been received from the Tenterfield Council Mayor and General Manager, which is in fact a copy of the report submitted to the recent meeting of the Country Mayors Association.

Murray River Council had asked whether the RAMJO Board could receive a delegation from Tenterfield Council at this meeting. However, the Board agenda and workshop on strategic priorities provides a heavy meeting workload and would not have provided sufficient meeting time to receive the delegation,

However, in view of the urgency for Tenterfield's proposal to be submitted to the State Government, I have advised that a copy of the report to Country Mayors would be submitted to this meeting, recommending RAMJO's support of the proposal.

Recommendation

That RAMJO provide a letter of support to the proposal submitted by Tenterfield Shire Council

COPY OF TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL'S REPORT TO COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advocate for NSW Country Mayors to consider supporting Tenterfield Shire Council and the New England Joint Organisation in our endeavour to gain financial assistance from the State and or Federal Government to allow completion of a comprehensive feasibility study to convert municipal and other sources of waste into energy (WtE) at a local scale.

Officer's RECOMMENDATION:

That NSW Country Mayors:

- (1) Receives and notes the report on Waste to Energy and the attached discussion paper;***
- (2) Provides a letter of support to Tenterfield Shire Council and the New England Joint Organisation advocating for the funding of a feasibility study to convert waste to energy at a local scale.***

BACKGROUND

The management of municipal waste is an ongoing challenge and not likely to improve in the short to medium term. Recently the decision by a foreign government has changed the landscape. In short, our governments and industries were caught largely ill prepared. There has been much discussion since, but no definitive affordable solution.

Moreover, the whole country is going through a difficult yet exciting period regarding the energy market. In short, photovoltaic, hydro and wind generated power definitely have their place, but alone will only supply part of the solution, with base-load power generation still being the cornerstone requirement.

With 8,000 MW of coal-fired generation capacity to be retired in the next 20 years, the time for change has never been more prudent. Especially as the will to invest in traditional coal fired generation has significantly waned.

Despite the fact that coal seam gas (CSG) accounts for 27% of Australian gas reserves, approving the extraction of CSG deposits has been addressed differently by each State, and is mired by problems be they real or imaginative.

Australia's abundant gas reserves used to be considered the natural successor to coal, but as gas is a now valuable commodity able to be sold on the world stage, no longer can it be a cheap back up source to that of coal as the price is determined by other players.

Nuclear energy, possibly the most misunderstood non-renewable or non-sustainable energy source is available in Australia due to our uranium reserves. But as the risk is so inherently catastrophic few people would consider, and even fewer would condone nuclear power as an alternative.

It is for these and other more altruistic reasons that both the State and Federal governments have been giving so much encouragement towards the burgeoning new sustainable or (but mainly only renewable) energy industries.

State Governments have been thinking more laterally of late and backing those thoughts up with actions in different fields of power generation technologies. It is refreshing to note that the NSW Government (OEH, DPC and Renewable Energy Advocate) is currently investigating Community Agreements and Microgrids. The DPC Regional Coordination in collaboration with the Renewable Energy Advocate are about to scope agendas for meetings with the EPA and Essential Energy to progress these issues. The New England Joint Organisation (NEJO) was invited to nominate one representative to attend the meeting on their behalf. The author of this report will represent the NEJO.

It is envisaged that the agenda for discussion with the EPA will include the waste to energy opportunities and barriers identified. To date though, photovoltaic generation has been the poster child. It is proven in Australia and is less confrontational. This is commendable from a single paradigm, but may prove to be overly conservative if viewed more holistically – as a solution to the municipal waste problem could be addressed in parallel.

As waste to energy brings both real and perceived risk to any government, government agency, regulator or inspectorate, the author is seeking to ensure that the New England Joint Organisation's mandate to pursue waste to energy is as wide and robust as possible and doesn't become a secondary consideration to the contemporary solutions.

The mood of change towards waste to energy is reported in news outlets almost daily in some part of the world. The technologies have been refined over many years, largely in Europe, North America and some parts of Eastern Asia. It is hoped that this mood has transcended into a will by decision-makers in higher levels of government to take action, or failing that, support those who wish to act: the imprimatur for seeking support from the NSW Country Mayors through this report.

Small waste to energy plants may require dilution of cost of production per kilowatt hour, due to the inherent makeup of the activity. This may prove to be achievable by mixing the generation of power from solar photovoltaic arrays located in the same location with that from the waste to energy process. In the past standalone waste to energy plants have only reached positive benefit cost ratios when there has been specific and highly influential circumstances shifting the economics to its favour, or where economics were a secondary consideration due to lack of alternative choices.

The aforementioned cost of conversion of waste to energy was historically high, but any things have changed over the last five (5) years:

- *Access to the electricity distribution network has become less burdensome*
- *Technologies have evolved in both Waste to Energy and also the control of the electricity input sources (Microgrids)*
- *The problem of municipal waste management has become widely known*
- *The uptake of domestic power generation is exponentially rising*

The feasibility study will determine whether the combination of changed circumstances mentioned above is enough to warrant a pilot plant being built in this point in time. It will also determine what the smallest scale is; volume of waste and photovoltaic energy plant that could be used, taking into consideration the tyranny of distance and the subsequent transportation costs.

Lastly, the feasibility study will also determine whether councils across NSW and perhaps Australia, who are in a position to convert waste to energy, are able to form a cooperative sales arrangement through a partnership with a lower to medium tier power generator.

The aim would be to form a 'virtual generator' whose combined energy input into the grid nationally would be sold to the Australian National Electricity Market (NEM) in a more competitive financial arrangement than offered by tariff inputs payments at the lower scale (through Community Agreements). Part of this would include network demand and supply controls that would allow the timing of the energy input to align with peak demands such that councils received peak dividends; like the Snowy Hydro Scheme.

If Tenterfield Shire Council and the New England Joint Organisation is successful in gaining the support of NSW Country Mayors and then higher levels of government, or their agencies, to provide financial assistance in leading a feasibility study into waste to energy (WtE) at a local scale, regional communities far and wide may benefit.

REPORT:

See attachment.

Conclusion:

Waste to Energy projects are not new, however, technologies have advanced so much over the past five years, particularly across Europe, the author thinks it is time that they are reviewed in Australia – at a small scale.

In the past, chasing economies of scale meant that sub-regional economies did not usually benefit. A feasibility study into Waste to Energy at this point in technological developments may change the waste and energy paradigms for the better, at a scale to provide benefit to many more local economies than was previously the case. Especially if a 'virtual generator' was able to be formed.

AGENDA ITEM 19 - RAMJO Executive Officer - Recruitment Methodology and Timetable (in Confidential Committee on the grounds that the matter relates to staff appointment)

It was resolved at the June 29 Board meeting that Ray Stubbs be appointed as the RAMJO Interim Executive Officer, the contract term being from 2nd July to 31st October 2018 and thereafter on a month to month contract extension basis, pending the recruitment and placement of a new long term contract Executive Officer position.

The principal role of the Interim Executive Officer position is to wind up the activities and financial affairs of RAMROC as at 30th June 2018, as well as to establish the new Joint Organisation and oversight the development of the first year foundation tasks that are required by the State Government.

It is suggested that the Board consider the following matters associated with the recruitment of a new Executive Officer position:-

- a. Proposed term of contract, for example negotiable 3, 4 or 5 years
- b. Proposed target date for the Executive Officer position to commence
- c. Proposed Total Recruitment Package (TRP) range, for example salary, superannuation, vehicle and sundry benefits
- d. Recruitment Committee to manage the process
- e. Office location (should this be flexible)
- f. Whether to manage the recruitment internally, or to seek proposals from external recruitment consultants.

Recommendation

For consideration by the Board

AGENDA ITEM 20 - RAMJO Working Group Minutes (packaged in Appendix 7)

The Minutes of the Professional Officer Working Group meetings are submitted for information of the Board (see package of Minutes Appendix 7:-

- Engineers Group Meeting – 9th May 2018
- Riverina Waste Group Meeting – 23rd May 2018
- Planners Group Meeting - 14th June 2018
- General Managers Group Meeting – 20th July 2018
- Murray Waste Group Meeting – 18th July 2018
- Riverina Waste Group Meeting – 8th August 2018
- Murray Waste Group Meeting – 8th August 2018

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the various Professional Officer Working Groups be received and noted and that the actions taken therein be endorsed.

AGENDA ITEM 21 – General Business (page 24)

End of Board Meeting Agenda