

7 August 2024 Board Meeting

Board members present: Chairperson Cr Tim Koschel, Deputy Chairperson Cr Doug Meyer OAM, Cr Tony Quinn, Cr Michael Henderson, Cr Jenny McKinnon, Cr Gail Driscoll, Cr Pat Bourke (online)

Apologies: Cr Georgie Davies, Cr Dallas Tout

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Recognition of Councillor Doug Meyer OAM

At the August Board meeting, Councillor Doug Meyer OAM was recognised for his service of twelve years on the Riverina Water Board. Cr Meyer will not be running in the upcoming local government elections and retiring from the Board.

Cr Meyer has had a long and distinguished career working for his local community, notably including 38 years working with the Henty Machinery Field Days, for which he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2009. He was first elected as a councillor for Greater Hume in 2012 and took up his position on the Riverina Water Board that same year. Cr Meyer has overseen many important projects and initiatives during his tenure and has served as the Riverina Water Deputy Chair from 2022.



Cr Meyer addressed the Board and thanked them for their work and cooperation over the years. He said he is looking forward to spending more time at home with his family.

Riverina Water Chairperson, Cr Tim Koschel, and CEO Andrew Crakanthorp, presented Councillor Meyer with a gift in acknowledgement of his long-term service and praised his unwavering community commitment:

"Thank you, Doug, for everything you've brought to elected life, everything you've done for your community, and everything you've brought to the role on the Board of Riverina Water."

Policies and documents

At the 7 August meeting, the following were adopted:

- › Investments Policy: The policy provides a framework to invest Riverina Water's funds, establishing adequate controls to ensure Riverina Water's investments are managed appropriately, maximising the return to Riverina Water in accordance with the risk appetite of the Board. A revised policy was considered at the 27 June 2024 Board Meeting, which incorporated a new clause, clause 6, "Consideration of local economic benefit when making investment decisions". The policy was adopted following public exhibition.
- › Reconciliation Action Plan: Riverina Water's first Reconciliation Action Plan (Reflect level) will look at Riverina Water's current and historic practices and research changes that could be made to create a greater level of cultural awareness and identify the real changes that can be implemented to improve the lives of First Nations peoples. The draft plan was placed on public exhibition from 18 April to 26 May with no submissions received, with minor changes to the draft plan as required by Reconciliation Australia implemented. Stakeholder groups have been directly engaged in the development of the RAP, including representation from Mawang Gaway on the RAP Working Group.

For more information, please see reports R3 and R4 in the Business Paper

R2 | Revoted Budget 2024/25

At the 7 August meeting, the Board revoted capital budget totalling \$3,461,477 from the 2023/24 budget to be included in the 2024/25 budget.

Capital budget items committed to be spent prior to 30 June 2024, totalling \$2,045,964 will also be carried forward to the 2024/25 budget. After reprioritisation of capital budget items, the 2024/25 capital budget will now total \$18,214,502.

R5 | 2024/25 Enriching Communities program

Riverina Water is entering the second year of delivery of its Enriching Communities program. The refreshed approach to community grants resulted in \$100,000 in funding being awarded to 13 grassroots projects in December 2023.

With the first year of the renewed approach resulting in a competitive program, no significant changes have been made to the grant guidelines.

Grant applications must meet at least one of the program's objectives:

- › **Our Community:** For community organisations to undertake projects that benefit the wider community.
- › **Health & Wellbeing:** Initiatives and programs that enhance and promote healthy lifestyles, wellbeing, inclusion and social connection.
- › **Water Conservation & Education:** Projects and initiatives that promote water wise behaviour and/or conserve water through efficiency improvements
- › **Arts & Culture:** For projects that provide opportunities for the community to participate in a broad range of arts and cultural activities that enhance quality of life.
- › **Sustainability & Environment:** Support for community projects and initiatives that are beneficial for our natural environment.

The program's funding pool each year is 3% of Operating Surplus (before capital) with a minimum amount of \$100,000. While the financial statements are in draft, the final grants calculation is not anticipated to exceed \$100,000. Should it exceed the minimum amount, the total funding pool will be distributed evenly per LGA as per the existing allocation method (40% Wagga Wagga City Council, 20% each to Lockhart Shire, Greater Hume, and Federation councils).

Based on the current expectation, the funding allocation in 2024/25 is \$100,000, with \$40,000 allocated to the Wagga Wagga City Council and \$20,000 each to Lockhart Shire, Greater Hume, and Federation councils.

Applicants can apply for grants up to \$20,000 for their local government area.

The program is flexible, noting it needs to meet the needs of very different communities across the supply area. Applications will open on Monday 16 September.

Staff are now preparing the program for its launch. Information will be distributed to constituent councils and available online at rwcc.nsw.gov.au/grants closer to the opening date. A copy of the guidelines for the program can be found in the business papers.

R8 | 2022/23-2025/26 Delivery Program & 2023-24 Operational Plan report

The 2022/23 – 2025/2026 Delivery Program was adopted in June 2022, outlining the strategies that would be delivered over the life of the plan to contribute to the ten-year Business Activity Strategic Plan (BASP). The BASP is centred around three strategic pillars:

- › **Our People** – we have a high-performance culture achieved through accountability, diversity, respect, and investment in our people
- › **Our Business** – we strive to be an industry leader by continuously improving our operations and the management of our assets

- › **Our Community** – we enable our community and customers to thrive by providing exceptional service and demonstrating social responsibility

The achievement of the 2023-24 Operational Plan effectively forms the Year 2 report for the Delivery Program.

There were 99 actions for delivery in the 2023-24 Operational Plan. A number of actions that did not start in 2023-24 have needed to be carried over into 2024-25, but these carry overs have actions that have commenced, have been identified in the 2024-25 plan and have budget allocated to them.

There were significant achievements across the three pillars; the 2023-24 year saw a focus on the readiness for a successful go live of the finance, payroll and asset systems within the Flow project. Organisationally there has been considerable uplift over the past two years in data cleansing, information management and information consolidation achieved through the Flow project.

Going forward management are in a better position to be able to quantify and estimate work effort and resourcing especially with the planned enhancement of project planning methodology and tools.

R11 | Change of date for October meeting

The Board approved a change of meeting date for the October meeting due to the timelines associated with the finalisation of the Local Government Elections and subsequent initial meeting dates for our four constituent Councils.

The October 2024 board meeting will take place Thursday 31 October 2024 to commence at 10am.

R13 | Works Report covering June 2024

Month	Connections (residential)	Connections (non-residential)	Quality complaints	Supply complaints	Water sourced (ML)	Water used (ML)
June	11	4	3	6	819.05	808.94

June 2024



