



## Draft Minutes Board Meeting

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**Date:** 8 September 2023  
**Time:** 8.30am  
**Venue:** Dubbo Regional Council, Girinyalanha Room

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### ATTENDEES:

Clr Glen Neill	Mayor Bogan Shire Council
Leonie Brown	General Manager Bourke Shire Council
Clr Barry Hollman	Mayor Bourke Shire Council
David Kirby	General Manager Brewarrina Shire Council
Peter Vlatko	General Manager Cobar Shire Council
Clr Tim Horan	Mayor Coonamble Shire Council
Clr Mathew Dickerson	Mayor Dubbo Regional Council
Murray Wood	CEO Dubbo Regional Council
David Neeves	General Manager Gilgandra Shire Council
Clr Doug Batten	Mayor Gilgandra Shire Council
Julian Geddes	Mid-Western Regional Council
Jane Redden	General Manager Narromine Shire Council
Clr Craig Davies (Chair)	Mayor Narromine Shire Council
Sally McDonnell	Secretariat Narromine Shire Council
Gary Woodman	General Manager Warren Shire Council

### GUESTS:

Leo Krikmann	United Way, Dolly Parton Imagination Library
The Hon Jenny Aitchison, MP	Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
Alistair Lunn	Regional Director, Transport for NSW
Brendan Guiney	Executive Officer, NSW Water Directorate

### 1 WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at 8.34am.

### 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was made by the Chair.



### 3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for:

Derek Francis	General Manager Bogan Shire Council
Clr Vivian Slack-Smith	Mayor Brewarrina Shire Council
Bob Stewart	Administrator Central Darling Shire Council
Greg Hill	General Manager Central Darling Shire Council
Clr Peter Abbott	Mayor Cobar Shire Council
Paul Gallagher	General Manager Coonamble Shire Council
Clr Des Kennedy	Mayor Mid-Western Regional Council
Brad Cam	General Manager Mid-Western Regional Council
Megan Dixon	General Manager Walgett Shire Council
Clr Jane Keir	Mayor Walgett Shire Council
Clr Milton Quigley	Mayor Warren Shire Council
Roger Bailey	General Manager Warrumbungle Shire Council
Clr Ambrose Doolan	Mayor Warrumbungle Shire Council

**RESOLVED** Clr Hollman/Clr Batten, that the apologies received be accepted.

**2023/10**

### 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AWC BOARD MEETING HELD 19 MAY 2023

**RESOLVED** Clr Neill/Gary Woodman that the minutes of the AWC Board Meeting held on 19 May 2023 be adopted.

**2023/11**

### 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GMAC MEETING HELD 21 JULY 2023

**RESOLVED** Murray Wood/Jane Redden that the minutes of the GMAC Meeting held on 21 July 2023 be adopted.

**2023/12**

### 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

#### 7.1 *Chairs Report*

**RESOLVED** Clr Horan/Clr Glen Neill that the information be noted.

**2023/13**

#### 7.2 *Orana Water Utilities Alliance Committee Meeting No 28*

**RESOLVED** Clr Hollman/Julien Geddes that the information be noted.

**2023/14**

### **7.3 Regional Local Government Training Facility**

Discussion was held in relation to the draft Funding Case to Establish a Water Training Centre in the OWUA Region. The projected cost to build the required infrastructure is \$912,000.

**David Kirby joined the meeting at 9.00am.**

**RESOLVED** Clr Horan/Clr Neill that the Alliance of Western Councils Board approach high levels of State and Federal governments to access funding.

**2023/15**

### **7.4 Discussion regarding Presenters at Future Meetings**

Discussion was held in relation to future presenters to ensure that all Councils are benefiting from them. The following suggestions were made:

- **Assistant Commissioner Brett Greentree**, Regional Commander
- **The Hon Prue Car, MP**, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education
- **The Hon Tara Moriarty, MLC**, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales
- **The Hon Rose Jackson, MLC**, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth
- **Simon Banks**, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH)
- **Troy Grant**, Inspector-General of Water Compliance
- **Dugald Saunders, MP**, Local Member for Dubbo Electorate
- **Roy Butler, MP**, Member for Barwon
- **Landcom** – NSW Government owned land and property development organisation.
- **Contour3D**

## **8 PRESENTATIONS**

### **8.1 Leo Krikmann – United Way – Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

The Chair welcomed Leo Krikmann to the meeting, who delivered a presentation in relation to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

**It was noted** that the presentation and further information will be distributed to members after the meeting (**Attachment No. 1**).

## **8.2 The Hon Jenny Aitchison, BA, Grad Dip App Psych, GAICD MP – Minister for Regional Transport and Roads**

Minister Aitchison provided an overview of her portfolio, and the following items were discussed:

- With a challenging introduction to the portfolio, and new challenges fast approaching, she wants to ensure that in the future, money will be distributed efficiently and addressing the priorities.
- The final report from the Regional Road Transfer and Road Classification Review has not been made available to the Minister yet.
- The Regional and Local Road Repair Program deadline of February 2024 is likely to be extended. More information to be provided with the budget.
- The Minister advised she wants to have one on one discussions with each of the Council's representatives, followed by visits to their Shires in the future to get a clearer picture on what is needed in their respective areas.

## **8.3 Allistair Lunn – Director West, Transport for NSW**

Allistair delivered a presentation to the group (**Attachment No. 2**) providing an update from Transport for NSW with the following points noted:

- There has been a focus on Community Transportation including equity access for transport.
- The state of the roads, following natural disasters in recent years, remains the biggest challenge at present with 2,500 kilometres of damage to the State Road network.
- RMCC remains an integral part of maintenance of the State Road network and TfNSW values the relationships they have with Councils.
- TfNSW can partner with Councils on their events to assist in the don't drink and drive message including breathalyzer services etc.

## **8.4 Brendan Guiney – NSW Water Directorate**

Brendan Guiney provided an update from NSW Water Directorate with the following points noted:

- Brendan advised they have been working closely with Local Government and more recently the Country Mayors Association on the issue of water security in Regional NSW.
- Due to have an inquiry on the ownership of water utilities with the hope that the NSW Government will agree with continuing on with Council ownership. Local knowledge is imperative when it comes to maintaining water utilities.
- Discussion was held in relation to the position paper that was distributed prior to the meeting (**Attachment No. 3**) 'Addressing town water security for regional NSW cities and towns, to advocate for better recognition of water and sewerage assets within our Councils. The Chair advised that he will be a guest speaker at the upcoming Australian Water Associations, NSW Minister's Breakfast on the 4 October 2023 in Sydney, where he will be addressing Water Supply and Security in Regional and Rural NSW. It was requested that any specific issues relating to your Shire be shared via email.



## **9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Alliance of Western Councils Board meeting will be held on Friday, 8 December 2023.

## **10 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

The Chair thanked all members and guests for attending.

The Chair acknowledged Peter Abbott, Mayor of Cobar and also Jane Keir, Mayor of Walgett who are retiring from their roles. A letter will be forwarded to both of them to acknowledge and thank them for their contributions.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 12.07pm.

## **CHAIR**