



MEETING MINUTES

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday 16 May 2023

Location: Videoconference

Time:

4:00pm – 6:00pm AEDT
3:00pm – 5:00pm AEST
2:30pm – 4:30pm ACST
1:00pm – 3:00pm AWST

Attendees

- Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council (Chair)
- Mr Frank Zaknich – CEO, Albury City Council
- Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel – Mayor, City of Bunbury (Deputy Chair)
- Mr Mal Osborne – CEO, City of Bunbury
- Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton (WA Representative)
- Mr Tony Nottle – CEO, City of Busselton
- Mr Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Mr Ross McKim – CEO, City of Greater Geraldton
- Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council (NSW Representative)
- Mr Brett Stonestreet – General Manager, Griffith City Council
- Cr Kellie O'Callaghan – Mayor, Latrobe City Council (VIC Representative)
- Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Project Manager and Secretariat (Managing Director, Collective Position)
- Ms Edwina Blackburn – RCA Secretariat

Guest

- Cr Russell Webb – Mayor, Tamworth Regional Council



Apologies

- Cr Matt Paterson – Mayor, Alice Springs Town Council (NT Representative)
- Mr Joe McCabe – Acting CEO, Alice Springs Town Council
- Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council (RCA Secretary)
- Mr Murray Wood – CEO, Dubbo Regional Council
- Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council (QLD Representative)
- Mr Steven Piasente – CEO, Latrobe City Council
- Mayor Shane Van Styn – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton (RCA Treasurer)

The meeting was declared open at 4.03pm AEDT.

1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council, opened the meeting, welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council, tabled the draft minutes from the previous April 2023 meeting.

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat provided an update on the actions from the RCA April Board Meeting. Members received and noted the minutes and updates.

Cr Kellie O'Callaghan – Mayor, Latrobe City Council moved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council seconded.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus from members on the minutes.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council tabled the April 2023 Treasurer's Report for endorsement.

Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council moved to endorse the April 2023 Treasurer's Report. Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council seconded.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus to endorse the March 2023 Treasurer's Report.



4. SECRETARIAT UPDATE

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat, tabled the following reports and registers for discussion and noting:

1. April Membership Status;
2. April Stakeholder Report;
3. April Communications Report; and
4. April Seat at the Table Register.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus to endorse the April 2023 reports from members.

5. 2023/24 FEDERAL BUDGET REPORT

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the 2023-24 Federal Budget Report for the information of members.

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat provided an overview of the 2023-24 Federal Budget measures, including:

- Regional Programs;
- Urban Policies;
- Roads and infrastructure programs;
- Skills and Employment funding measures;
- Funding for the arts;
- Regional health funding;
- Regional housing funding;
- Migration programs and funding; and
- National disaster funding.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus to endorse the 2023 -24 Federal Budget Report from members.

6. REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA POLICY

[Draft RCA Community Consultation for Renewables Energy Infrastructure Developments in Regional Communities Policy Paper](#)

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the RCA Community Consultation for Renewables Energy Infrastructure Developments in Regional Communities Policy Paper for discussion by members.



Members discussed the draft Policy Paper and agreed the Paper provided a comprehensive position on the issues of community consultation in regards to renewable energy infrastructure developments in regional communities.

Cr Kellie O'Callaghan – Mayor, Latrobe City Council moved to endorse the RCA Community Consultation for Renewables Energy Infrastructure Developments in Regional Communities Policy Paper. Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council seconded.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus of members endorsing the RCA Community Consultation for Renewables Energy Infrastructure Developments in Regional Communities Policy Paper.

7. REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE REGIONALISATION ALLIANCE UPDATE

Regional Australia Institute National Alliance for Regionalisation

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat provided an update on the RAI National Alliance for Regionalisation for noting by members.

Members noted RCA representatives, RCA Chair Cr Kylie King and RCA Secretariat Ms Rachael Sweeney were active on the National Alliance for Regionalisation Board, Education Plan Working Group; and CEO Working Group. Members noted the next meeting of The National Alliance for Regionalisation will be the CEO Working Group and will be held on Thursday 29 June 2023.

Members agreed to provide notice of the next National Alliance for Regionalisation CEO Working Group meeting agenda would be circulated to members prior to the meeting to allow members to provide feedback to the RCA representative attending.

Members noted the update.

ACTIONS

7.1 RCA Secretariat to circulate the National Alliance for Regionalisation CEO Working Group meeting agendas to allow members to provide feedback to the RCA representative attending.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Regional Capitals Australia Presentations

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat provided an update on RCA representation at the 2023 SEGRA Summit and the RAI Regions Rising Geelong Conference for the information of members.

Members noted Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton had been accepted to represent RCA on one of the 2023 SEGRA Summit discussion panels. Members also noted Cr Kellie O'Callaghan – Mayor, Latrobe City Council was representing RCA at the RAI Regions Rising Geelong Conference in June 2023.



Members noted the update.

Regional Australia Institute National Press Club Address

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat noted Ms Liz Ritchie – CEO, RAI would be addressing the National Press Club on 24 May 2023 in Canberra.

Members agreed to email Ms Rachael Sweeney should members wish to attend the RAI National Press Club Address.

ALGA National General Assembly

Members noted the ALGA National General Assembly (NGA) was occurring in June 2023. Members discussed the importance of engaging with member councils attending the ALGA NGA and agreed to draft an RCA introduction and talking points for members' information during the conference.

Members also agreed to gauge the interest of RCA members to attend a dinner during the ALGA NGA conference.

Next Meeting

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King - Mayor, Albury City Council noted the next RCA Board Meeting will be held during the ALGA National General Assembly in Canberra.

ACTIONS

7.1 RCA Secretariat to draft an RCA introduction and talking points for members' information during the conference; and

7.2 RCA Secretariat to gauge the interest of RCA members to attend a dinner during the ALGA NGA conference.

The meeting was declared closed at 5.13pm AEDT.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Task	Responsibility
RCA Treasurer Mayor Shane Van Styn – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton to provide clarification on the estimated final RCA budget position for 2022-23 financial year and progress to date for the 2023-24 RCA budget for the information of the Board	Mayor Van Styn



RCA Secretariat to circulate the National Alliance for Regionalisation CEO Working Group meeting agendas to allow members to provide feedback to the RCA representative attending	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to draft an RCA introduction and talking points for members' information during the conference	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to gauge the interest of RCA members to attend a dinner during the ALGA NGA conference	Secretariat
