



MEETING MINUTES

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday 8 August 2023

Location: Videoconference

Time:

4:00pm – 6:00pm AEST

3:30pm – 5:30pm ACST

2:00pm – 4:00pm AWST

Attendees

- Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council (Chair)
- Mr Brad Ferris – Acting CEO, Albury City Council
- Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton (WA Representative)
- Mr Tony Nottle – CEO, City of Busselton
- 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 Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Mr Ross McKim – CEO, City of Greater Geraldton
- Mayor Shane Van Styn – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton (RCA Treasurer)
- Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Project Manager and Secretariat (Managing Director, Collective Position)
- Ms Katie Evely – RCA Secretariat

Apologies

- Mr Frank Zaknich – CEO, Albury City Council
- Mr Brett Stonestreet – General Manager, Griffith City Council



- Mr Steven Piasente – CEO, Latrobe City Council
- Mr Andrew Wilsmore – CEO, Alice Springs Town Council
- Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council (NSW Representative)
- Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel – Mayor, City of Bunbury (Deputy Chair)
- Mr Mal Osborne – CEO, City of Bunbury
- Cr Kellie O'Callaghan – Mayor, Latrobe City Council (VIC Representative)
- Mr Tim Ellis – Acting CEO, Latrobe City Council
- Cr Matt Paterson – Mayor, Alice Springs Town Council (NT Representative)

The meeting was declared open at 4.06pm AEST.

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 May 2023 meeting.

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

Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton (WA Representative) moved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting, Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council (QLD Representative) seconded.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus to endorse the August minutes.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the July 2023 Treasurer's Report for endorsement.

Mr Tony Nottle – CEO, City of Busselton moved the July 2023 Treasurer's Report, Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton (WA Representative) seconded.

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



4. SECRETARIAT UPDATE

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

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

Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council (QLD Representative) moved the reports for endorsement, Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton (WA Representative) seconded.

5. REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA POLICY

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the following papers for discussion and endorsement by members:

1. RCA Airports Position Paper; and
2. RCA Airports Case Studies

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat provided an overview of the papers and the RCA asks from the Federal Government for discussion by members.

Members discussed the RCA Airports Position Paper and RCA Airports Case Studies and agreed the paper and case studies provided a comprehensive position on the issues of regional funding for airports and equity.

Members noted the Aviation White Paper is due to be released in 2024.

Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton (WA Representative) moved the paper for endorsement, Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council seconded.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus of members to endorse the case studies for RCA advocacy.

ACTIONS

- 5.1 RCA Secretariat to develop RCA Airports advocacy approach based on case studies.**

6. REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA DELEGATION



Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the RCA August Delegation Talking Points and Delegation Schedule for discussion and noting.

Members discussed the Talking Points and RCA August Delegation Talking Points and noted the top areas of engagement included:

1. Local Governments role in infrastructure and service provision in the case of market failure;
2. Community consultation with regional communities as part of the renewable infrastructure roll out;
3. Regional airports and funding pipeline;
4. Regional Precinct and Partnerships Program; and
5. Regional immigration needed for regional skills.

Mr Tony Nottle – CEO, City of Busselton moved the Delegation Talking Points and Delegation Schedule, Mr Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council seconded.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus of members to endorse the talking points and schedule for the delegation beginning Wednesday 9 August 2023.

7. RAI ALLIANCE FOR REGIONALISATION UPDATE

Regional Australia Institute (RAI) 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 and discussed the RAI update and supported the recommendations of regional migration visas to continue with support for the continuing representation at RAI National Alliance for Regionalisation panel by RCA Chair Cr Kylie King and RCA Secretariat Ms Rachael Sweeney.

The next meeting of the National Alliance for Regionalisation will be the Working Group Meeting to be held on 31 August 2023.

Members noted the update.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Members discussed the RCA presentation at the July SEGRA 2023 summit and positive media outcomes from the presentation.

Members also noted the City of Busselton would be hosting the 2024 SEGRA Summit.

RCA Membership

Members discussed ideas to hold a yearly event or summit coinciding with an existing Australian Local Government Association RAI National Alliance for Regionalisation event as an approach to engage non-member councils.



It was also noted that Cr Kylie King would work with the Secretariat to hold 1:1 conversations with the members of Regional Cities NSW who were not members of RCA to see if there is interest in joining the alliance.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King - Mayor, Albury City Council noted the recommendations consensus of members.

Next Meeting

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King - Mayor, Albury City Council noted the next RCA Board Meeting will be held 12 September via videoconference.

ACTIONS

7.1 RCA Secretariat to draft an approach for engagement with non-member councils and a potential summit/event coinciding with an existing ALGA or RAI event to be discussed at the next board meeting.

7.2 RCA Secretariat to draft engagement letters to non-member councils for discussion at the next board meeting.

7.3 Cr Kylie King and Secretariat to hold 1:1 conversations with the members of Regional Cities NSW who were not members of RCA to see if there is interest in joining the alliance.

The meeting was declared closed at 5.18pm AEDT.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Task	Responsibility
RCA Secretariat to develop RCA Airports advocacy approach based on case studies.	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to draft an approach for engagement with non-member councils and a potential summit/event coinciding with an existing ALGA or RAI event to be discussed at the next board meeting.	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to draft engagement letters to non-member councils for discussion at the next board meeting.	Secretariat
Cr Kylie King and Secretariat to hold 1:1 conversations with the members of Regional Cities NSW who were not members of RCA to see if there is interest in joining the alliance.	Secretariat