



MEETING MINUTES

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday 24 October 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)
- Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel – Mayor, City of Bunbury (Deputy Chair)
- Mr Mal Osborne – CEO, City of Bunbury
- Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council (Secretary)
- Mr Tony Nottle – CEO, City of Busselton
- Mr Frank Zaknich – CEO, Albury City Council
- Mr Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Project Manager and Secretariat (Managing Director, Collective Position)
- Ms Katie Evely – RCA Secretariat (Coordinator, Collective Position)

Apologies

- Mr Ross McKim – CEO, City of Greater Geraldton
- Mayor Shane Van Styn – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton (Treasurer)
- Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton (WA Representative)
- Cr Kellie O'Callaghan – Mayor, Latrobe City Council (VIC Representative)
- Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council (NSW Representative)



- Mr Brett Stonestreet – General Manager, Griffith City Council
- Mr Murray Wood – CEO, Dubbo Regional Council
- Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council (QLD Representative)

The meeting was declared open at 4.10pm 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 September 2023 meeting.

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

Mr Tony Nottle – CEO, City of Busselton moved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Deputy Chair Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel – Mayor, City of Bunbury seconded the motion.

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

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

Members noted a new treasurer will need to be appointed at the 21 November AGM with outgoing RCA Treasurer Mayor Shane Van Styn – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton vacating the role.

Members noted the September Treasurer's Report.

Mr Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council moved to endorse the September 2023 Treasurer's Report as true and accurate. RCA Secretary Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council seconded the motion.

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

Members discussed the membership register. Members agreed to issue letter of thanks to outgoing WA Mayors and CEOs for their involvement in RCA. Members proposed RCA engage with incoming WA Mayors and introduce them to RCA for ongoing membership.

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

ACTIONS

4.1 RCA Secretariat to issue letter of thanks to outgoing Mayors for their involvement in RCA on behalf of RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council.

4.2 RCA Secretariat to provide a briefing and introduction to RCA to incoming WA Mayors.

5. REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA – HOUSING REFORM

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the Housing Working Group Update for discussion by members.

Ms Rachael Sweeney provided an overview of the Housing Working Group.

Members discussed the update and agreed to expand the RCA housing submission to include:

- Addressing the need for density in regional capital cities;
- Support for the skills necessary to support the development of housing in regional centres including but not limited to:
 - Planners,
 - Construction, and
 - Labourers.
- Defining the role of local government in the provision of housing facilities and the impact of rate caps on available funding; and
- Exploration of innovative ways regional Councils have addressed the housing pressure in their regional capitals through the use of a survey.

Member discussed the roles and responsibilities of local government in relation to social housing and affordable regional housing needs to be emphasised.



Members agreed the next steps are to prepare case studies and a position paper to be discussed at the November board meeting.

Mr Mal Osborne – CEO, City of Bunbury moved to note the summary. RCA Secretary Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council seconded.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus of members note the summary.

ACTIONS

5.1 RCA Secretariat to prepare case studies and draft Housing Policy Position Paper for discussion at the November Board Meeting.

6. AVIATION GREEN PAPER

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the RCA Aviation Policy Paper and Case Studies for the information of members and endorsement.

Ms Rachael Sweeney provided an overview of the position and case studies to date. Members discussed the Aviation Policy Paper and Case Studies and agreed this was a comprehensive overview. Members noted the sustainability challenges for regional airlines and agreed to include an update on the sustainability of the assets in the paper.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus from members to endorse an updated RCA Aviation Policy Paper for circulation.

ACTIONS

6.1 RCA Secretariat to update the RCA Aviation Policy Paper to include sustainability of the assets and circulate to members.

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 discussed the RAI update and noted the Universities Accord Interim Report Submission. Members support the initiative of the Universities Accord.

Members discussed the request for the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) to join the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) National Alliance for Regionalisation working group. The consensus of members is to decline the request for AHA to join the RAI Alliance.



RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus from members to decline the application from the AHA to join the RAI Alliance.

ACTIONS

7.1 RCA Secretariat Ms Rachael Sweeney to convey the RCA board’s decision to decline the AHA membership application to the RAI National Alliance for Regionalisation.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

RCA Annual General Meeting

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the nomination for the Executive Positions on the RCA Board for information of members.

Members noted the RCA Annual General meeting would be held on Tuesday 21 November in Canberra, with videoconferencing available.

Members discussed the Executive Positions. Member agreed to advise the RCA Secretariat of interest prior to the AGM. Members noted the process for nominating for Executive Positions on 2024 RCA Board.

Next Meeting

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King - Mayor, Albury City Council noted the next RCA Board Meeting will be the AGM held on 21 November.

The meeting was declared closed at 5.12pm AEDT.

ACTIONS

8.1 RCA members to advise RCA Secretariat of interest for Executive Positions prior to the AGM.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Task	Responsibility
RCA Secretariat to issue letter of thanks to outgoing Mayors for their involvement in RCA on behalf of RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council.	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to provide a briefing and introduction to RCA to incoming WA Mayors.	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to prepare case studies and draft Housing Policy Position Paper for discussion at the November Board Meeting.	Secretariat



RCA Secretariat to update the RCA Aviation Policy Paper to include sustainability of the assets and circulate to members.	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat Ms Rachael Sweeney to convey the RCA board's decision to decline the AHA membership application to the RAI National Alliance for Regionalisation.	Secretariat
RCA members to advise RCA Secretariat of interest for Executive Positions prior to the AGM.	RCA Members