



MEETING MINUTES

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday 12 September 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
- Mr Ross McKim – CEO, City of Greater Geraldton
- Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council (RCA Secretary)
- Mr Murray Wood – CEO, Dubbo Regional Council
- Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton (WA Representative)
- Mr Tony Nottle – CEO, City of Busselton
- Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Project Manager and Secretariat (Managing Director, Collective Position)
- Ms Edwina Blackburn – RCA Secretariat

Apologies

- Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council (NSW Representative)
- Mr Brett Stonestreet – General Manager, Griffith City Council
- Mayor Shane Van Styn – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton (RCA Treasurer)



- Mr Frank Zaknich – CEO, Albury City Council
- Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council (QLD Representative)
- Mr Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Cr Kellie O'Callaghan – Mayor, Latrobe City Council (VIC Representative)
- Mr Steven Piasente - CEO, Latrobe City Council

The meeting was declared open at 4.04pm 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 August 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 Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council (RCA Secretary) seconded the motion.

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 draft August 2023 Treasurer's Report for endorsement.

Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council (RCA Secretary) moved to endorse the August 2023 Treasurer's Report. Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel – Mayor, City of Bunbury (Deputy Chair) seconded the motion.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus to endorse the August 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;
4. Seat at the Table Register; and
5. Analysis of the Federal Regional Funding Guidelines.

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

5. REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA EMERGING POLICY

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the National Urban Policy Consultation Network Terms of Reference for discussion by members.

Members discussed the National Urban Policy Consultation Network and noted RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council had been nominated as the RCA representative by Minister King. members agreed on the importance of advocating for support for regional population growth in the Federal Government's Urban policy development.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus from members to endorse the RCA Chair as the RCA representative on the National Urban Policy Consultation Network.

ACTIONS

5.1 RCA Secretariat to convey RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council as the RCA representative on the National Urban Policy Consultation Network to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

6. HOUSING REFORM

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the RCA Housing Settings presentation for the information of members and provided an overview of the four components of Federal housing policy



Members noted the submission process for the National Housing and Homeless Plan closes on 22 September 2023.

Members discussed the Federal housing policy settings and the possible development of a RCA policy position on regional affordable and social housing. Members agreed to focus on the areas of:

- Funding for the maintenance and improvement of existing and derelict housing stock;
- Funding for the implementation of enabling infrastructure cost for new housing developments, including but not limited to;
 - Roads and bridges;
 - Water and sewage; and
 - Activation of available land.
- Advocating for support to attract planners into regional areas; and
- Funding for a Housing Innovation Program to encourage the development of innovative solutions for addressing the housing shortage in regional cities such as tiny homes or 3-D printing.

Members noted RCAWA had developed a position on regional housing in Western Australia (WA) and Mr Tony Nottle - CEO, City of Busselton agreed to provide the RCAWA Housing Policy Position to members for their information.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus from members to develop a RCA Housing Policy position.

ACTIONS

6.1 Mr Tony Nottle - CEO, City of Busselton to provide the RCAWA Housing Policy Position to the RCA Secretariat;

6.2 RCA Secretariat to draft and issue a survey to RCA members on social and affordable housing shortage to develop case studies for RCA advocacy; and

6.3 RCA Secretariat to develop a draft RCA Housing Policy Position for discussion at the next Board Meeting.

7. REGIONAL AUSTRALIA CAPITALS AUSTRALIA PRE BUDGET SUBMISSION

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the 2023-24 Pre Budget Submission for discussion by members.

Members discussed the Pre Budget Submission and agreed the policy asks included were still relevant for the 2024-25 Budget cycle, however agreed to amend the following:

- Prioritise the regional aviation section in the final draft Pre Budget Submission;



- Include a recommendation for a non-competitive community infrastructure fund, similar to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program;
- Include any recommendations that arise from the development of the RCA Housing Policy Position; and
- Remove the section on the financial impact of current market conditions on regional cities.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus from members to draft a 2024-25 RCA Pre Budget Submission for discussion at the next Board Meeting.

ACTIONS

7.1 RCA Secretariat to update RCA Pre Budget Submission as discussed above; and

7.2 RCA Secretariat to table the draft 2024-25 RCA Pre Budget Submission at the next Board Meeting.

8. 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 Big Movers 2.0 report had been released and the National Summit would be held on 13-14 September in Canberra. Members agreed to support the continuing representation at the 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 full Board Meeting to be held on 19 October 2023.

Members noted the update.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

RCA Annual General Meeting

Members noted the RCA Annual General meeting would be held on Tuesday 21 November in Canberra and the process for nominating for 2024 Board positions.

Members noted the RCA September Board Meeting would be Cr Grant Henley – Mayor, City of Busselton (WA Representative) last meeting before retiring from his position as Mayor of City of Busselton. Members agreed to issue a letter of thanks to Cr Henley for his involvement in RCA.



Next Meeting

Mr Tony Nottle – CEO, City of Busselton noted the Western Australia Local Government elections would occur on 22 October 2023.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King - Mayor, Albury City Council noted the next RCA Board Meeting will be held 24 October 2023 via videoconference.

ACTIONS

9.1 RCA Secretariat to draft and issue a letter of thanks to Cr Henley for his involvement in RCA.

The meeting was declared closed at 5.23pm AEDT.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Task	Responsibility
RCA Secretariat to convey RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council as the RCA representative on the National Urban Policy Consultation Network to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.	Secretariat
Mr Tony Nottle - CEO, City of Busselton to provide the RCAWA Housing Policy Position to the RCA Secretariat;	Mr Tony Nottle
RCA Secretariat to draft and issue a survey to RCA members on social and affordable housing shortage to develop case studies for RCA advocacy	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to develop a draft RCA Housing Policy Position for discussion at the next Board Meeting	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to update RCA Pre Budget Submission as discussed above	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to table the draft 2024-25 RCA Pre Budget Submission at the next Board Meeting	Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to draft and issue a letter of thanks to Cr Henley for his involvement in RCA	Secretariat