



## MEETING MINUTES

### REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA

### BOARD MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday 28 February 2024

**Location:** Committee Room 2S2, Parliament House, Canberra ACT

**Time:**

- 9:15am – 2:45pm AEDT
- 8:15am – 1:45pm AEST
- 7:45am – 1:15pm ACST
- 6:15am – 11:45am AWST

#### Attendees

- Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council (RCA Chair)
- Mr Frank Zaknich – GM, Albury City Council (RCA Treasurer)
- Cr Jim Hickey – Deputy Mayor, Broken Hill City Council
- Deputy Mayor Jim Hickey - City of Bunbury
- Mr Alan Ferris - CEO, City of Bunbury
- Mayor Phil Cronin– Mayor, City of Busselton
- Mr Tony Nottle - CEO, City of Busselton
- Cr Kirsty Dellar – Deputy Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Mr Andrew Brien – CEO, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Mayor Daniel Scott – Mayor, City of Karratha
- Ms Virginia Miltrup – CEO, City of Karratha
- Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council (RCA Secretary)
- Mr Murray Wood – Dubbo Regional Council
- Cr Trent Sullivan – Mayor, Greater Geelong City Council
- Ms Tennille Bradley - Executive Director, Greater Geelong City Council
- Cr Russell Webb – Mayor, Tamworth Regional Council
- Mr Paul Bennett – GM, Tamworth Regional Council
- Mayor Peter Carter – Mayor, Town of Port Hedland (RCA Deputy Chair)
- Cr Dallas Tout – Mayor, Wagga Wagga City Council



- Mr Peter Thompson - GM, Wagga Wagga City Council
- Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Project Manager and Secretariat (Managing Director, Collective Position)
- Ms Edwina Blackburn – RCA Secretariat

## **Apologies**

- Cr Des Hudson OAM – Mayor, City of Ballarat
- Mr Evan King – CEO, City of Ballarat
- Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council (QLD Representative)
- Mr Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Mr Steven Piasente – CEO, Latrobe City Council
- Cr Darren Howe – Mayor, Latrobe City Council
- Ms Ali Wastie – CEO, Greater Geelong City Council
- Mayor Glenn Wilson – Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Mr Carl Askew – CEO, Town of Port Hedland
- Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel - City of Bunbury
- Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council (P)
- Mr Brett Stonestreet – GM, Griffith City Council
- Mayor Jerry Clune – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton
- Mr Ross McKim – CEO, City of Greater Geraldton
- Mayor Chris Mitchell – Mayor, Shire of Broome
- Mr Sam Mastrolembo – CEO, Shire of Broome
- Cr Sam Coupland – Mayor, Armidale Regional Council
- Mr James Roncon – GM, Armidale Regional Council
- Cr Tom Kennedy – Mayor, Broken Hill City Council
- Mr Jay Nankivell – GM, Broken Hill City Council

The meeting was declared open at 9.01am 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**

Ms Rachael Sweeney – Secretariat tabled the RCA Delegation Talking Points and 2024-25 Pre Budget Submission for the information of attendees.

Ms Rachael Sweeney – Secretariat provided an overview of the of the day including meetings with:



- Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm - Assistant Minister for Education Assistant Minister for Regional Development Deputy Manager of Government Business in the Senate;
- the Hon Catherine King MP - Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and Member for Ballarat;
- Australian Airports Association; and
- Department of Home Affairs.

Ms Rachael Sweeney – Secretariat advised the following meetings would be held following the conclusion of the Board Meeting:

- The Hon Kristy McBain MP - Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and the Territories and member for Eden-Monaro; and
- Senator the Hon Carol Brown - Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Senator for TAS.

Members noted the meetings and overview of the day.

### **3. DELEGATION MEETING WITH SENATOR THE HON ANTHONY CHISHOLM**

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council welcomed Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm - Assistant Minister for Education, Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Deputy Manager of Government Business in the Senate and Senator for QLD to the meeting and introduced all members.

RCA members provided an overview of the RCA policy priorities including:

- Population policy priorities;
- Regional infrastructure policy priorities;
- Overview of RCA Airports Policy Paper and Case Studies; and
- Overview of RCA Housing Policy Paper and Case Studies.

Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm - Assistant Minister for Education, Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Deputy Manager of Government Business in the Senate and Senator for QLD provided an overview of the Government's regional development priorities including;

- Government's housing priorities; and
- Noted the importance of supporting regional communities through programs such as the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program.

Members noted the update by the Assistant Minister.

### **4. MEMBER DISCUSSION**

Members noted the meeting with Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm - Assistant Minister for Education, Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Deputy Manager of Government Business in



the Senate and Senator for QLD. Members discussed the meeting and agreed it was important to continue to engage with the Assistant Minister on RCA priorities.

## 5. MIGRATION REVIEW

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council welcomed Mr Paul Denman - Assistant Secretary Immigration Planning and Policy Immigration Policy Group, Department of Home Affairs to the meeting and introduced all members.

Mr Paul Denman - Assistant Secretary Immigration Planning and Policy Immigration Policy Group, Department of Home Affairs provided an update on the Federal Government's Migration Review and Strategy for the information of members and noted the areas for future consultation would include:

- Reshaping the permanent skill immigration system;
- Tailoring regional visas and the working holiday maker program to support the regions; and
- Additional measures as outlined in the Migration strategy where future reform is needed.

Mr Paul Denman - Assistant Secretary Immigration Planning and Policy Immigration Policy Group, Department of Home Affairs noted consultation on the regional visas would open in mid-2024.

Members noted the presentation.

## 6. MEMBER DISCUSSION

Members noted the presentation by Mr Paul Denman - Assistant Secretary Immigration Planning and Policy Immigration Policy Group, Department of Home Affairs. Members discussed the presentation and agreed to contribute to the Migration Strategy consultation on regional visas once consultation commences.

### ACTIONS

**6.1 RCA Secretariat to draft a submission to the Migration Strategy consultation on regional visas once consultation commences.**

## 7. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES

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

Ms Rachael Sweeney – Secretariat provided an update on the actions from the RCA November 2023 Board Meeting. Members received and noted the minutes and updates.

Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council moved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Mr Frank Zaknich – GM, Albury City Council seconded the motion.

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



## **8. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

RCA Treasurer Mr Frank Zaknich – CEO, Albury City Council tabled the January 2024 Treasurer's Report for endorsement.

Mr Frank Zaknich – CEO, Albury City Council provided an overview of the accounts to date for the information of members. Members noted the update.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus to endorse the January 2024 Treasurer's Report.

## **9. SECRETARIAT UPDATE**

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat, tabled the following January 2024 reports for discussion and noting:

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

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus to endorse the January 2024 reports from members.

## **10. DELEGATION MEETING WITH THE HON CATHERINE KING MP**

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council welcomed the Hon Catherine King MP - Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and Member for Ballarat to the meeting and introduced all members.

RCA members provided an overview of the RCA policy priorities including:

- Population policy priorities;
- Regional infrastructure policy priorities;
- Overview of RCA Airports Policy Paper and Case Studies; and
- Overview of RCA position on Housing and Innovation Fund.

The Minister provided an overview of the Government's regional priorities including:

- Importance of funding for regions to be across all portfolios;
- Importance of land transport and roads programs, including:
  - The Roads to recovery and blackspots program;
- Importance of regulatory services at all airports will be reflected in the Aviation White Paper;
- The Government was investigating capitals grants as a form of funding for regional airports.

Members noted the update.



## **11. MEMBER DISCUSSION**

Members noted the meeting with the Hon Catherine King MP - Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and Member for Ballarat. Members discussed the meeting and agreed it was important to continue to engage with the Minister on RCA priorities, in particular the regional housing and airports positions.

## **12. REGIONAL AIRPORTS**

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council welcomed Mr Scott Martin - Director, Policy & Research, Australian Airports Association to the meeting and introduced all members.

Mr Scott Martin - Director, Policy & Research, Australian Airports Association (AAA) provided an overview of the AAA's regional airports policy position including:

- Overview of AAA position on airport funding;
- Overview of AAA membership;
- Discussion on the Sydney airport form announced by Minister King;
- Trial an international service de-risking for airports as it currently sits with local government; and
- Overview of the current issues with regional airports and security screening requirements

Members noted the presentation by Mr Scott Martin - Director, Policy & Research, Australian Airports Association.

## **13. MEMBER DISCUSSION**

Members noted the presentation by Mr Scott Martin - Director, Policy & Research, Australian Airports Association. Members discussed the presentation and agreed it was important to continue to engage with the Australian Airports Association on RCA regional airport priorities.

## **14. REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA HOUSING REFORM**

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat, tabled the Final Draft RCA Housing Policy Paper and Case Studies.

Members discussed the Final Draft RCA Housing Policy Paper and Case Studies and agreed the paper and case studies provided a comprehensive position on the issues associated with social and affordable housing regional areas.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus of members to adopt the RCA Housing Policy Paper and Case Studies.

### **ACTIONS**



**14.1 RCA Secretariat to include the Final RCA Housing Policy Paper and Case Studies in RCA advocacy activities.**

## **15. RAI ALLIANCE FOR REGIONALISATION UPDATE**

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat, tabled the RAI February Alliance for Regionalisation Meeting for noting by members.

Members noted the update and agreed on the importance of continuing to participate in the RAI Alliance for Regionalisation on regional Australia issues.

Members noted the update.

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### Next Meeting

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King - Mayor, Albury City Council noted the next RCA Board Meeting was to be held on 12 March 2024 via videoconference.

The meeting was declared closed at 2:31pm AEST.

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

| <b>Task</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| RCA Secretariat to draft a submission to the Migration Strategy consultation on regional visas once consultation commences. | Secretariat           |
| RCA Secretariat to include the Final RCA Housing Policy Paper and Case Studies in RCA advocacy activities.                  | Secretariat           |