



MEETING MINUTES

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday 12 March 2024

Location: Videoconference

Time:

4:00pm – 6:00pm AEST
5:00pm – 7:00pm AEDT
3:30pm – 5:30pm ACST
2:00pm – 4:00pm AWST

Attendees

- Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council (RCA Chair)
- Mr Frank Zaknich – GM, Albury City Council (RCA Treasurer)
- Mayor Peter Carter – Mayor, Town of Port Hedland (RCA Deputy Chair)
- Mr Carl Askew – CEO, Town of Port Hedland
- Mayor Jerry Clune – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton (WA Representative)
- Mr Ross McKim – CEO, City of Greater Geraldton
- Mr Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Cr Trent Sullivan – Mayor, Greater Geelong City Council (VIC Representative)
- Ms Ali Wastie – CEO, Greater Geelong City Council
- Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council (NSW Representative)
- Mr Brett Stonestreet – GM, Griffith City Council
- Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Project Manager and Secretariat (Managing Director, Collective Position)
- Ms Edwina Blackburn – RCA Secretariat

Apologies



- Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council (QLD Representative)
- Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council (RCA Secretary)
- Mr Murray Wood – Dubbo Regional Council

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 February 2024 meeting.

Ms Rachael Sweeney – Secretariat provided an update on the actions from the RCA February 2024 Board Meeting. Members received and noted the minutes and updates.

Mayor Peter Carter – Mayor, Town of Port Hedland moved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Mayor Jerry Clune – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton seconded the motion.

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

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

RCA Treasurer Mr Frank Zaknich – GM, Albury City Council tabled the February 2024 Treasurer's Report and provided an overview of the accounts to date for the information of members.

Mayor Peter Carter – Mayor, Town of Port Hedland moved to endorse the February 2024 Treasurer's Report as true and accurate. Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council seconded the motion.

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

4. SECRETARIAT UPDATE

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



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

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

5. NBN PRESENTATION

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council welcomed Mr Thomas O’Dea – Head of NBN Local NSW Regional Development and Engagement, and Mr Chris Cusack – National General Manager, NBN to the meeting and introduced all members.

Mr Thomas O’Dea – Head of NBN Local NSW Regional Development and Engagement, NBN provided an overview of NBN’s activities to date, including:

- 3.5 million premises on the Fibre to the Node (FTTN) technology will be able eligible to upgrade to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) by the end of 2025 on an eligible plan;
- 1.5 million premises on the Fibre to the Curb technology will be able to upgrade to FTTP on an eligible plan; and
- 2.5 million premises on the HFC network can access the NBN Home Ultrafast plan.

Mr Thomas O’Dea – Head of NBN Local NSW Regional Development and Engagement, NBN noted eligible upgrade areas could expect the following the support:

- End to end ownership and management complaints hotline;
- Operation council engagement and communication through delivery partners;
- Community stakeholder engagement and communication through delivery partners; and
- Regular updates are available through the NBN website.

Mr Chris Cusack – National General Manager, NBN noted upgrades would be communicated through the following platforms:

- face to face sessions;
- communications through local media, newsletters and social media;
- Geo-targeted social and media communications; and
- Regular updates through the NBN website.

Mr Chris Cusack – National General Manager, NBN noted localised briefings on BNB activities and upgrades are available for all regional areas upon request.

Members noted the presentation.

6. FEDERAL DELEGATION WRAP UP

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the RCA Stakeholder meeting register and provided an overview of the delegation actions for the information of members.



Ms Rachael Sweeney – Secretariat provided an overview of meetings held during the Federal Delegation, 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;
- Department of Home Affairs;
- 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.

Ms Rachael Sweeney – Secretariat advised follow up discussions would be held with:

- A discussion on the dedicated regional session to be held during Australian Councils of Local Governments with the Office of The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and the Territories and member for Eden-Monaro; and
- A discussion on regional migration and visas would be held with the National Farmers Federation prior to the release of the migration strategy consultation.

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 16 April 2024 via videoconference.

The meeting was declared closed at 5.05 AEDT.