



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2021



Strong Regions

Progressive Local Government

Vibrant Communities

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The Riverina Joint Organisation (JO) first met in October 2018, under the NSW Local Government Act the Organisation has three primary functions, which are to:

- establish strategic regional priorities and develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities;
- provide regional leadership and be an advocate for strategic regional priorities; and
- identify and take up opportunities for inter-governmental cooperation on matters that relate to our Region.

Although it has been a most frustrating COVID-year in many respects, it has also been a busy and productive year for our JO Board. We have been able to fulfil the above functions for our Member Councils and deliver on the priorities that have been identified in our Strategic Plan. The activities the JO has undertaken are detailed in this report, against our Strategic Priorities.

These priority areas are:

- Transport and Connectivity
- Energy, Water and Environment
- Workforce Development
- Leadership and Collaboration
- Economic and Community Development
- Healthy and vibrant communities.

I would now like to touch on just some of our Riverina JO Board highlights:

- Riverina JO have been a strong support to the innovative

Southern Lights NSW Project, from which our Members benefited through the roll-out of cost and energy efficient LED lighting. Special thanks to our Chief Executive, Mrs Julie Briggs for her Project leadership across the State.

- The JO's two Working Group, Governance and Operations met regularly to consider JO directions and responses and contribute a great deal to our Organisation. Thanks to the Working Group Chairs, Mayor Heather Wilton (Greater Hume) and Mayor John Seymour OAM (Coolamon Shire) and all members for their efforts.
- Our Board formed a Drought Sub-Committee in 2019 which rebadged itself as the Critical Events Co-ordination Committee in response to the broader adverse events that were impacting on our Region. They have initiated an Adverse Events Template for our Member Councils, which is appreciated. The Board's appreciation is extended to our Committee Chairman, Mayor Rodger Schirmer and his fellow members for their contributions.
- Our Start Your Career Here program continues to be a success with our Member Councils initiating and hosting a series of structured activities that allow our students to be exposed to the vast career opportunities within our cherished Local Government sector. Through the

program we were able to partner with State Training Services on their *Behind the Career* series with a video that highlighted careers in Local Government. Well done to Greater Hume Shire General Manager, Mr Steven Pinnuck, and the staff at Greater Hume who featured in the video and to our Project Officer, Mr Paul Worsfold for their exceptional contributions in this space.

- Regardless of COVID, we have continued to advocate and lobby exceedingly hard for our Member Councils including ongoing funding for JOs, the s7.12 Contribution's issue, Regional Housing shortage, Certification of Council Engineers, ESL increases, the Infrastructure Contributions Bill, IPART Rates review and so much more. The JO has lodged a response to the majority of reviews and legislative changes that have impacted on Local Government in the last 12 months. I believe through our participation in the Upper House Hearings on the Infrastructure Contributions Bill we were able to voice the concerns of rural and regional NSW and influence the final recommendation that asked for a stay in the Bill.
- We continued our countless delegations (mostly via videoconferencing) with Ministers, MPs and Government Officials from both State and Federal levels.



Riverina JO Chairman, Cr Rick Firman OAM



Members at one of the few face-to-face meetings the JO was able to hold this year

This is a mere snapshot of just how busy our Riverina JO Board and Staff have been.

We have again used the last 12 months to further enhance our already strong relationship with LGNSW to further our advocacy for our Members. We have been able to 'meet' regularly with Cr Scott, Chief Executive, Mr Scott Phillips and other LGNSW staff to further our advocacy and to look at ways we can continue to work together for the benefit of the entire sector.

Our Riverina JO Board participated in a review of our current structure, as part of the Office of Local Government's JO Review. I can advise the Board, Minister Hancock has now received the Independent Review and will release the documents for comment by the end of this year. Unless a reasonable recurrent funding stream beyond council membership fees is secured for JOs it is my firm view, after discussions with my fellow JO Chairs, that JOs will have a limited lifespan. Riverina JO will continue to work hard with OLG and our fellow JOs with an attempt to find a viable way forward.

I have again welcomed the regular meetings with my fellow JO Chairs, through the NSW Joint Chairs' Forum. It has provided us with an opportunity and platform to talk about common issues and develop a collaborative approach. I was honoured to be re-elected by my fellow Chairs to the position of Deputy Chairman of the Forum.

I would like to sincerely thank our Riverina JO Board members for their on-going commitment of time and resources

which ensures the overall success of our Organisation. My thanks is extended to our Deputy Chairman, Mayor Rodger Schirmer (Lockhart Shire), who has provided strong support through the year. I warmly express gratitude to our devoted Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Julie Briggs. Her tireless efforts in working with us to ensure the success of RivJO is something the Board and I appreciate deeply. I also place on record our thanks to Mrs Briggs' team of Mrs Kate Hardy, Mrs Claire Garrett, Mr Isaac Cornell and Mr Paul Worsfold, they help Riverina JO in a very special way, which is valued by us all.

With Local Government elections to be held on 4th December of this year, we take time to acknowledge two of our Foundation Board members who have advised they will not be seeking re-election, Mayor Rodger Schirmer and Mayor John Seymour OAM. Both of these 'Gentlemen of Local Government' have served their Shire communities exceedingly well and have also contributed greatly to our cherished Riverina region. Mayor Schirmer is the current Deputy Chairman while Mayor Seymour previously served in the role. Not only have they been dedicated to their various roles, they have also provided strong mentoring and friendship to me. On behalf of the entire Riverina JO Board I thank them both for the leadership roles they have taken in the establishment and development of the Riverina JO.

Cr Greg Conkey OAM, Mayor of Wagga Wagga has also advised that he will not be seeking re-election. I would like to thank Cr Conkey for his commitment and contribution to the JO's work since Wagga Wagga became a JO Member Council and for his dedicated involvement

with the Local Government sector. The Board and I wish Mayor Schirmer, Mayor Seymour, Mayor Conkey, their wives and families all the very best. They will always remain part of our Riverina JO Family.

I am proud to have served as your Riverina JO Chairman, since our formation. It is my fervent hope I have earned the privilege to be re-elected as a Councillor & Mayor at Temora Shire and return to be a part of this evolving and worthwhile Organisation.

**Cr R B Firman OAM
CHAIRMAN**

Paul Worsfold, Skills Shortages Project Officer addresses students at the 2021 REROC Youth Leadership Forum



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Riverina JO prepared and adopted its Strategic Plan in 2019. The Plan identified the regional priorities that the JO Member Councils wanted to pursue and reflects the aspirations of the communities our Member Councils represent.

We now report, as required by the Local Government Regulation (General) 2005, clause 397J, on our progress in addressing our strategic priorities.

OUR PRIORITY AREAS

1 Transport and Connectivity	2 Leadership and Collaboration
3 Energy, Water and Environment	4 Economic and Community Development
5 Workforce Development	6 Healthy and Vibrant Communities

Each of the Priorities has identified Focus Areas that the JO addresses through the implementation of specific strategies.



Build A Bridge...and Get Over It! was sponsored by the JO as a Come and Try Event

FOCUS AREAS



Transport and Connectivity

- Freight Transport
- The Road Network
- Passenger Transport
- Mobile and Broadband Connectivity



Energy, Water and Environment

- Water and Wastewater
- Waste Management and Resource Recovery
- Energy Management
- Environment and Climate Change



Workforce Development

- Skilled Regional Workforce
- Employer of Choice



Leadership and Collaboration

- Regional Leadership and Advocacy
- Partnerships and Collaboration



Economic and Community Development

- Regional Economy
- Tourism and Visitation



Healthy and Vibrant Communities

- Community Well-being and Liveability
- Health and Allied Services

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST OUR REGIONAL PRIORITIES

PRIORITY ONE: TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY

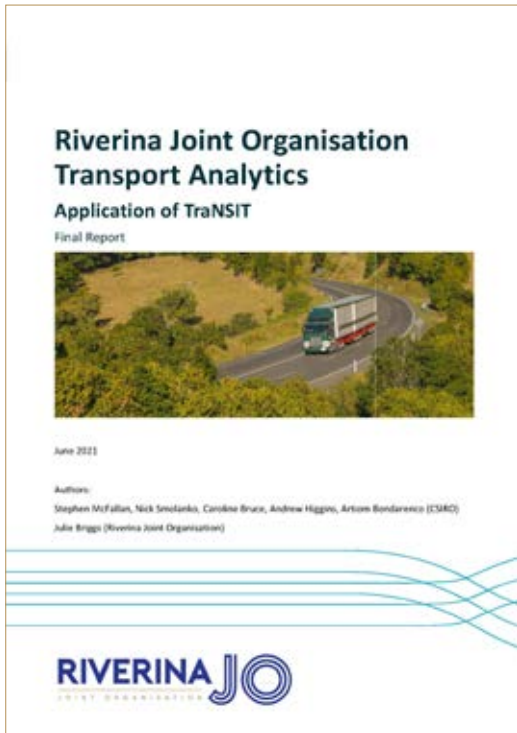
FOCUS AREAS	FREIGHT TRANSPORT	THE ROAD NETWORK	PASSENGER TRANSPORT	MOBILE AND BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY
GOALS	Road and rail freight moves efficiently within and through our Region providing effective support for the national freight task	Our road network meets the needs and aspirations of our communities	Our residents have access to passenger transport that meets their needs	Our Region is connected to the world through excellent mobile and broadband telecommunication services
HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and remove impediments to connectivity in our Region's transport corridors 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate to improve the funding models that support a better road network 	No High Priority Strategies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify connectivity blackspots and lobby for funding to address the problems 2. Promote the connectivity benefits of Southern Lights

CSIRO FREIGHT TRANSPORT STUDY

The Study has provided much needed volume and value data to inform the JO's Regional Freight Transport Plan.

The Study maps the transport routes that freight travels to from the JO Region providing an oversight of the reach of products from our Region.

The Study will inform funding submissions by Member Councils.



The TraNSIT Riverina Transport Plan provided volume and value data for freight in the JO Region

PRIORITY ONE: TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY CONT.

FOCUS AREAS	FREIGHT TRANSPORT	THE ROAD NETWORK	PASSENGER TRANSPORT	MOBILE AND BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY
<p>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</p>	<p><i>CSIRO TraNSIT Study</i> - undertaken by the CSIRO TraNSIT group the Study quantifies the volume and value of freight that passes through and within the Riverina JO Region. The study maps the transport routes that freight travels to from the Region providing an interesting oversight of the reach of products from our Region.</p> <p>Regional Freight Transport Plan – we have commenced negotiations with NSW Spatial to transfer the on-line mapping to their Spatial Portal which would allow greater access.</p>	<p>We have advocated for opportunities to apply for funding on a regional basis to address road routes rather than single constraints.</p> <p>We have engaged with and provided feedback to the Department of Infrastructure’s Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) program.</p> <p>The JO has representation on REROC’s Infrastructure/Engineers Technical Group in order to identify issues to be taken forward for advocacy.</p>	<p>We have sought opportunities to engage with Transport NSW and others on public transport options for Member Council LGAs.</p>	<p>We formed a Telecommunications Sub-committee to deal with specific issues.</p> <p>We investigated the opportunity to partner with a telecommunications provider to increase regional coverage.</p> <p>We have entered into on-going discussions with Telstra to address regional connectivity.</p> <p>We have continued to map mobile phone blackspots in our Region and have provided that information to State and Local politicians.</p> <p>We have worked with REROC to promote Southern Lights and its capacity to be utilised for Smart City applications.</p>



The Board meets with Member for Cootamundra, Ms Steph Cooke MP

NSW'S 20 YEAR WASTE STRATEGY

Waste management and resource recovery are important issues for councils. As NSW moves towards a circular economy approach to addressing waste management, councils will be at the forefront of that push.

The JO has participated in consultations with the EPA on the development and delivery of the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*. It will continue to work collaboratively with the EPA and the REROC Waste Forum to advocate for sustainable solutions that meet the challenges of delivering waste management and resource recovery services in the regions.

PRIORITY TWO: ENERGY WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

FOCUS AREAS	WATER AND WASTEWATER	WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY	ENERGY MANAGEMENT	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
GOALS	<p>Planning reflects, supports and sustains the needs of future communities for safe and secure water and wastewater services</p> <p>Retain the ownership of regional and rural Local Water Utilities with Local Government</p>	<p>Planning reflects, supports and sustains the needs of future communities for the most effective waste management and resource recovery solutions</p>	<p>Planning reflects, supports and sustains the needs of future communities for equitable access to energy and energy services</p>	<p>Our actions enhance the environment for future generations</p> <p>Planning increases the Region's resilience to climate change</p>
HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES	<p>Support planning for upgrades to water and sewer infrastructure to meet identified future demand</p> <p>Advocate for the retention of ownership of regional and rural Local Water Utilities with Local Government</p>	<p>Support the delivery of regional solutions for waste management and resource recovery</p>	<p>Monitor changes in the energy sector and their likely impacts on Member Councils and their communities and respond</p> <p>Identify initiatives that improve energy management and efficiency for Member Councils and their communities</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to implement initiatives that improve environmental outcomes</p>



Steve Pinnuck speaks to the Board about the Skills Shortage Project

PRIORITY TWO: ENERGY WATER AND ENVIRONMENT CONT.

FOCUS AREAS	WATER AND WASTEWATER	WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY	ENERGY MANAGEMENT	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
<p>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</p>	<p>The JO has Board member representation on REROC's Water and Wastewater Technical Group.</p> <p>We have worked with the Town Water Risk Reduction program to identify opportunity for Members' participation.</p> <p>We have met with Members to discuss advocacy in relation to the Safe and Secure Water Program to allow better access for small communities.</p> <p>We opened discussions with T-Corp for County Councils to have access to T-Corp funding.</p> <p>The JO supported the County Council's advocacy on access to rail corridors.</p> <p>We advocated for the Chairs of County Councils to have the same term of office as Mayors.</p>	<p>The JO has Board member representation on REROC's Waste Forum.</p> <p>The JO has participated in consultations with the EPA on the development and delivery of the <i>NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041</i>.</p>	<p>The JO has Board member representation on REROC's Energy Management Technical Group.</p> <p>The JO looks for opportunities to develop projects that address energy management and efficiency.</p> <p>The JO supports the Southern Lights NSW project and the energy efficiency benefits it will deliver to councils through the deployment of energy efficient LED lighting.</p>	<p>The JO has a Drought Committee which reformed as the Critical Events Co-ordination Committee. The Committee's role is to disseminate information that supports community response to adverse events.</p> <p>We prepared an Adverse Events Template for Member Councils use.</p> <p>The JO participates in the NSW DPIE Resilience discussions and climate change initiatives.</p>



Start Your Career Here has been promoted to high school, university and TAFE students

START YOUR CAREER HERE

The JO Board is highly committed to a “grow your own” strategy to address skills shortages.

Start Your Career Here works with High School, University and TAFE students to encourage them to consider a career in Local Government.

It starts by sowing a seed at the *Start Your Career Day* and moves to *Come and Try Days* where students have hands-on experiences. University and TAFE students can try a career by participating in the Professional Placement Program and if they find they like it can move on to a Graduate Program in one of our Member Councils once they have completed their course.

PRIORITY THREE: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS AREAS	SKILLED REGIONAL WORKFORCE	EMPLOYER OF CHOICE
GOALS	The Region has a skilled regional workforce that drives entrepreneurship and growth	The Region is perceived as a preferred area to work and live Local Government is seen as an Employer of Choice
HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES	1. Develop a range of employment pathways that underpins a “grow your own” workforce	1. Promote the benefits of working and living in the Region 2. Promote the diversity of work in local government and the benefits of employment in the sector
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS	<p><i>Skills Shortages Project</i> – with funding through the JO Capacity Building program we have delivered this Project with aim of growing our own workforce.</p> <p>The program is comprised of the following elements:</p> <p><i>Start Your Career Here</i> – Member Councils host a series of structured activities over a single day that allows students to develop a better understanding of the careers available in Local Government. This year we have finalised the resource materials that support the delivery of the program by councils. This year Coolamon Shire Council delivered one event with the support of our Project Officer Paul Worsfold.</p>	<p><i>Behind the Career</i> Local Government Promotion – the JO was approached by State Training Services to participate in their <i>Behind the Career</i> (BTC) initiative, which is a video library showcasing an increasing number of careers (BTC web pages)</p> <p>Our Project Officer, Paul Worsfold facilitated the arrangements with the video shot at Greater Hume Council. The video highlights the variety of careers in Local Government and spotlights HR, spatial data, library services, road work and building inspections.</p> <p>LGNSW negotiated with Training Services for shorter versions of the video to be included on its <i>Careers at Council</i> site.</p>

PRIORITY THREE: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONT.

FOCUS AREAS	SKILLED REGIONAL WORKFORCE	EMPLOYER OF CHOICE
<p>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</p>	<p><i>Come and Try Events</i> – these experiential events allow students to try different careers. This year the JO sponsored and supported the delivery of the <i>Build a Bridge...and get over it!</i> Program. The Program aims to encourage high school students to consider a career in civil engineering. The competitive entry program had 6 females in the 22 participants.</p> <p><i>Professional Placements</i> – Member Councils offered both structured and volunteer placements to Charles Sturt University (CSU) students. Eight students participated in Professional Placements mainly in accounting, admin and HR. The JO prepared resource materials to support Member Council involvement and also produced promotional materials for CSU. Not all the placements that Member Councils had on offer were filled.</p> <p><i>Sharing of Highly Skilled Workers</i> - the aim is to develop a sustainable and accountable model whereby the JO can establish a shared senior position in an identified shortage area, e.g. town planning.</p> <p><i>Graduate Program</i> – we identified that councils needed to provide a pathway to full-time work for students. The JO has developed a Graduate Program for students that are interested in pursuing a career in Local Government.</p> <p>The JO committed to growing its own by recruiting a Trainee in Business Administration. Isaac Cornell started as a Trainee in February 2021 and will be with the JO for 12 months.</p> <p>The JO has Board representation on REROC’s Workforce Development Group which meets every second month.</p>	<p><i>Careers in Council Website</i> – we partnered with LGNSW to promote this initiative. The JO also supported Member Councils to join the site to advertise jobs. The site includes substantial information on careers in councils as well as the opportunity for councils to advertise their jobs.</p> <p>The JO supports the Country Change project delivered by the Riverina RDA. Country Change aims to promote working and living in country NSW. During the year RDA Executive Officer, Rachel Whiting attended a Board meeting to address the Members about the latest initiatives with Country Change.</p>

BEHIND THE CAREER

Behind the Career (BTC) is an initiative of Training Services NSW. It is a video library showcasing an increasing number of careers. The BTC web pages feature Construction, Aged Care, and Engineering. Each video has the same format: approx. 19 – 22 mins long, a virtual tour highlighting each career, downloadable documents aligned to the high school curriculum, and links to further resources.

Through the work the JO was doing with State Training Services arranging mentor and supervisor training for our Skills Shortages project we were approached to support the development of the *Careers in Local Government* video. Our Project Officer, Paul Worsfold worked closely with the production crew on the development of the resource which was shot at Greater Hume Shire. The video highlights the variety of careers in Local Government and spotlights HR, spatial data, library services, road work and building inspections.

LGNSW negotiated with Training Services for shorter versions of the video to be included in its Careers at Local Government site.



Participants at a Workshop to develop the Regional Housing Strategy

REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

Working in partnership with REROC, the JO commenced development on a Regional Housing Strategy. The Strategy responded to significant, identified shortages in all types of housing stocks across the Region.

In developing the Strategy, the JO worked with a number of NSW agencies including Regional NSW, Planning, Primary Industries and Environment as well as RDA-Riverina.

The Strategy's Goals are:

- Sufficient housing, across a diversity of type to meet current and future demand.
- Vibrant and viable housing sector that supports regional growth and investment.
- Capitalise on the strong infrastructure investments that are occurring in the Region that will bring new residents.

PRIORITY FOUR: LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

FOCUS AREAS	REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY	COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS
GOALS	We are a strong advocate and provide leadership on issues that affect Local Government and the communities in our Region	<p>We have effective relationships and partnerships in place with State and Federal ministers and agencies based on mutual respect and trust</p> <p>We have effective partnerships with other regional organisations and businesses operating within our Region and across the State</p> <p>Local Government is recognised by State and Federal governments and funded appropriately for the services it provides to the community</p>
HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for identified regional priorities 2. Provide a representative voice on regional, state and national networks and platforms 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold regular meetings with State and Federal ministers, agencies and local parliamentarians 2. Partner with State agencies where the benefits that accrue to our Members and their communities outweigh the costs 3. Partner with other regional organisations and businesses where benefits will accrue to our Members and their communities 4. Identify, monitor and respond to any impacts that have a potential detrimental effect on the operations of local government 5. Lobby for Local Government Recognition in the Constitution



After meeting with Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Hon Rob Stokes MP, in February 2020 the JO has continued to lobby for changes to the application of s7.12 contributions

APPLICATION OF S7.12 CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

The JO is advocating for a level playing field for developments in NSW.

State Significant Developments are considered by the State Planning Panel not by councils and as a consequence these types of developments are not being asked to pay s7.12 contributions. This costs local governments across NSW millions of dollars each year.

The JO is lobbying to change the wording of the legislation from “may impose” to “must impose” which will mean that all developments regardless of the Consent Authority will be treated equally.

PRIORITY FOUR: LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION CONT.

FOCUS AREAS	REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY	COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS
<p>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</p>	<p>The JO has advocated on a large number of issues in the last 12 months:</p> <p><i>Joint Organisation Core Funding</i> – working with the JO Network we have continued our call for con-going core funding for JOs.</p> <p><i>The application of the EP & A Act’s s7.12 contributions of State Significant Development</i> – this is an issue that the JO took on from REROC. Lobbying which started in 2018, has continued with the Minister throughout the year. At a meeting in 2020 the Minister indicated that a change from “may impose” to “must impose” would resolve the issue. It is disappointing the change has not occurred.</p> <p><i>Certification of Council Engineers</i> – the JO has lobbied in relation to the new requirements and has opened discussions with Engineers Australia regarding recognition of older qualifications to allow engineers to meet Professional Engineer requirements.</p> <p><i>Agricultural Land Use Planning</i> – the JO responded to the Agriculture Commissioner’s Issues Paper and attended consultations arranged by the Commissioner.</p> <p><i>NSW Planning e- Portal Costs</i> – we lobbied for funding assistance to meet the costs associated with councils integrating their planning systems with the e-Portal.</p> <p><i>Regional Housing Strategy</i> – in response to significant housing shortages in the Region the JO partnered with REROC on the development of the Strategy. The Strategy will inform future directions in relation to lobbying for support. The JO responded to the Regional Housing Taskforce Inquiry into the issue and attended consultations.</p>	<p>The JO’s Drought Committee transformed into the Critical Events Co-ordination Committee due to its remit broadening from drought to encompass bushfires, COVID and COVID border restrictions. The Committee includes representatives from Department of Regional NSW, Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network and the Rural Financial Counselling Services.</p> <p>The JO was a member of the State Government’s Riverina-Murray Drought task Force.</p> <p>The JO participated in the Cross-Border Commissioner’s COVID briefings.</p> <p>The JO has participated in the consultations for the development of the Murrumbidgee Regional Waste Strategy.</p> <p>The JO is a member of the State Government’s Regional Leadership Network, convened by the Department of Regional NSW.</p> <p>We participated in the State Government’s Regional Resilience and Recovery Sub-committee.</p> <p>The JO is a member of the Empowering Communities project led by Murrumbidgee PHN.</p> <p>The JO partnered with CNSWJO, CRJO and RAMJO on the delivery of the Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement project.</p> <p>The JO participated in the Joint Chairs’ Forum meetings and we organised the May meeting in Sydney.</p> <p>The JO CEO participated in JO Executive Officers’ meetings that are held on a fortnightly basis.</p>

PRIORITY FOUR: LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION CONT.

FOCUS AREAS	REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY	COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS
<p>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</p>	<p><i>Population Projections</i> – the JO is seeking opportunities to better inform the process of formulating population projections particularly for regional and rural communities. Our Members reported on-going dissatisfaction with the outcomes of the projections which are used to inform State Government planning and servicing decisions as well as investment decisions from the commercial sector.</p> <p><i>Inclusion of Local Government in the National Cabinet</i> - The JO lobbied for the inclusion of a Local Government representative on the National Cabinet.</p> <p><i>Construction of a New and Larger Burrinjuck Dam</i> – we wrote to the State to support the replacement of the 100-year-old dam.</p> <p><i>Dividing Fences Amendment Bill</i> – we wrote to the Attorney-General to raise Members’ concerns about the Bill which would have created a significant financial impost on Local Government.</p> <p><i>COVID 19 Recovery Package</i> – we wrote to the Deputy Premier, after extensive consultation with our Members, to advocate for a Recovery Package that identified five streams of activity: Residential Development, Industrial Development, Community and Social Infrastructure, Small Business Growth and Revitalisation of the Main St/CBD.</p> <p><i>ESL Increases</i> – we monitored increases to the ESL. We met with IPART to open discussions on how the RFS component of the ESL could be better reflected in the rate peg.</p> <p>We also lobbied for changes to legislation that would allow councils to bill the ESL separately on the rates’ notice.</p>	<p>We participated in the Snowy Hydro Fund Freight Linkages Priority Market Sounding run by Department of Regional NSW.</p> <p>We participated in the LGNSW-JO Local Water Utilities Committee.</p> <p>We provided in-kind support to the Smarter Regions Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) project.</p> <p>We met with Local State Members, Dr Joe McGirr MP (Member for Wagga Wagga), Ms Steph Cooke MP (Member for Cootamundra) and Mr Justin Clancy MP (Member for Albury) to discuss issues that were of significance to members.</p>

CRITICAL EVENTS CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

The JO established the Drought Sub-committee in late 2019. The Committee brings together staff from each of the Member Councils and representatives from Department of Regional NSW, Rural Financial Counselling Service, Murrumbidgee PHN and the Murrumbidgee Local Health District.

The committee initially met on a monthly basis and its first project was to promote the uptake of the Farm Household Allowance (FHA) across the Region.

We have worked closely with the health providers to distribute and promote mental health materials as well. The committee then extended its work to incorporate bushfire recovery.

In August 2021 the Drought Committee transformed into the Critical Events Co-ordination Committee due to its remit broadening from drought to encompass bushfires, COVID and COVID border restrictions.

PRIORITY FOUR: LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION CONT.

FOCUS AREAS	REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY	COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS
<p>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</p>	<p><i>IPART Rates Review to Reflect Population Projections</i> – we submitted to this review by IPART and also assisted in the organisation of a consultation with regional councils in Sydney in March.</p> <p><i>Crown Land Discussion Paper</i> – the JO responded to this review in early 2021. Concerns the Members had in relation to the management of Crown Lands particularly in relation to dealing with Native Title were raised in the response.</p> <p><i>NSW 20 Year Waste Strategy</i> – we have responded to various consultations that the EPA had on the development of the new Strategy.</p> <p><i>Infrastructure Contributions Bill</i> - the Bill proposed a number of sweeping changes to the Contributions' Scheme most of which would be detrimental to councils. We prepared a response to the Bill and also attended an Upper House Inquiry where we gave evidence.</p>	



Board members attend a JO Meeting in Wagga Wagga

LEVERAGING GROWTH IN OUR REGION

The JO will use a Capacity Building Grant from the Office of Local Government to develop materials and guidance that supports councils to leverage growth from the billions of dollars in investment that is occurring in the Region.

The JO is exploring opportunities to identify ways that the Special Activation Precinct (SAP) in Wagga Wagga can be leveraged to create growth opportunities across the Region.



REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

The Regional Housing Strategy identifies the barriers to growth caused by the lack of housing in the Region. The Strategy develops strategies that will address those barriers.

PRIORITY FIVE: ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS AREAS	REGIONAL ECONOMY	TOURISM & VISITATION
GOALS	<p>The regional economy is thriving, robust and self-sustaining</p> <p>Our communities are economically and socially vibrant</p>	Tourism and visitation to the Region is increased
HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES	Support the implementation of the Region's Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS)	No High Priority Strategies
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS	<p><i>Capacity Building Round Two</i> – the JO has identified a project to leverage the billions of dollars in investment that is occurring in the Region over the next 5 years.</p> <p>The JO supports the implementation of the REDS. It is committed to working with councils to further opportunities for economic development at a regional level.</p> <p>The JO has had briefings on the progress of the Special Activation Precinct (SAP) in Wagga Wagga. It is expected that the SAP will act as a catalyst for economic development across the Region and the JO is exploring these opportunities. The Capacity Building Round 2 funding will also address this.</p> <p>We made a submission to the ABS Agricultural Census asking that additional information be collected to better inform councils on economic issues relating to farming such as housing and seasonal workers.</p> <p>The Regional Housing Strategy identifies the barriers to growth caused by the lack of housing in the Region. The Strategy develops strategies that will address those barriers.</p>	We remain in contact with Destination Riverina-Murray and Visit Riverina about ways in which we can support their initiatives.



Meeting with State and Federal politicians is an important part of advocacy.

PRIORITY SIX: HEALTHY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

FOCUS AREAS	COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND LIVEABILITY	HEALTH & ALLIED SERVICES
GOAL	Our Region provides lifestyle and service choices that reflect the diversity of residents' needs and aspirations	The Region's health and allied services meet the needs and aspirations of the Region's communities
HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES	Support the delivery of programs and services into the Region that build and enhance community well-being	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with health providers to provide robust input into decisions that determine health service delivery 2. Advocate for health and allied services that meet the needs of a diverse community 3. Advocate to retain and where appropriate enhance existing services
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS	<p>The JO Critical Events Co-ordination Committee has met every second month to determine projects and activities that can be undertaken to support communities through COVID.</p> <p>The JO attends the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network's Empowering Communities meetings which is a cross-sectoral committee aimed at addressing health issues that arise as a result of adverse events such as COVID and drought.</p>	<p>The Board received two briefings from the CEO of Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Ms Jill Ludford on health issues and specifically the COVID response in the region.</p> <p>The JO has continuously interacted with the Murrumbidgee LHD on issues relating to COVID and the provision of local government support for testing centres and vaccinations.</p>

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

The JO attends the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network's Empowering Communities meetings which are cross-sectoral committee meetings aimed at addressing health issues that arise as a result of adverse events such as COVID and drought.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

REPORTING AS REQUIRED UNDER CLAUSE 217 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2005

The Joint Organisation is required by legislation to report on the following matters:

Details (including the purpose) of overseas visits undertaken during the year by JO Board Members JO staff or other persons while representing the JO (including visits sponsored by other organisations)	None
<p>Details of the total cost during the year of the payment of the expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, JO Board Members in relation to their civic functions (as paid by the JO, reimbursed to the JO Board Member or reconciled with the JO Board Member), including separate details on the total cost of each of the following -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the provision during the year of dedicated office equipment allocated to JO Board Members on a personal basis, such as laptop computers, mobile telephones and landline telephones and facsimile machines installed in JO Board Members' homes (including equipment and line rental costs and internet access costs but not including call costs), telephone calls made by JO Board Members including calls made from mobile telephones provided by the JO and from landline telephones and facsimile services installed in JO Board Members' homes, the attendance of JO Board members at conferences and seminars, interstate visits undertaken during the year by JO Board Members while representing the JO, including the cost of transport, the cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses, overseas visits undertaken during the year by JO Board Members while representing the JO, including the cost of transport, the cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses, the expenses of any spouse, partner (whether of the same or the opposite sex) or other person who accompanied a JO Board Member in the performance of his or her civic functions, being expenses payable in accordance with the Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors for Local Councils in NSW prepared by the Director-General from time to time, expenses involved in the provision of care for a child of, or an immediate family member of, a JO Board Member, to allow the JO Board Member to undertake his or her civic functions details of each contract awarded by the JO during that year (whether as a result of tender or otherwise) other than - (employment contracts (that is, contracts of service but not contracts for services), and contracts for less than \$150,000 or such other amount as may be prescribed by the regulations, including the name of the contractor, the nature of the goods or services supplied by the contractor and the total amount payable to the contractor under the contract 	Nil
A summary of the amounts incurred by the JO during the year in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against the JO (including amounts, costs and expenses paid or received by way of out of court settlements, other than those the terms of which are not to be disclosed) and a summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and (if it has been finalised) the result.	Nil
The total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 of the Act	Nil

Over the last 12 months, the JO CEO Julie Briggs, has participated in a number of consultations



A statement of all external bodies that during that year exercised functions delegated by the JO	Coolamon Shire Council has been delegated the JO's financial management functions
A statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the JO (whether alone or in conjunction with other JOs) held a controlling interest during that year	None
A statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the JO participated during that year	None
Statement of all corporations, partnership, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the JO participated during year.	The JO participated in the activities of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
Statement of the activities undertaken by the JO during that year to implement its equal employment opportunity management plan	Staff and Board are aware of EEO
Statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of the general manager during the year that is to include the total of the following - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the total value of the salary component of the package, the total amount of any bonus payments, performance payments or other payments made to the general manager that do not form part of the salary component of the general manager, the total amount payable by the JO by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the general manager may be a contributor, the total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package 	<p>\$83,200</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>\$7,904 Employer contribution to superannuation</p> <p>Nil</p>
The total amount payable by the JO by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	Nil
A statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration packages of all senior staff members (other than the general manager) employed during the year, expressed as the total remuneration of all the senior staff members concerned (not of the individual senior staff members) and including totals of each of the following— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the total of the values of the salary components of their packages the total amount of any bonus payments, performance payments or other payments made to them that do not form part of the salary components of their packages, the total amount payable by the JO by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor, the total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package, the total amount payable by the JO by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits 	There are no senior staff employed by the JO

Riverina Joint Organisation

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2021

Riverina Joint Organisation

General purpose financial statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

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Riverina Joint Organisation is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and has its principal place of business at:

Riverina Joint Organisation
81-83 Johnson Street
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All media releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.riverinajo.nsw.gov.au

Riverina Joint Organisation

Statement by Members of the Board and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*

The attached general purpose financial statement have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and the regulations made thereunder
- the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Joint Organisations Supplement to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these financial statements:

- present fairly Riverina Joint Organisation's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Riverina Joint Organisation's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Riverina Joint Organisation made on 27 August 2021.



Rick Firman
Chairman
27 August 2021



John Seymour
Voting Representative Board Member
27 August 2021



Julie Briggs
Executive Officer
27 August 2021

Riverina Joint Organisation

Statement of Income and Accumulated Surplus

for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Income			
Member council contributions	B1-1	173,631	45,000
Grants provided for operating purposes	B1-2	68,658	-
Interest and investment revenue	B1-3	111	212
Other income	B1-4	5,000	1,514
Total income		247,400	46,726
Expenses			
Employee benefit and on-costs		114,326	92,517
Administrative expenses	B2-1	134,380	123,987
Total expenses		248,706	216,504
Net operating result for the year		(1,306)	(169,778)
Net result for the period		(1,306)	(169,778)
Accumulated Surplus at 1 July		35,390	205,168
Accumulated Surplus as at 30 June		34,084	35,390

The above Statement of Income and Accumulated Surplus should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Riverina Joint Organisation

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	293,543	198,444
Receivables	C1-2	9,969	16,778
Total current assets		303,512	215,222
Total assets		303,512	215,222
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	19,930	23,880
Contract liabilities	C3-2	238,842	150,000
Employee benefit provisions	C3-3	4,411	2,432
Total current liabilities		263,183	176,312
Non-current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	126	-
Employee benefit provisions	C3-3	6,119	3,520
Total non-current liabilities		6,245	3,520
Total liabilities		269,428	179,832
Net assets		34,084	35,390
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		34,084	35,390
Total equity		34,084	35,390

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Riverina Joint Organisation

Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
		\$	\$
<i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>			
<i>Receipts</i>			
Contributions from member councils		181,131	37,500
Investment revenue and interest		111	212
Grants		157,500	150,000
Other income		6,298	216
<i>Payments:</i>			
Employees and services		(105,512)	(87,040)
Other		(144,429)	(121,667)
<i>Net cash provided from operating activities</i>		95,099	(20,779)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		95,099	(20,779)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of reporting period		198,444	219,223
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period	C1-1	293,543	198,444

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Riverina Joint Organisation

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A. About the Riverina Joint Organisation and these financial statements

A1. Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board of the Joint Organisation on 27/08/2021. The Board has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and Regulations, and the Joint Organisation Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Riverina Joint Organisation is a not-for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and rounded to the nearest dollar.

a. New and amended standards adopted by Riverina Joint Organisation

The JO has early adopted AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities, the adoption of this standard has not affected the reported financial position or performance of Riverina Joint Organisation, however certain disclosures have been added, amended or omitted.

b. Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

c. Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Riverina Joint Organisation's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on Riverina Joint Organisation and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Riverina Joint Organisation makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

Employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-3.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis.

B. Financial performance

B1. Sources of income

B1-1 Member Council contributions

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Bland Shire Council	19,292	5,000
Coolamon Shire Council	19,292	5,000
Cootamundra-Gundagai Shire Council	19,293	5,000
Greater Hume Shire Council	19,292	5,000
Goldenfields Water County Council	9,646	2,500
Junee Shire Council	19,293	5,000
Lockhart Shire Council	19,292	5,000
Riverina Water County Council	9,646	2,500
Temora Shire Council	19,292	5,000
Wagga Wagga City Council	19,293	5,000
Total member Council contributions	173,631	45,000

Accounting policy

Contributions by member councils are recognised as revenue at the point in time when the amount to be paid for the period has been determined and communicated to councils.

The methodology for determining the contribution is:

- equal contributions by all full member councils and associate members pay 50% of a full member, in order to perform the principal functions of delivering on strategic regional priorities, regional leadership and intergovernmental cooperation

B1-2 Grants

	Operating		Capital	
	2021 \$	2020 \$	2021 \$	2020 \$
Office of Local Government (OLG) Capacity Building Grant	61,158	-	-	-
Murrumbidgee Local Health District	7,500	-	-	-
Total grants	68,658	-	-	-
Comprising				
- State funding	68,658	-	-	-
	68,658	-	-	-

Accounting policy for income**Grants - enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations**

Grant revenue arising from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement but include milestone and acquittal reporting.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods of costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Other grants

Assets (e.g. cash) received from other grants are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. The JO considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard. Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received

B1.3 Interest and investment revenue

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost	111	212
Total interest and investment revenue	111	212

Accounting policy

Interest and investment income is recognised using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

B1.4 Other income

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Other	5,000	1,514
Total other income	5,000	1,514

Accounting policy

Other income is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

B2. Costs of providing services**B2-1 Administrative expenses**

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Accounting costs	2,095	1,482
Contractor and consultancy costs	68,485	45,476
Contributions to Riverina Regional Organisation of Councils	16,639	18,300
Equipment consumables	3,000	3,000
IT expenses	2,262	5,946
Meetings	588	6,637
Other	114	2,876
Phone/internet	3,624	1,908
Printing/stationery/postage	2,898	1,543
Projects and planning	25,205	20,098
Remuneration of auditors	7,700	7,700
Representations	574	8,613
Travel	1,196	408
Total administrative expenses	<u>134,380</u>	<u>123,987</u>

Accounting policy**Employee benefit expenses**

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses are recorded on an accrual basis as Riverina Joint Organisation receives the goods or services.

C. Financial Position

C1. Assets we manage

C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	293,543	198,444
	293,543	198,444
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
External restrictions	238,842	150,000
Unrestricted	54,701	48,444
	293,543	198,444

Accounting policy

For Statement of Cash Flows presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

C1-2 Receivables

	2021	2020
	Current	Current
	\$	\$
Receivables from member councils	-	7,500
Other receivables	-	1,298
GST receivable	9,969	7,980
Total gross receivables	9,969	16,778
Less: provision for impairment:	-	-
Total net receivables	9,969	16,778

Accounting policy

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

Riverina Joint Organisation applies the simplified approach for receivables in providing for expected credit losses prescribed by AASB 9, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

C2. Leasing activities

Riverina Joint Organisation pays a contribution towards the use of the office space and a vehicle, but no lease contract exists between Riverina Joint Organisation and the provider for either arrangement. Therefore the arrangements are considered “not enforceable” and therefore right of use assets and lease liabilities have not been recognised in the FY2020 or FY2021 financial statements.

C3. Liabilities of the organisation

C3-1 Payables

	2021		2020	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Payables				
Trade payables	8,470	-	9,495	-
Trade payables - Related parties	2,063	-	9,315	-
Accrued expenses	91	126	-	-
PAYG payable	9,306	-	5,070	-
Total payables	19,930	126	23,880	-

Accounting policy

Riverina Joint Organisation measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs; subsequent financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Riverina Joint Organisation prior to the end of the financial period that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

C3-2 Contract liabilities

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Contract liabilities		
Funds received prior to performance obligation being satisfied (upfront payments) - AASB 15 - Capacity Building Grant	i 88,842	150,000
Funds received prior to performance obligation being satisfied (upfront payments) - AASB 15 - Capacity Building Grant 2	i 150,000	-
	238,842	150,000

(i) The contract liability relates to grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria in AASB 15 being satisfied since the performance obligations are ongoing.

Accounting policy

When an amount of consideration is received from a customer / fund provider prior to Riverina Joint Organisation transferring a good or service to the customer, Riverina Joint Organisation presents the funds which exceed revenue recognised as a contract liability.

C3-3 Employee benefit provisions

	2021		2020	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Annual leave	4,411	-	2,432	-
Long Service Leave	-	6,119	-	3,520
Total provisions	4,411	6,119	2,432	3,520
Current provisions no expected to be settled in next 12 months	-		-	

Accounting policy for provisions*Short-term obligations*

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits and annual leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period, and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision of employee benefits, and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Oncosts

The employee benefit provision include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include superannuation, payroll tax and workers compensation expenses that will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if Riverina Joint Organisation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

D. Risks and accounting uncertainties

D1. Financial risk management

Risk management

Riverina Joint Organisation's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, including credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by the finance team.

The fair value of receivables and financial liabilities approximates the carrying amount.

D2. Contingencies

Riverina Joint Organisation was not party to any contingent assets or liabilities during or at the end of the reporting period.

E. People and relationships

E1. Related party disclosures

Key management personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) of Riverina Joint Organisation are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Riverina Joint Organisation, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation in the Income Statement and Other Comprehensive Income is **\$93,184**.

Other related parties

Type of related party & nature of the transaction	Amount of the transaction during the reporting period (\$)	Outstanding balances, including commitments at period end (\$)	Terms and conditions	Provisions for doubtful debits (impairment of receivables) related to the amount of outstanding balances (\$)	Expense recognised during the period relating to bad or doubtful debts (impairment expense) due from related parties (\$)
2021					
REROC - Reimburse expenses	7,012	2,063	Expenses incurred by REROC and reimbursed by Riverina Joint Organisation	-	-
REROC - Contributions	22,695	-	Contributions to rent, car, telephone, consumables	-	-
REROC - Project Support	10,000	-	REROC project support to RivJO	-	-
REROC - Project Contributions	2,000	-	Contribution to REROC project	-	-
2020					
REROC-Reimburse expenses	41,709	9,315	Expenses incurred by REROC and reimbursed by Riverina Joint Organisation	-	-
REROC-Contributions	26,005	-	Contributions to rent, car, telephone	-	-

REROC is considered to be an other related party of Riverina Joint Organisation as the Chief Executive Officer of Riverina Joint Organisation is also the Executive Officer of REROC and some board members of Riverina Joint Organisation are also board members of REROC including the Chairperson who is chairman of both organisations.

E2. Other relationships**E2-1 Audit fees**

	2021	2020
Auditors of Riverina Joint Organisation - NSW Auditor General	\$	\$
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Audit of financial statements	<u>7,700</u>	<u>7,700</u>
Total fees paid or payable to the Auditor-General	<u>7,700</u>	<u>7,700</u>

F. Other matters

F1. Commitments

Riverina Joint Organisation did not during or at the end of the reporting period have any capital commitments.

F2. Events occurring after reporting date

Riverina Joint Organisation did not experience any events after balance date that require disclosure in the financial statements.

F3. Changes from prior year

Riverina Joint Organisation did not make any changes in accounting policies, correct any errors or make changes to accounting estimates during the year.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the general purpose financial statements

Riverina Joint Organisation

To the Board of the Riverina Joint Organisation

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Riverina Joint Organisation (the Joint Organisation), which comprise the Statement by Members of the Board and Management, the Statement of Income and Accumulated Surplus for the year ended 30 June 2021, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021, and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2021 and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- the Joint Organisation's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
 - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division
 - are consistent with the Joint Organisation's accounting records
 - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Joint Organisation as at 30 June 2021, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards–Simplified Disclosures
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Joint Organisation in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of joint organisations
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

The Board's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards—Simplified Disclosures and the *Local Government Act 1993*, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the Joint Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Joint Organisation carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Nirupama Mani

Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

1 September 2021
SYDNEY



Cr Rick Firman
Chairperson
Riverina Joint Organisation
PO Box 646
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Contact: Nirupama Mani
Phone no: 02 9275 7111
Our ref: D2118213/1868

1 September 2021

Dear Cr Firman

Report on the Conduct of the Audit for the year ended 30 June 2021 Riverina Joint Organisation

I have audited the general purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Riverina Joint Organisation (the Joint Organisation) for the year ended 30 June 2021 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Joint Organisation's GPFS.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for the Joint Organisation for the year ended 30 June 2021 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

PERFORMANCE

Net operating result

The Joint Organisation's net operating result for the year ended 30 June 2021 was a deficit of \$1,306.

The Joint Organisation's primary income source during the year was from member council contributions of \$173,631 which contributed to 70 per cent of the Joint Organisation's income from continuing operations of \$247,400. The Joint Organisation also received operating grants of \$68,658.

The Joint Organisation's total operating expenses from continuing operations for the year ended 30 June 2021 was \$248,706, which consisted of employee benefits and on-costs of \$114,326 and administration expenses of \$134,380.

Financial position

At 30 June 2021, the Joint Organisation had total assets of \$303,512 and net assets of \$34,084. The Joint Organisation's main assets consist of cash and cash equivalents of \$293,543 and receivables of \$9,969.

OTHER MATTERS

Impact of new accounting standards

AASB 1060 'General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2'

The Joint Organisation adopted the new accounting standard AASB 1060 'General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2' in its 2020–21 financial statements.

AASB 1060 sets out a new, separate disclosure Standard to be applied by all entities that are reporting under Tier 2 of the Differential Reporting Framework in AASB 1053 'Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards'. AASB 1060 has been developed based on a new methodology and principles to determine the Tier 2 disclosures that are necessary for meeting user needs.

AASB 1060 reduces the reporting requirements of entities using the current Tier 2 reporting requirements for preparing general purpose financial statements.

The adoption of AASB 1060 has not affected the reported financial position or performance of the Joint Organisation, however certain disclosures have been added, amended or omitted.

Legislative compliance

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of non-compliance with legislative requirements or a material deficiency in the Joint Organisation's accounting records or financial statements. The Joint Organisation's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.



Nirupama Mani
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

cc: Ms Julie Briggs, Executive Officer
Ms Courtney Armstrong, Executive Manager, Corporate and Community Service, Coolamon Shire Council
Mr Jim Betts, Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

RIVERINA JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEMBERS AND DELEGATES



Bland Shire Council

Cr. Brian Monaghan
Mr. Ray Smith PSM

Coolamon Shire Council

Cr. John Seymour OAM
Mr. Tony Donoghue PSM

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council

Cr. Abb McAlister
Mr. Phil McMurray

Goldenfields Water

Cr. Dennis Palmer
Mr. Aaron Drenovski

Greater Hume Shire Council

Cr. Heather Wilton
Mr. Steven Pinnuck

Junee Shire Council

Cr. Neil Smith
Mr. James Davis

Lockhart Shire Council

Cr. Rodger Schirmer
Mr. Peter Veneris

Riverina Water County Council

Cr. Greg Verdon
Mr. Andrew Crakanthorp

Temora Shire Council

Cr. Graham Sinclair
Mr. Gary Lavelle PSM

Wagga Wagga City Council

Cr. Greg Conkey OAM
Mr. Peter Thompson

Department of Regional NSW

Mr Giles Butler

Independent Chairman

Cr Rick Firman OAM (Temora Shire)

RIVERINA JOINT ORGANISATION MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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Coolamon Shire Council

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