



# ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2022



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*Strong Regions*

*Progressive Local Government*

*Vibrant Communities*

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# CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



Riverina JO Chairman, Cr Rick Firman OAM

We faced another challenging year as a JO. COVID continued to interfere with our plans to deliver projects and make contact with stakeholders. A planned visit to Canberra for August 2021 was delayed until October and then finally cancelled, however a visit to NSW Parliament House in May of this year was highly successful. The JO Board met with the Deputy Premier, the Hon Paul Toole MP, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Steph Cook MP, the Minister for Regional Health, the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, the Minister for Planning, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Dugald Saunders MP and the Minister for Arts, Regional Youth and Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Ben Franklin MLC.

We are very grateful to all the Ministers who gave up their valuable time to meet with us and to discuss our concerns. We were also fortunate to meet with the President of the Upper House, the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox who hosted a breakfast for us and then a tour of the Legislative Council Chambers. We thank our Deputy Chairman, Cr Neil Smith for making the arrangements with the President that allowed the visit to occur.

Our Skills Shortage project was also impacted by COVID with universities seeking on-line placements under our Professional Placements Program. This was not ideal, as we want students to spend time in councils experiencing the work environment and the diversity of careers that we have on offer.

We were also somewhat hampered in the delivery of Come and Try events, however we have now delivered the new Town Planning event several times with great success. Build A Bridge and Get Over It was held in May and while numbers were lower, 75% of the participants were female.

Our Members are highly committed to growing our own workforce and seeking opportunities for Local Government to sell itself as an employer of choice. In the current skills shortage environment, the work we are doing in this area is more important than ever, we cannot hope to provide the services and facilities our communities want and need without a skilled workforce.

The JO has continued to focus on its lobbying activities, and we have responded to a number of inquiries, proposed legislative changes as well as pro-actively pursuing issues of concern to our Members. We continue to lobby for a change to the legislation to require developers of State Significant Developments to pay s7.12 contributions to councils, meeting with both the former Minister for Planning, Hon Rob Stokes MP and the current Minister, Hon Anthony Roberts MP.

We responded to the DPE's Draft Guidelines for Large Solar Farms and met with DPE's senior staff on the Guidelines. We provided a comprehensive response to the proposed changes to the Infrastructure Contributions regime in NSW which would have capped contributions from solar farm developments, regardless of

size to \$450,000. The draft Guidelines also proposed a fixed rate contribution for housing developments regardless of cost. Our Members believed both situations were inequitable and we opposed them strongly.

We have, this year, lobbied hard on the issue of the RFS rural fire fighting equipment. Legislation written over 20 years ago, "vests" the equipment with councils meaning that councils must include the equipment as assets on their balance sheet.

However, the reality is that councils have absolutely no control over when, how or where the assets are used and who accesses them. This power rests completely with the Rural Fire Service. Councils bear the costs of the assets but receive no direct benefit from them. We are lobbying for s119 of the *Rural Fire Service Act* to change so that it reflects the current situation with regard to the equipment.

We joined with our fellow JOs to lobby for core funding for the operation of JOs. We believe that the benefits that flow directly to the State through the ability of agencies to use JOs as a conduit to individual councils should attract an investment from the State.

The obligation on all JOs to establish an Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) has further compounded the financial challenges many JOs are facing and despite strong lobbying from the sector, ARICs will be an additional compliance cost that JOs must bear.



The JO Board met at Parliament House in May 2022

We have again used the last 12 months to enhance our already strong relationship with LGNSW to further our advocacy for our Members. We have also increased our interactions with the Country Mayors Association ensuring that the CMA is made aware of all of our lobbying positions.

Our RivJO Board has recently resolved to place all our business back into Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC). This will leave RivJO in hiatus, as from 1st July, 2023. After some four years of working with the current JO structure, the overwhelming majority of the Board resolved that the current JO model is simply unsustainable.

I have again welcomed the regular meetings with my fellow JO Chairmen, through the NSW Joint Chairs' Forum, as it has provided us with an opportunity and platform to talk about common issues and develop a collaborative approach.

I was the Deputy Chairman of this group for the past three terms, however, chose to stand down at the recent elections. Congratulations to the new Chairman in Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick (Bega Valley/ CBR JO) and Deputy Chairman, Mayor Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire/New England JO).

I would like to sincerely thank our Riverina JO Board members for your ongoing commitment of time and resources which ensures the overall success of our Organisation.

My thanks is also extended to our Deputy Chairman, Mayor Neil Smith (Junee 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 Paul Worsfold our Skills Shortage Project Officer, and Andrew Trenaman and Isaac Cornell who have filled the trainee role during the last Financial Year. They were ably assisted by REROC staff Kate Hardy and Claire Garrett. They help RivJO in a very special way, which is valued by us all.

The Board and I wish retiring Mayors Roger Schirmer (Lockhart Shire), John Seymour (Coolamon Shire), Greg Conkey (Wagga Wagga City), their wives and families all the very best. They will always remain part of our Riverina JO Family.

Thank you for having me as your RivJO Independent Chairman, since our formation. I wish every Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor, Staff member and Citizen of our RivJO Family a very Merry Christmas. May our new year be filled with productivity and enjoyment

Cr R B Firman OAM  
Chairman

Riverina JO Board Members were hosted by the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC, President of the NSW Legislative Council on a visit to the Legislative Council Chamber



# 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.



*Nigel Worne, Facilitator of the Build A Bridge and Get Over It! career development program guides students in bridge design on Day Two of the 2022 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

## SMART COMMUNITIES CONNECTIVITY

We have continued to work on connectivity through the Southern Lights project, meeting with Telstra mid-year to discuss possible opportunities to utilise their IoT network to connect both smart street lighting and smart city devices.

## 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"> <li>1. Identify and remove impediments to connectivity in our Region's transport corridors</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocate to improve the funding models that support a better road network</li> </ol>	No High Priority Strategies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify connectivity blackspots and lobby for funding to address the problems</li> <li>2. Promote the connectivity benefits of Southern Lights</li> </ol>



Road Transport and road funding remain high priorities for the JO (Picured: Yarara Gap in Grater Hume Shire (Photo: Marg Killalea)

**PRIORITY ONE: TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY CONT.**

FOCUS AREAS	FREIGHT TRANSPORT	THE ROAD NETWORK	PASSENGER TRANSPORT	MOBILE AND BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY
<p><b>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</b></p>	<p>Early in the new Financial Year we received the final version of the CSIRO TraNSIT Study for our Region. The Study considers the 36 primary freight routes identified in our Regional Freight Transport Plan tracking 101 products.</p> <p>The Study was finalised in late 2021 providing the Region with robust statistics on the value and volume of freight coming to, going from and passing through the Region. The Study found the total annual cost of freight transport for movements that start, finish, are local to or pass through our Region is \$3.16 billion.</p> <p>The Study and the Freight Transport Plan can be found on the JO website.</p>	<p>The JO continues to lobby for improvements to the road network generally.</p> <p>We have again advocated for opportunities to apply for funding on a regional basis to address road routes rather than single constraints.</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>Our Telecommunications Sub-committee met with Telstra to discuss issues relating to mobile phone blackspots. We also looked to inform Telstra's decision-making and advocacy by asking Members to update the information we held on blackspots in their LGAs.</p> <p>Members will continue their advocacy in this area, particularly as Telstra commences replacement of the 3G network with 5G.</p> <p>We responded to the Regional Telecommunications Review. We also raised issues relating to connectivity issues during the reviews of the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) that occurred mid-year.</p>





Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr addresses a JO Board meeting.

## NSW WASTE AND SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS STRATEGY 2041.

Together with REROC's Waste Forum the JO participated in consultations on the development of the State's *Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041* (otherwise known as the 20-year waste strategy).

The Strategy was released in mid-2021 and the release was followed by extensive consultations by the EPA on its implementation with a view to developing actions that would deliver the WaSM effectively. We were active participants in those discussions and welcomed the EPA's genuine engagement.

## PRIORITY TWO: ENERGY WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

FOCUS AREAS	WATER AND WASTEWATER	WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY	ENERGY MANAGEMENT	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
<b>GOALS</b>	<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>
<b>HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES</b>	<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>

**PRIORITY TWO: ENERGY WATER AND ENVIRONMENT CONT.**

FOCUS AREAS	WATER AND WASTEWATER	WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY	ENERGY MANAGEMENT	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
<p><b>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</b></p>	<p>The development of a Regional Water Strategy continued this year. The JO participated in a number of consultations on its development and commented on a draft.</p> <p>The DPE commenced work on the NSW Water Strategy, and we participated in consultations on its development through two co-design workshops that were held in December 2021.</p> <p>We continued to monitor the work of LGNSW-JO Committee on Local Water Utilities and provided input to the Committee's work.</p>	<p>Together with REROC's Waste Forum the JO participated in consultations on the development of the State's <i>Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041</i> which was released in mid-2021. The release was followed by extensive consultations by the EPA on its implementation.</p> <p>We joined with REROC to respond to IPART's Review of Domestic Waste Management (DWM) Charges. We strongly opposed the proposal, particularly given the diversity of waste management services across LGAs. In addition, we expressed our concerns that the proposed peg would be a barrier to the introduction of the Government's environment and climate goals</p>	<p>The JO has Board member representation on REROC's Energy Management Technical Group. This year the Group worked with CNSWJO on a tender for a PPA for renewable energy for large sites.</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 Critical Events Committee met during the year to consider ways the Region could work together to combat adverse events. It's focus for much of the time was the response to COVID, unlike its previous focus which had been on the drought.</p> <p>The JO continues to meet with DPE representatives on Climate Adaptation initiatives and their regional implementation.</p> <p>In June a decision was taken to join with other JOs on possible funding for a Disaster Risk Recovery project. The project would focus on how councils and communities prepare for disasters and include community education activities as well as other preparedness activities.</p>



*The JO supported the Southern Lights project, which completed the roll-out of 75,000 energy efficient lights across southern NSW this year. The project has asved the participating councils millions of dollars in energy costs and is expected to reduce the maintenance costs associated with street lighting.,*



Students participating in the Come and Try Town Planning Activity

## TOWN PLANNING CAREERS A FOCUS

*Start Your Career Here* continued to develop opportunities for students to Come and Try a Career

This year a Come and Try Day that focused on Town Planning was finalised, which required the purchase of a great deal of Lego!

Students are divided into teams and provided with a task to design a suburb or precinct. Working in teams the students build their project using Lego blocks so that they can see how all the elements of their design come together as a place for people to live and work.

## PRIORITY THREE: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS AREAS	SKILLED REGIONAL WORKFORCE	EMPLOYER OF CHOICE
<b>GOALS</b>	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
<b>HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a range of employment pathways that underpins a “grow your own” workforce</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote the benefits of working and living in the Region</li> <li>2. Promote the diversity of work in local government and the benefits of employment in the sector</li> </ol>
<b>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<p>The JO has continued to pursue its Skills Shortages project through the great work of our Project Officer, Mr. Paul Worsfold. The project has been funded through the OLG’s Capacity Building program.</p> <p>Our Skills Shortage project runs under the “Start Your Career Here” banner, originally starting with three key elements over the last year it has grown to include a fourth element a new Graduate Employment program. The Program’s elements are as follows:</p> <p><i>Start Your Career Here</i> – an activity designed to introduce high school students to the diversity of work available in local government. It is a one-day event hosted by a Member Council for local high school</p>	<p><i>Engineering for Communities</i> – this event was held mid-year and was in response to a need identified by our Student Ambassador, Smantha Tout. Ms Tout believed that engineering students would benefit from more exposure to what engineering work in rural councils was really like. Students spent part of their July holidays visiting councils and talking to engineers about the diversity of work available. We had a very positive response to the event with students staying in the Region and visiting councils for up to 3 days. Mr. Worsfold taking them from location to location to meet with council representatives. We are planning to hold a similar event in 2023.</p>



*Engineering students from University of Wollongong participate in the Engineering for Communities event at Temora Shire*

## APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT AMBASSADOR

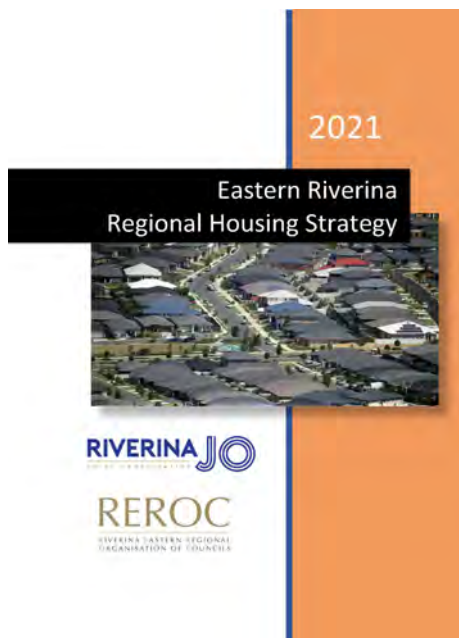
A new offering this year was the introduction of student ambassadors to promote Placements directly to lecturers and students.

Our first ambassador, Samantha Tout was appointed in late 2021 and has been provided with Start Your Career collateral to assist in her promotional work.

Samantha is located at the University of Wollongong in the engineering school and has been very busy promoting careers in local government directly with lecturers and staff.

## PRIORITY THREE: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONT.

FOCUS AREAS	SKILLED REGIONAL WORKFORCE	EMPLOYER OF CHOICE
<p><b>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</b></p>	<p>students who participate in a series of structured activities designed to increase their understanding of the careers that are available in Local Government</p> <p><i>Come and Try Days</i> – these experiential learning events allow students to “taste test” a career they have an interest in. This year the JO sponsored and supported the delivery of Build a Bridge and Get Over It!, a 3-day camp designed to introduce students to a career in civil engineering. This year’s Camp was unique in that 75% of the participants were female.</p> <p>This year we also developed a Town Planning activity with students using Lego to design suburbs and plan precincts. The activity undertaken in teams encourages students to work together to design their suburb to a set of provided criteria.</p> <p>We have also aimed to work with the Compact on the delivery of placements for high school students undertaking Cert II in Construction.</p> <p>We are continuing to work on a Come and Try in Horticulture where students work with council staff to design and plant a garden at a council-owned facility or location.</p> <p><i>Professional Placements</i> – this part of the Program encourages university students to undertake both credited and volunteer placements that relate to their studies with a council. This year we expanded the offering to students at the University of Wollongong.</p> <p><i>Graduate Employment Program</i> – we committed to this program last year. The employment of an accounting graduate at Junee Shire Council was the first of what we hope will be many successes.</p>	<p><i>Careers In Local Government website</i> – at the commencement of the Financial Year the JO partnered with LGNSW to support the use of the website by Member Councils to promote job vacancies.</p> <p>In addition to providing a platform for Members to advertise job vacancies the site also provides information on careers in Local Government as well as behind the scenes looks at working in local government.</p> <p>The JO continued to promote the Behind the Career (BTC) video on careers in local government. The BTC episode was filmed at Greater Hume last year after contacts made by Mr. Worsfold with State Training Services. The video highlights the variety of careers in Local Government spotlighting human resources, spatial data, library services, road works and building inspections.</p>



## REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

The JO working with REROC completed the Strategy at the end of December 2021. The Strategy identifies a diversity of goals and actions that can be taken to address the housing shortages the Region is experiencing. Lack of housing is becoming one of the largest barriers to growth that the Region has.

The Strategy identifies goals and actions in three areas:

1. Land Availability;
2. Residential Development; and
3. Housing Investment

The Strategy recognises that for the housing eco-system to work all three areas must be operating successfully. Actions in each of the areas are identified at a State-level, a regional level and a local level. Copies of the Strategy have been widely distributed, the JO and REROC are looking to implement the strategies at a regional level.

## PRIORITY FOUR: LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

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



The Board has had an on-going dialogue with Hon Steph Cooke MP in her roles as Minister for Emergency Services and Member for Cootamundra. The Minister is pictured meeting with the Board in May.

## RFS FIRE EQUIPMENT VESTING WITH COUNCILS

We have this year lobbied hard on the issue of the RFS rural fire fighting equipment. In legislation written over 20 years ago, the equipment is “vested” with councils meaning that councils must include the equipment as assets on their balance sheet.

However, the reality is that councils have absolutely no control over when, how or where the assets are used and who accesses them. This power rests completely with the Rural Fire Service. Councils bear the costs of the assets but receive no direct benefit from them. We are lobbying for s119 of the *Rural Fire Service Act* to change so that it reflects the current situation with regard to the equipment.

## PRIORITY FOUR: LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION CONT.

FOCUS AREAS	REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY	COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS
<p><b>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</b></p>	<p>Advocacy is one of the key activities that the JO undertakes, the Board recognizing that the voice of many carries more weight than that of an individual. An important part of that role is staying contact with our local members of State and Federal Parliament and keeping them up-to-date with our stance on specific issues.</p> <p>Every response we make in relation to any issue, a copy is forwarded to our local members as well as relevant Ministers, the Shadow Minister for Local Government and other stakeholders such as LGNSW and Country Mayors.</p> <p>Issues we have advocated on in the last 12 months include:</p> <p><i>Joint Organisation Core Funding</i> – together with the JO Network and the JO Chairs’ Forum we have advocated for core funding for all JOs.</p> <p><i>ESL Contributions</i> – we have continued to lobby in relation to the cost of ESL contributions and particularly the RFS component which falls primarily on rural and regional councils. In addition, we held discussions with IPART about how the cost of the RFS component could be better accounted for in the rate peg.</p> <p><i>Section 7.12 Contributions on State Significant Developments</i> – we continued with this advocacy holding meetings with Hon Rob Stokes MP when he was Minister for Planning and then with Hon Anthony Roberts MP when he took on the role. Our Members firmly believe that the legislation should change to</p>	<p>Each year we also try to arrange a meeting at either NSW Parliament House or Parliament House in Canberra, COVID has of course made this difficult with the visit to Canberra cancelled.</p> <p>The Board did however, visit NSW Parliament House in May meeting with the Deputy Premier, the Hon Paul Toole MP, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Steph Cook MP, the Minister for Regional Health, the Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, the Minister for Planning, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Dugald Saunders MP and the Minister for Arts, Regional Youth and Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Ben Franklin.</p> <p>We met with Local State Members, Dr Joe McGirr MP (Member for Wagga Wagga), the Hon Steph Cooke MP (Member for Cootamundra) and Mr Justin Clancy MP (Member for Albury) to discuss issues that were of significance to members.</p> <p>The Critical Events Co-ordination Committee met on a semi-regular basis with much of its work focusing on COVID. 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 participated in the Joint Chairs’ Forum meetings and the JO CEO participated in JO Executive Officers’ meetings that are held on a fortnightly basis.</p> <p>The JO is a member of the State Government’s Regional Leadership Network, convened by the Department of Regional NSW.</p>

## PRIORITY FOUR: LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION CONT.

FOCUS AREAS	REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY	COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS
<p><b>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</b></p>	<p>ensure that developers “must pay” the contribution instead of “may pay”.</p> <p><i>Infrastructure Contributions Bill</i> – the Government proposed some major changes to the Infrastructure Contributions regime in NSW, we lodged a response to the Upper House Inquiry on the changes and attended consultations on it. We were not in support of many of the recommendations including a flat rate fee to be applied to new housing developments and extensions which would have resulted in someone building a \$250,000 home paying the same contribution fee as someone building a \$750,000 house. Ultimately the Bill was not legislated.</p> <p><i>IPART Review of the Rate Peg to include Population Projections</i> – we responded to this review and also assisted IPART to organise a consultation in Sydney with rural and regional councils.</p> <p><i>Draft Large Scale Solar Guidelines</i> – the JO responded to the Guidelines, which covered everything from the positioning of solar farms to the handling of waste and infrastructure contributions. We also met with DPE representatives to talk about the Draft. The final Guidelines were released in August 2022.</p> <p><i>Regional Housing Taskforce</i> – we took the key elements of the work we had undertaken on our Regional Housing Strategy to respond to the Housing Taskforce. We also participated in consultations that were held by Head of the Housing Taskforce, Gary Fielding.</p>	<p>The JO has participated in the consultations for the development of the Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategy.</p> <p>We participated in the LGNSW-JO Local Water Utilities Committee.</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>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>

### IPART PROPOSES DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGE PEG

We joined with REROC to respond to IPART’s Review of Domestic Waste Management (DWM) Charges.

IPART proposed benchmarking DWM charges and was considering the possibility of introducing an DWM charge peg. We strongly opposed the proposal, particularly given the diversity, depth and breadth of kerbside waste management services across NSW.

In addition, we expressed our concerns that the proposed peg would be a barrier to the introduction of the Government’s environment and climate goals that it was aiming to achieve through the WaSM.

**PRIORITY FOUR: LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION CONT.**

FOCUS AREAS	REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY	COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS
<p><b>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</b></p>	<p><i>Rate Peg</i> – the announcement of the 0.7% rate peg caused great concern as it completely failed to meet councils' "business as usual" costs. We wrote to IPART outlining what we believed to be the shortcomings with the approach they were using including the use of ABS data that was 2 years old and their failure to use the Award wage increase as the index for determining wage cost increases.</p> <p><i>Tenure of Mayors and the Local Government Elections</i> – we joined with other JOs to advocate, unsuccessfully, for Mayors to be permitted to continue representing their communities between the local government election and the first meeting of the new council. The Member Councils' concerns regarding the loss of local leadership particularly at the height of bushfire season. Councils were however able to delegate the functions of Mayor under s377 of Local Government Act and did so prior to 2021 elections.</p>	





## LEVERAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES FROM LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

This project has been funded through the OLG's Capacity Building program.

The project aims to develop a toolkit that councils can use to leverage long-term benefits from the large infrastructure projects that are occurring in our Region.



The JO met with NSW Planning Minister, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, over a number of issues including regional housing and Section 7.12 Contributions

## 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>Eastern Riverina Regional Housing Strategy</i> – the JO working with REROC completed the Strategy at the end of December 2021. The Strategy identifies a diversity of goals and actions that can be taken to address the housing shortages the Region is experiencing. Lack of housing is becoming one of the largest barriers to growth.</p> <p>The Strategy can be downloaded from the JO's website.</p> <p><i>Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) Review</i> – the CEO attended the three consultations on the REDS' reviews that covered our Region.</p> <p><i>Leveraging Economic Development Outcomes from Large Infrastructure Projects</i> – this project has been funded through the OLG's Capacity Building program. The project aims to develop a toolkit that councils can use to leverage long-term benefits from the large infrastructure projects that are occurring in our Region.</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. The Board is pictured with Mr Justin Clancy MP, Member for Albury at NSW Parliament House.

## PRIORITY SIX: HEALTHY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

FOCUS AREAS	COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND LIVEABILITY	HEALTH & ALLIED SERVICES
<b>GOAL</b>	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
<b>HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES</b>	Support the delivery of programs and services into the Region that build and enhance community well-being	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with health providers to provide robust input into decisions that determine health service delivery</li> <li>Advocate for health and allied services that meet the needs of a diverse community</li> <li>Advocate to retain and where appropriate enhance existing services</li> </ol>
<b>OUR ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<i>COVID Response</i> - The Critical Events Co-ordination Committee meets to discuss issues that impact on community well-being. In previous years its work has focused on the drought, however over the last Financial Year the focus was on COVID and the enormous impact it was having on the community. The Committee agreed to promote vaccinations and enlisted the Member Council mayors to prepare messages for their local communities encouraging vaccination.	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.  <i>Regional Housing Strategy</i> – the Strategy addresses the issue of affordable housing. In preparing the Strategy we consulted with community housing providers and are looking at ways that we can initiate affordable housing projects.

### ENCOURAGING COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

The Critical Events Co-ordination Committee worked with Member Councils to promote and encourage the take-up of vaccinations and boosters to combat COVID.

Mayors across the Region recorded messages for residents that were placed on council websites and on social media. We also gathered together contact details for key organisations that were provided through council websites to make it easier for residents to obtain the information they needed.

# 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"> <li>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),</li> <li>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,</li> <li>the attendance of JO Board members at conferences and seminars,</li> <li>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,</li> <li>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,</li> <li>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,</li> <li>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</li> <li>details of each contract awarded by the JO during that year (whether as a result of tender or otherwise) other than -</li> <li>(employment contracts (that is, contracts of service but not contracts for services), and</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	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



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 Executive Officer during the year that is to include the total of the following - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the total value of the salary component of the package,</li> <li>• 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,</li> <li>• 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,</li> <li>• the total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package</li> </ul>	<p>\$83,200</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>\$8,320 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"> <li>• the total of the values of the salary components of their packages</li> <li>• 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,</li> <li>• 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,</li> <li>• the total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package,</li> <li>• the total amount payable by the JO by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits</li> </ul>	There are no senior staff employed by the JO

# Riverina Joint Organisation

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

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# Riverina Joint Organisation

## General purpose financial statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

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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](http://www.riverinajo.nsw.gov.au)

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## 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 28 October 2022.



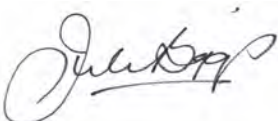
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Rick Firman  
Chairman  
28 October 2022



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Neil Smith  
Deputy Chairman  
28 October 2022



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Julie Briggs  
Executive Officer  
28 October 2022

## Riverina Joint Organisation

## Statement of Income and Accumulated Surplus

for the year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Member council contributions	B1-1	173,631	173,631
Grants provided for operating purposes	B1-2	131,320	68,658
Interest and investment revenue	B1-3	-	111
Other income	B1-4	19,453	5,000
<b>Total income</b>		<b>324,404</b>	<b>247,400</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefit and on-costs	B2-1	144,621	114,326
Administrative expenses	B2-2	94,498	134,380
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>239,119</b>	<b>248,706</b>
<b>Net operating result for the year</b>		<b>85,285</b>	<b>(1,306)</b>
<b>Net result for the period</b>		<b>85,285</b>	<b>(1,306)</b>
<b>Accumulated Surplus at 1 July</b>		<b>34,084</b>	<b>35,390</b>
<b>Accumulated Surplus/(Loss) as at 30 June</b>		<b>119,369</b>	<b>34,084</b>

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 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	263,371	293,543
Receivables	C1-2	4,850	9,969
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>268,221</b>	<b>303,512</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>268,221</b>	<b>303,512</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	C3-1	25,243	19,930
Contract liabilities	C3-2	107,522	238,842
Employee benefit provisions	C3-3	7,735	4,411
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>140,500</b>	<b>263,183</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Payables	C3-1	212	126
Employee benefit provisions	C3-3	8,140	6,119
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>8,352</b>	<b>6,245</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>148,852</b>	<b>269,428</b>
<b>Net assets/(Liabilities)</b>		<b>119,369</b>	<b>34,084</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus/(Losses)		119,369	34,084
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>119,369</b>	<b>34,084</b>

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 2022

	Notes	2021 \$	2021 \$
<b><i>Cash flows from operating activities</i></b>			
<b><i>Receipts</i></b>			
Contributions from member councils		173,631	181,131
Investment revenue and interest		-	111
Grants		-	157,500
Other income		19,453	6,298
<b><i>Payments:</i></b>			
Employees and services		(142,470)	(105,512)
Non-employee cash outflows		(80,786)	(144,429)
<b><i>Net cash provided from/(used in) operating activities</i></b>		<b><u>(30,172)</u></b>	<b><u>95,099</u></b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b><u>(30,172)</u></b>	<b><u>95,099</u></b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of reporting period</b>		<b><u>293,543</u></b>	<b><u>198,444</u></b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period</b>	C1-1	<b><u>263,371</u></b>	<b><u>293,543</u></b>

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 28 October 2022. 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

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Bland Shire Council	19,292	19,292
Coolamon Shire Council	19,292	19,292
Cootamundra-Gundagai Shire Council	19,293	19,293
Greater Hume Shire Council	19,292	19,292
Goldenfields Water County Council	9,646	9,646
Junee Shire Council	19,293	19,293
Lockhart Shire Council	19,292	19,292
Riverina Water County Council	9,646	9,646
Temora Shire Council	19,292	19,292
Wagga Wagga City Council	19,293	19,293
<b>Total member Council contributions</b>	<b>173,631</b>	<b>173,631</b>

#### 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

## B. Financial performance

### B1-2 Grants

	Operating		Capital	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office of Local Government (OLG) Capacity Building Grants	131,320	61,158	-	-
Murrumbidgee Local Health District	-	7,500	-	-
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>131,320</b>	<b>68,658</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Comprising				
- State funding	131,320	68,658	-	-
	<b>131,320</b>	<b>68,658</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

#### 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

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost	-	111
<b>Total interest and investment revenue</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>111</b>

#### Accounting policy

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

## B. Financial performance

### B1.4 Other income

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Trainee subsidies	19,453	-
Other	-	5,000
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>19,453</b>	<b>5,000</b>

#### 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.

## B. Financial performance

### B2. Costs of providing services

#### B2-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>(a) Employee benefit expenses</b>		
Salaries and wages	108,424	87,807
Employees leave entitlements (ELE)	19,728	14,961
Superannuation	12,281	9,328
Workers Compensation Insurance	3,398	2,230
Staff Training	791	-
<b>Total employee benefit expenses</b>	<b>144,621</b>	<b>114,326</b>

#### B2-2 Administrative expenses

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Accounting costs	1,655	2,095
Contractor and consultancy costs	26,772	68,485
Contributions to Riverina Regional Organisation of Councils	37,871	16,639
Equipment consumables	1,403	3,000
IT expenses	4,439	2,262
Meetings	520	588
Other	1,541	114
Phone/internet	3,500	3,624
Printing/stationery/postage	1,622	2,898
Projects and planning	5,615	25,205
Remuneration of auditors	7,900	7,700
Representations	597	574
Travel	1,063	1,196
<b>Total administrative expenses</b>	<b>94,498</b>	<b>134,380</b>

#### 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

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	263,371	293,543
	<b>263,371</b>	<b>293,543</b>
<b>Restricted cash and cash equivalents</b>		
External restrictions	107,522	238,842
Unrestricted	155,849	54,701
	<b>263,371</b>	<b>293,543</b>

#### 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, however are included as cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Cash Flows.

#### C1-2 Receivables

	2022	2021
	Current	Current
	\$	\$
Receivables from member councils	-	-
Other receivables	-	-
Grant receivables	-	-
GST receivable	4,850	9,969
<b>Total gross receivables</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>9,969</b>
Less: provision for impairment:	-	-
<b>Total net receivables</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>9,969</b>

## C. Financial Position

### 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 FY2021 or FY2022 financial statements.

## C. Financial Position

### C3. Liabilities of the organisation

#### C3-1 Payables

	2022		2021	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
<b>Payables</b>				
Trade payables	11,801		8,470	-
Trade payables - Related parties	7,325		2,063	-
Accrued expenses	202	212	91	126
PAYG payable	5,915		9,306	-
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>25,243</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>19,930</b>	<b>126</b>

#### 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

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>Contract liabilities</b>		
Funds received prior to performance obligation being satisfied (upfront payments) - AASB 15 - Capacity Building Grant	i 0	88,842
Funds received prior to performance obligation being satisfied (upfront payments) - AASB 15 - Capacity Building Grant 2	i 107,522	150,000
	<b>107,522</b>	<b>238,842</b>

(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.

## C. Financial Position

### C3-3 Employee benefit provisions

	2022		2020	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Annual leave	7,734	-	4,411	-
Long Service Leave	1	8,140	-	6,119
<b>Total provisions</b>	<b>7,735</b>	<b>8,140</b>	<b>4,411</b>	<b>6,119</b>
<b>Current provisions not expected to be settled in next 12 months</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>0</b>	

#### 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

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#### **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

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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 **\$93,600**

#### 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 (\$)
<b>2022</b>					
REROC - Contributions	22,409	-	Contributions to rent, car, telephone, consumables	-	-
REROC - Reimburse expenses	40,345	7,325	Expenses incurred by REROC and reimbursed by Riverina Joint Organisation	-	-
<b>2021</b>					
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	-	-

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.

## E. People and relationships

### E2. Other relationships

#### E2-1 Audit fees

	2022	2021
Auditors of Riverina Joint Organisation - NSW Auditor General	\$	\$
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Audit of financial statements	7,900	7,700
<b>Total fees paid or payable to the Auditor-General</b>	<b><u>7,900</u></b>	<b><u>7,700</u></b>

## F. Other matters

### **F1. Commitments**

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

### **F2. Events occurring after reporting date**

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

### **F3. Changes from prior year**

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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 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 2022, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022, and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2022 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 2022, 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:

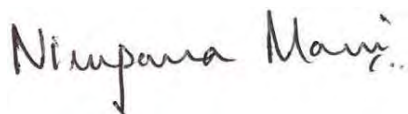
- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

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](http://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

31 October 2022  
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: D2220721/1868

31 October 2022

Dear Cr Firman

## **Report on the Conduct of the Audit for the year ended 30 June 2022 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 2022 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 2022 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 2022 was a surplus of \$85,285.

The Joint Organisation's primary income source during the year was from member council contributions of \$173,631 which contributed to 54 per cent of the Joint Organisation's income from continuing operations of \$324,404.

The Joint Organisation's total operating expenses from continuing operations for the year ended 30 June 2022 was \$239,119, which consisted of employee benefits and on-costs of \$144,621 and administration expenses of \$94,498.

#### **Financial position**

At 30 June 2022, the Joint Organisation had total assets of \$268,221 and net assets of \$119,369. The Joint Organisation's assets consist of cash and cash equivalents of \$263,371 and receivables of \$4,850.

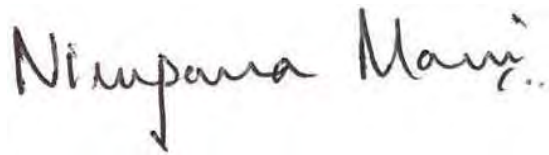
## OTHER MATTERS

### Legislative compliance

My audit procedures identified non-compliance with The *Local Government Act 1993* in relation to the absence of an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee or a shared committee at the Joint Organisation. This will be reported in the Management Letter.

Except for the matter outlined above, 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 Michael Cassel, Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

# RIVERINA JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEMBERS AND DELEGATES

as at 30 June 2022



## **Bland Shire Council**

Cr. Brian Monaghan  
Mr. Ray Smith PSM

## **Coolamon Shire Council**

Cr. David McCann  
Mr. Tony Donoghue PSM

## **Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council**

Cr. Chalie Sheahan  
Mr Les McMahon (*Acting GM*)

## **Goldenfields Water**

Cr. Matthew Stadtmiller  
Mr. Aaron Drenovski

## **Greater Hume Shire Council**

Cr. Tony Quinn  
Mr. Steven Pinnuck

## **Junee Shire Council**

Cr. Neil Smith  
Mr. James Davis

## **Lockhart Shire Council**

Cr. Greg Verdon  
Mr. Peter Veneris

## **Riverina Water County Council**

Cr. Tim Koschel  
Mr. Andrew Crakanthorp

## **Temora Shire Council**

Cr. Graham Sinclair  
Mr. Gary Lavelle PSM

## **Wagga Wagga City Council**

Cr. Dallas Tout  
Mr. Peter Thompson

## **Department of Regional NSW**

Mr Giles Butler

## **Independent Chairman**

Cr Rick Firman OAM (Temora Shire)

## **Chief Executive Officer**

Julie Briggs

# RIVERINA JOINT ORGANISATION MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

## **Bland Shire Council**

PO Box 21, West Wyalong NSW 2671  
Ph (02) 6972 2266 Fax (02) 6972 2145  
Email [council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au)

## **Coolamon Shire Council**

PO Box 101, Coolamon NSW 2701  
Ph (02) 6930 1800 Fax (02) 6927 3168  
Email [council@coolamon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@coolamon.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au)

## **Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council**

PO Box 420, Cootamundra NSW 2590  
Ph 1300 459 689 Fax (02) 6940 2127  
Email [mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au)

## **Goldenfields Water County Council**

PO Box 220, Temora NSW 2666  
Ph (02) 6977 3200 Fax (02) 6977 3299  
Email [office@gwcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@gwcc.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.gwcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gwcc.nsw.gov.au)

## **Greater Hume Shire Council**

PO Box 99, Holbrook NSW 2644  
Ph (02) 6036 0100 Fax (02) 6036 2683  
Email [mail@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au)

## **Junee Shire Council**

PO Box 93, Junee NSW 2663  
Ph (02) 6924 8100 Fax (02) 6924 2497  
Email [customerserviceteam@junee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:customerserviceteam@junee.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.junee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.junee.nsw.gov.au)

## **Lockhart Shire Council**

PO Box 21, Lockhart NSW 2656  
Ph (02) 6920 5305 Fax (02) 6920 5247  
Email [mail@lockhart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@lockhart.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.lockhart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lockhart.nsw.gov.au)

## **Riverina Water County Council**

PO Box 456, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
Ph (02) 6922 0608 Fax (02) 6921 2241  
Email [admin@rwcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@rwcc.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.rwcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rwcc.nsw.gov.au)

## **Temora Shire Council**

PO Box 262, Temora NSW 2666  
Ph (02) 6980 1100 Fax (02) 6980 1138  
Email [temshire@temora.nsw.gov.au](mailto:temshire@temora.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.temora.nsw.gov.au](http://www.temora.nsw.gov.au)

## **Wagga Wagga City Council**

PO Box 20, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
Ph (02) 1300 292 442 Fax (02) 6926 9199  
Email [council@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@wagga.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.wagga.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wagga.nsw.gov.au)

## **JO Office**

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Website [www.riverinajo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.riverinajo.nsw.gov.au)

