

MEETING MINUTES

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday 16 April 2024

Location: Video Conference

Time:

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

Attendees

- Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council (RCA Chair)
- Mr Frank Zaknich – GM, Albury City Council (RCA Treasurer)
- Mr Ross McKim – CEO, City of Greater Geraldton
- Ms Ali Wastie – CEO, Greater Geelong City Council
- Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council (NSW Representative)
- Mr Brett Stonestreet – GM, Griffith City Council
- Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council (RCA Secretary)
- Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Project Manager and Secretariat (Managing Director, Collective Position)
- Ms Edwina Blackburn – RCA Secretariat

Apologies

- Mayor Peter Carter – Mayor, Town of Port Hedland (RCA Deputy Chair)
- Mr Carl Askew – CEO, Town of Port Hedland
- Cr Trent Sullivan – Mayor, Greater Geelong City Council (VIC Representative)
- Mayor Jerry Clune – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton (WA Representative)
- Mr Murray Wood – Dubbo Regional Council
- Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council (QLD Representative)
- Mr Ken Diehm – CEO, Fraser Coast Regional Council

The meeting was declared open at 4:06pm AEST.

1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council, opened the meeting with an acknowledgment of country, welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council, tabled the draft minutes from the previous March 2024 meeting.

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

Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council moved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council seconded the motion.

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

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council moved to endorse the March 2024 Treasurer's Report as true and accurate. Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council seconded the motion.

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

4. SECRETARIAT UPDATE

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

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

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

5. REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA MEMBERSHIP

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council tabled the list of current RCA members and list of eligible RCA members.

6. RCA POLICY

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat tabled the Federal Government Submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability for discussion by members.

Members discussed the submission and agreed it was important to participate in the Inquiry to advocate for regional capitals. Members agreed the RCA Submission would include:

- Support of 1% of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs);
- Service hub role of regional capitals;
- Provide recommendations on the model for effective direct funding;
- Address indexation of the FAGs; and
- Provide support for education pathways to upskill Council workers to meet service demands.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus from members on the agreed focus of the RCA Submission to the Inquiry.

7. NSW AND VICTORIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT CARETAKER AND ELECTIONS

Ms Rachael Sweeney – RCA Secretariat noted the Victorian and NSW Local Government elections were due to take place in 2024.

Members discussed the Victorian and NSW Local Government elections and noted the dates would impact the 2024 Annual General Meeting date and the scheduled August Federal Delegation. Members agreed further discussion was required and the Secretariat would prepare an options paper for the impact of the Victorian and NSW Local Government elections on RCA activities for 2024.

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council noted consensus from members on the agreed actions.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Housing Presentation Request



RCA Chair Cr Kylie King - Mayor, Albury City Council advised Mayor Peter Carter - Mayor, Port Hedland Shire Council had requested to present on a housing initiative he was a part of at a future RCA meeting.

Members discussed the request and agreed to include the presentation at a future RCA meeting.

Next Meeting

RCA Chair Cr Kylie King - Mayor, Albury City Council noted the next RCA Board Meeting was to be held on 21 May 2024 via videoconference.

The meeting was declared closed at 5:05pm AEST.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
RCA Secretariat to write to all eligible non-member councils inviting them to join RCA.	RCA Secretariat
RCA members to provide a copy of their Council Submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability to the Secretariat.	RCA members
RCA Secretariat to draft the RCA Submission to Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability for discussion at the next Board Meeting.	RCA Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to issue invitations to RCA members for the RCA dinner during the ALGA National General Assembly in July 2024.	RCA Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to include the timing and dates of the RCA August Federal Delegation in the AGM options paper for discussion at the next board meeting.	RCA Secretariat
RCA Secretariat to include the Housing Presentation from Mayor Peter Carter - Mayor, Port Hedland Shire Council on the agenda for the next board meeting.	RCA Secretariat