

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



## REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL  
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

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# REROC Chairman's report

It is my privilege to present my second annual report as Chairman of REROC, for the 2017/18 year.

We have had another extremely busy 12 months, and I believe that we've come even closer together as a REROC 'family' during this period.

The REROC Board, which comprises of nine General Purpose Councils and two County Council members, has again immersed itself in many projects, issues and activities this year.

Of particular note is the eventual proclamation of Joint Organisations (JOs) across rural and regional NSW. The Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO) was formally created in May of this year, with seven-member councils: Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Greater-Hume, Junee, Lockhart, and Temora Shires becoming the Foundation Members.

The model we have adopted, is somewhat unique, as we have resolved for the RivJO to carry out the three core functions (strategic planning and priority setting, intergovernmental collaboration and shared leadership and advocacy), as well as maintaining REROC beside it, to carry out our crucial operational and resource sharing activities. This will be for 18 months, with an external review to take place, to assist in advising the Boards of both RivJO and REROC of the benefits or otherwise of maintaining two organisations.

Whilst we acknowledge the current JO legislated structure is not perfect, we are also aware this is a concept which the State Government, particularly the Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro MP, is genuinely committed to in order to further strengthen rural and regional local government, and the communities we proudly serve. We appreciated being one of five 'Pilot' JOs, and having had an opportunity to help ensure a

workable model was produced. The Board is however, cautious about the ongoing costs of the JO, and further, that it does not become a fourth-tier of government. However, we welcome JOs not being 'forced' on councils and the Government's commitment to a genuine review of the JO regulations within 12 months of operation.

I sincerely thank all our REROC/RivJO Member Councils for their significant contributions to assist us eventually landing where we have. The RivJO Implementation Group (consisting of Mayors and General Managers, including our dedicated Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Julie Briggs) have committed a great deal of time, energy and effort to ensure we have the best model possible.

I note some of the many, many other activities REROC has carried out over the last 12 months:

- We were very successful in our lobbying about the failure of rate pegging to meet rising costs to councils. We worked very hard to understand the underpinning assumptions that were used by IPART to determine the rate peg. The Board requested myself as Chairman and our Chief Executive, Mrs Briggs, to meet with IPART senior executives at their headquarters in Sydney, which was a valuable exercise. After several subsequent meetings and teleconferences, we then prepared submissions demonstrating that IPART's assumptions were actually incorrect. We focused on three 'big ticket items' for Councils: wages, electricity and street lighting. IPART's announcement of the 2.3% rate peg for 2018-19 (up from 1.5% for 2017-18) included references to increased labour costs, electricity and street lighting, the three issues which we campaigned on.

*Images below: REROC's June Board meeting at Parliament House in Canberra.*



The work on the Local Government Cost Index and rate pegging has been a significant win for REROC – and for councils across NSW. The Board thank IPART for listening to our strong and logical case and we particularly acknowledge our CEO, Mrs Briggs for her hard work.

- Container Deposit Scheme for NSW - We have been talking to the EPA and State MPs about the effective delivery of CDS services to our community, which have been crucial in delivering what we have in our REROC footprint.
- Continuing to lobby on road funding – particularly maintaining Roads-2-Recovery funding for our Member Councils.
- We have provided input during consultations with the Office of Emergency Services on the new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.
- We hosted a Governance and Leadership Workshop for our Councillors in April, which was very well received.
- We appointed Mr Marcus Wright as our Regional Biodiversity Officer to assist Councils to build their capacity to deal with the new Biodiversity Legislation. Mr Wright commenced his duties with REROC in February and is based out of Coolamon, he is working across the REROC/RAMROC footprint.
- We continued to promote our Take Charge and Volunteer Program among our youth across REROC. We went to 'O Week' at CSU to try and recruit an older cohort of young people to be involved. We also held information sessions for Volunteer Organisations to raise their awareness and use of the program. This is a most important component of what REROC does.

- We continually engage with State agencies such as Department of Premier & Cabinet, Planning, Transport for NSW, Roads & Maritime Services, Department of Primary Industries, Office of Environment & Health, Environmental Protection Authority, Industry and Office of Regional Development. We highly value the professional and long-standing relationships we have with these Departments.
- Acting as Project Manager for the Multi-Million Dollar 'Southern Lights Project', probably the largest roll out of smart LED lighting, by geographic area, in Australia. REROC took on the management of the project which covers 41 LGAs across southern and central NSW. The project will save the participating councils millions of dollars in energy and service charges for street lighting as well as provide a back bone for Smart City technology deployments. The project is a collaboration between REROC, Central NSW Councils, RAMROC, CBRJO and Broken Hill City Council. We are also working closely with Essential Energy on the project. Our consultants, Next Energy, are leaders in the field of street lighting and have provided us with much needed expert advice. The Board thank the NSW Government for their initial support and encouragement, and we particularly thank our Chief Executive, Mrs Briggs and Project Officer, Mrs Kate Hardy for their significant commitment to this exciting proposal.
- The continuing success of our free e-waste collection has been pleasing. We entered into a new contract with MRI-PSO which will allow the service to run for another two years.





Image above: REROC CEO, Mrs Julie Briggs, Minister for Aged Care, Hon. Ken Wyatt MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Michael McCormack MP, and REROC Chairman, Cr Rick Firman OAM at Parliament House in Canberra.

- Our on-going involvement in the review of the Public Lighting Code has resulted in significant changes being made to the Code. It is expected, once finalised, that the Code will finally be mandatory rather than the current voluntary arrangement, something that REROC has lobbied for, for almost a decade.
- Our on-going advocacy in relation to the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme has been consistent. We've made a submission to the review of the Commonwealth's Product Stewardship legislation, again asking that targets be set for regional and rural collections. The Department had actually floated this in its review documentation which recognised advocacy that REROC had been undertaking over a number of years in relation to the need for regional and rural targets.
- We continued to promote our Regional Freight Transport Plan which demonstrates the significant value of councils working together – which is among the many things we do best at REROC!
- We have continued with our very well-received *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* Campaign that focuses on messaging about the importance of reducing contamination in kerbside recycling by emphasising the impact it has on the people that work with the waste. This has continued with great success and has had a most positive impact across our Region.
- We have continued to participate in the Riverina Murray Enabling Regional Adaptation project. This Project looks at ways in which the region can adapt to climate change.
- We held the *Mapped Out* Conference in November 2017 which attracted people from across southern NSW and northern Victoria. The 2017 Conference grew to a two-day session, with the addition of a day focused on the services and products provided by NSW Spatial Services. Well done to our REROC staff who have impressive organisational skills.
- 'China Sword' generated a great deal of discussion at our Waste Conference held in June 2018. The Conference highlighted issues in waste management and resource recovery for regional and rural Councils. The event was attended by almost 100 people and was very successful.
- We held the *Take Charge* Youth Leadership Forum in August 2017 which attracted 100 participants and then, in early 2018 *Take Charge* hit the road with workshops in Tumbarumba, and Walla Walla which were attended by 90 students. This revised format has been well received by our Member Councils and communities, with other member LGAs to host Forums within the next 12 months.
- Our innovative 'Safe Sharps' programme continued to attract new sites and there are now almost 3,000 sites listed across Australia – an achievement our Board and Staff can be proud of. We commenced work on a complete upgrade of the website, the development of an Apple Watch application as well as upgrades for the smart device applications.
- We hosted a Round Table for the development of the National Road Safety Strategy. We were the only regional location to host a consultation and we were chosen because of our extensive work on the Regional Freight Transport Plan.

- We launched a new website for the REROC Waste Forum, which is more accessible for users and contains information on the wide range of projects that we deliver.
- In a first for the REROC Board, we went to Canberra, where we held our June Board meeting at Parliament House. The Board met with seven Federal Ministers; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, the Minister for Environment and Energy, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, the Minister for Aging, the Hon Ken Wyatt MP, the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon David Littleproud MP the Minister for Rural Health, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, the Minister for Small Business, the Hon Craig Laundy MP and the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Dr John McVeigh MP. This was a most worthwhile initiative and the Board thanks Minister McCormack and his staff for facilitating the day. Thank you also goes to our own REROC staff, who ensured all was arranged as it should be. I particularly enjoyed the dinner the evening prior. It is most important we, as a Board, also enjoy time for fellowship, as well as working professionally together.

This is an overall 'snap shot' of the very busy programme that REROC undertakes. On reflection, there is a great deal which continues to be achieved. This is because we have resolved to work together in a genuine and meaningful manner.

It should be noted the programme that the CEO and I introduced last year to visit our REROC Member Councils, delivering a more 'in-depth' look at REROC's role to member Councillors was put on hold this year, due to the intensive work carried out with the JO. We are always pleased to be invited to speak to our Member Councils, about what roles and functions RivJO and REROC undertake.

We have had many and varied guest speakers address our Board over the past 12 months. On behalf of the Board, I thank every one of these speakers for giving up their time to address the Board and staff of REROC.

The Board, staff and I wish to express our thanks to our State Members of Parliament Ms Steph Cooke MP (Member for Cootamundra) & Mr Greg Aplin MP (Member for Albury). We also acknowledge the Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, for her strong support of REROC, particularly behind the scenes.

It is appropriate to acknowledge the former Member for Wagga Wagga, Mr Daryl Maguire. His advocacy and assistance given to REROC has been significant and we thank Mr Maguire and his staff for that previous support. We also welcome newly elected Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr MP. We look forward to developing an informed and productive relationship with Dr McGirr and his staff.

The Board also welcomed our new Regional Director for Premier & Cabinet (DPC), Mr James Bolton. Mr Bolton is no stranger to local government and we look forward to working closely with him to ensure we continue our strong relationship with NSW Government. We thank former DPC representative, Ms Trudi McDonald for her previous support of REROC and our members.

At this time, I congratulate those REROC Mayors on their re-election. This certainly speaks volumes of the leadership they provide our councils and communities. I note we won't have Bland Shire's Cr Tony Lord back on our Executive or our Board for the next two years. However, we extend our sincere thanks to Cr Lord for his considerable contributions. We welcome newly elected Mayor of Bland Shire, Cr Brian Monaghan to the REROC Board.

I take this opportunity to thank the REROC Executive Committee. The Executive, which comprises 10 members, meets each month to consider and tease out matters for the Board's consideration. It is an extra commitment and I thank every member of the Executive team for taking time to ensure REROC continues to be the success it is and always has been.

A sincere thank you to our reliable Treasurer, Mr Tony Donoghue (General Manager of Coolamon Shire), together with his 'Assistant', Mrs Courtney Armstrong. Their efforts have been most valuable. The entire REROC Board and membership are most appreciative for all they do.

On behalf of the REROC Board and our Member Councils, I formally acknowledge the service given to us all by our Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Julie Briggs. Mrs Briggs is a major part of the very 'heart beat' of REROC and we cannot thank her enough for her belief in our Councils, our communities and our Region. Her strength of character is impressive, and her commitment to us is inspiring. We thank Mrs Briggs, very warmly and very sincerely for all she has done and continues to do.

The Board also acknowledges our other REROC team members, in particular Mrs Tracey Cornell, Mrs Kate Hardy and Miss Claire Donoghue. These ladies are extremely capable, professional, and more importantly – great fun to be around! We thank them for further strengthening REROC and our communities.

In conclusion, the final vote of thanks is extended to the Members of the REROC Board. I thank you very much for having elected me as your Chairman for the past 12 months. I feel deeply honoured and touched to have your confidence to lead this crucial organisation. This has been a 'full-on' 12 months, however, with your ongoing dedication, vision, commitment, support, and friendship – I know we will continue to achieve great things for our communities, which we are so very blessed to serve.

Thank you very much,

Cr. Rick Firman, OAM

October 2018

# Speaking out

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The advocacy and lobbying role that REROC performs is important for ensuring that local government in the Region has a strong and effective voice. REROC speaks out on issues that impact directly on the operation of local government as well as on issues that are affecting, or could affect the communities our Member Councils represent.

All the REROC Member Councils provide input to the submissions and representations that REROC makes. This ensures that the responses we provide, mainly to State and Federal governments and agencies, are robust, well-informed and represent the views of the entire membership.

## Rate Pegging

Our advocacy efforts got off to a flying start when IPART announced that the rate-peg for 2018-19 would be 2.3%, citing increases in wages, electricity and street lighting costs as the reasons for the rise from the previous year's 1.5% peg. The very same three issues that REROC had spent almost 12 months talking to IPART about.

In late 2016 the REROC Executive had agreed that REROC should embark on a more rigorous approach to the issue of rate-pegging. IPART had recently released its rate-peg of 1.5% and the Member Councils agreed that the increase was insufficient to meet the increasing costs that councils faced in delivering their core operations.

What followed was a lot of research into how the rate-peg was actually constructed, so that we would have a clear understanding of the process IPART used to calculate it. The responsibility for setting the rate-peg was given to IPART to ensure that the calculation of the rate increase needed for councils to continue providing core services to their communities was determined independently. However, the REROC Member Councils along with virtually every other council in NSW believed that the IPART-determined rate-peg was failing to deliver the revenue outcomes required for councils.

Our research specifically looked at how the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) was calculated. The LGCI is used by IPART as the basis for determining the annual rate-peg. The LGCI takes a basket of goods and services used by councils and then determines how much each one has increased in order to calculate how much rates should rise to compensate for those increases. IPART uses a number of different standard indices to determine how much each service or product had increased during the previous year. Our research showed that a number of these indices did not accurately reflect the real increases in the costs of the goods or services. The REROC Board agreed that our advocacy efforts should focus on three of these: wages, electricity and street lighting.

Submissions were prepared for IPART that showed why the indices that were being used to determine the

increased cost of these three goods and services was not being accurately captured by the approach that IPART used. In addition to the submissions, we also met with IPART to talk about our concerns. We spoke to the other ROCs in southern NSW, provided them with background papers and information and asked them to raise the same issues with IPART.

The other significant outcome of our research was recognition by the Member Councils that IPART did not take into account the need to address infrastructure backlogs or to deliver outcomes for the Community Strategic Plans. The LGCI focuses on delivering 'Business as Usual' outcomes, it is not intended to fund growth in services or infrastructure nor does it consider the cost of borrowing funds to address infrastructure needs.

Consequently a focus of REROC's future efforts in this area will be advocating for the introduction of one of the recommendations in the Fit for the Future Report that councils be allowed to increase their rates by up to 3% above the rate-pegged amount without having to go to a Special Rate Variation.

## NSW Container Deposit Scheme

Much of the latter part of 2017 and early 2018 was taken up with efforts related to the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS). It has always been envisaged that councils would have a key role to play in the delivery of the CDS in NSW, however as the Scheme rolled out it became clear that this would only happen if councils were prepared to subsidise the operation.

REROC had lobbied hard for a CDS structure that would ensure that even the smallest communities in the State had a viable service. We believed when the EPA divided the State into 7 zones (each zone in a rural area contained regional cities as well as small communities) with a plan that service providers could bid for one zone or a number of zones that our goal had been achieved. We were visited by several providers who intended bidding for Zone 5 (the one that included the REROC Region) who talked about how they planned to deliver CDS into our Region. It was with some surprise that we were greeted with the news in July 2017 that a new Joint Venture arrangement between TOMRA and Cleanaway had won the delivery rights for every zone in the State. The Joint Venture had not previously spoken to us about service delivery into our Region.

As soon as the announcement of the winning tender was made, REROC contacted TOMRA-Cleanaway to talk about how councils might be involved in the delivery of the Scheme. We believed our newly-minted Community Recycling Centres could form a delivery backbone for the Scheme. However, as time went on it became increasingly clear that the pricing model that the Joint Venture providers were using would not offset the cost of the delivery of the service to councils.

Despite continued negotiations, by the end of 2017 it became clear that we could not reach a position that was acceptable to both parties. The Member Councils would not subsidise the TOMRA-Cleanaway service and the joint venture operators were not prepared to increase the price they paid for the service. We came to believe that the TOMRA-Cleanaway delivery model was based on a flawed assumption that councils had 'spare capacity' within their staffing that could be utilised to deliver the service.

It is disappointing that councils are not involved, however, the decision was made that ratepayer's funds should not be used to offset the operational costs of two multi-million dollar international businesses. As things currently stand the CDS is now being delivered through a network of Reverse Vending Machines and Over-the-Counter services located in mostly small businesses. We will continue to monitor the situation with the CDS with the aim of improving service deliver to the communities that our Member Councils represent.

## Joint Organisations

REROC participated in all the planning for the introduction of the Joint Organisation model. The new legislation that allowed for the creation of the JOs was passed by the NSW Parliament in early February. REROC spent some time reviewing the legislation and then commenting on the draft Regulations.

The majority of our Member Councils agreed that we would pursue a hybrid JO model. The approach allowed for the continuation of REROC in its current form while the new JO would operate side-by-side focusing on its three core functions: advocacy and lobbying, regional planning and intergovernmental collaboration.

Nine Joint Organisations were proclaimed in May with seven of the REROC Member Councils joining the Riverina JO (Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart and Temora). The commencement of the Riverina JO was delayed while we sought answers to some issues that the Member Councils had in relation to the application of the legislation and regulations as well as concerns about the operating costs of the JO in the longer term.

These issues were taken up with the Minister and the Deputy Premier, with Members hopeful that they will be addressed quickly and that the Riverina JO will progress successfully.

*Image below: Chris Presland from the OLG speaks to Members about Joint Organisations.*

## Public Lighting Code

Negotiations on the new NSW Public Lighting Code continued this year and at the close of the year the final Code was imminent but still not released.

The process of negotiating the new Code has been long-winded and at times very frustrating. Responsibility for the delivery of the Code has passed through a number of government agencies and this has led to continued delays. The Code has been in preparation for almost 4 years.

The latest round of negotiations has involved REROC, CENTROC, SSROC and LGNSW representing the councils, the RMS and the three Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSPs) Ausgrid, Endeavour and Essential Energy. Carriage of the project is with the Department of Planning.

REROC has for many years lobbied for the current voluntary Code to be replaced with a mandatory regime. The Code is the only avenue by which road authorities can hold DNSPs accountable for the undertakings they give the Australian Energy Regulatory about the services that will be provided for street lighting. Negotiations on the Code were completed in June, at that time the Department advised that it would be recommending a mandatory Code with IPART charged with enforcing it.

It is proposed that the Code will become a condition of the DNSP's licence, IPART monitors compliance with the licence and therefore will monitor compliance with the Code. IPART currently monitors for public safety and risk, so it will have to put processes into place that address issues like failure to meet minimum repair times. If we want the DNSPs to be held to account this will mean that councils will also need to be more diligent in following up failures from the DNSPs and reporting them to IPART.

REROC has also pushed very hard for councils to be in control of technology choice for street lighting. We believe that as councils are the Road Authority responsible for ensuring that roads are appropriate lit that final selection for the technology used should rest with local government and the RMS.

We expect that the new Code will be in place for the next AER Regulatory period which will commence on 1 July 2019.





Image above: Cr Rick Firman OAM, Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Cr Abb McAlister at last year's REROC AGM.

## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

REROC continued its efforts in relation to trying to obtain change in the delivery of the National Disaster Recovery Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and we moved on to provide input to the new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

In early March REROC representatives met with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to discuss the new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The DRFA will replace the NDRRA from late 2018. REROC Member Councils had a number of serious issues with the NDRRA operations and in mid-2017 met with the NSW Emergency Services Minister, Hon Troy Grant, to express our frustrations about the delays and red tape that plagued the program.

Members are hopeful that the problems that were encountered with the NDRRA will be addressed with the DRFA and to that end raised a number of issues at the March meeting. The issues raised in relation to Disaster Recovery Funding included councils being able to use their own labour to undertake repairs, compensation for the use of council machinery on repairs and reducing the amount of red tape and approvals which have caused substantial delays in repairing damage.

A major concern with previous arrangements has been the requirement to repair the asset to its pre-disaster condition rather than include improvements that would mean the asset is less likely to be damaged in a future disaster. Member Councils do not believe it is an effective use of public funds to keep repairing an asset when disaster strikes rather than to use the opportunity to improve the asset, so it is less likely to suffer damage in the future. This is particularly the case in flood situations where flooding often occurs in the same way at the same location, with the same impacts on council assets.

The final arrangements released by the OEM included the provision to use day-labour which will make a significant difference to the timeliness and cost of repairs. The arrangements will also recognise the need to improve an asset with limited funds being available to do this. One change REROC has lobbied strongly for is the inclusion of dispute resolution processes where there is a disagreement between the road authority and the funding body about the cost of the repairs. We will continue to lobby for this provision.

## National Road Safety Strategy Consultation

In early 2018, REROC was contacted by the Australian Local Government Association requesting that we host a Roundtable discussion for the Independent Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy. We were the only regional location to host a consultation for the Strategy.

The two Co-chairs of the NRSS Inquiry, Associate Professor Jeremy Woolley, Director Centre for Automotive Safety Research (CASR) and Dr John Crozier, Chair of the Trauma Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons attended the Roundtable to hear what councils, which included representatives from as far away as Wentworth, had to say about road safety.

A common theme was the difficulty councils had in obtaining timely statistical data about what was happening on their roads in relation to accidents and near misses. Councils also talked about their frustration that funding is often dictated by fatalities rather than by minor accidents and near misses which are often a sign that something is wrong.

The Co-chairs also used the forum as an opportunity to test their ideas and get a clear understanding of the specific challenges that regional and rural councils face.

## Road Funding

REROC has continued to lobby both State and Federal Governments about funding for roads. We wrote to then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Hon Barnaby Joyce in early 2018 to raise concerns about the Government's decision after the 2017/18 Budget, to return Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding to the level which applied prior to the increase in the Fuel Excise Levy.

As a result of that decision, the Government's investment in the R2R programme was flagged to fall by over \$335 million in the next Financial Year and would continue at that low level for the balance of the forward estimates.

The Government advised in the 14/15 Budget that the re-introduction of the biannual indexation on fuel excise would net an additional \$2.2 billion in revenue for the Government. We drew to the Deputy Prime Minister's attention that at the time the Budget Papers stated that the re-introduction of biannual indexation would "secure funding for additional productivity enhancing road infrastructure".

REROC Members believe that the additional revenue raised through indexation should continue to be applied to increases in funding for the R2R program or at the very least to maintain the 2017-18 level of funding.

In responding to our concerns the new Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Michael McCormack advised that it is not correct that the funding has been cut, because the funding was previously doubled and would now revert to and remain at \$400 million per year. We remain convinced that the quantum of the fall in funding will

negatively impact on local government's ability to meet demands for an efficient and effective Local Road Network. R2R funding is vitally important to local government and REROC will continue to pursue this issue with the Federal Government.

## Meetings with State and Federal Members of Parliament

REROC continued to seek opportunities to engage with State and Federal Members of Parliament. The visit by the Premier of NSW, the Hon Gladys Berjiklian to REROC's Annual General Meeting held in November 2017 got the year off to a great start. The meeting was also attended by all our House of Representative's members, Daryl Maguire (Member for Wagga Wagga), Greg Aplin (Member for Albury) and Steph Cooke (Member for Cootamundra) as well as MLCs the Hon Bronnie Taylor (Parliamentary Secretary for Southern NSW) and Hon Wes Fang.

We finished the year with our first trip to Parliament House in Canberra where we met with seven Federal Ministers; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, the Minister for Environment and Energy, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, the Minister for Aging, the Hon Ken Wyatt MP, the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon David Littleproud MP the Minister for Rural Health, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, the Minister for Small Business, the Hon Craig Laundy MP and the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Dr John McVeigh MP.

The Canberra visit was such a success that we will be looking to make it an annual event.

*Image below: Cr Rick Firman OAM presents Minister for the Environment and Energy, Hon. Josh Frydenberg with a gift at the June Board meeting at Parliament House in Canberra.*





Image above: Participants at this year's No Time to Waste Conference. Centre

## Workforce development

REROC continues to deliver projects that support workforce development. It is vitally important that staff in regional and rural areas have access to good quality professional development opportunities. REROC looks to a variety of ways to deliver these opportunities so that staff not only improve their technical expertise but also build their professional networks.

In addition we continue to seek opportunities to provide councillors with the chance to meet others across the region while participating in programs that develop their skills. Councillors are encouraged to attend our *No Time to Waste* and *Mapped Out* Conferences in addition we were able to offer Leadership and Governance Training for them in early 2018.

### No Time to Waste Conference 2018

First established in 2010 to specifically address the challenges faced in delivering waste management and resource recovery solutions for regional and rural locations, the 2018 Rural & Regional Waste Management Conference *No Time to Waste* was held in Wagga Wagga at the Rules Club on Wednesday 6 June 2018.

This year's focus was very much on the challenges faced by councils in relation to the China Sword policy coupled with negotiations that were underway for Refund Sharing Arrangements for the new CDS. We were fortunate to have Mike Ritchie from MRA Consulting as our keynote speaker who addressed both issues with great authority and understanding. His call for all of us to view the products that were being sent to China as a "resource" not waste, impacted on the perception of many to the problem. Mike's address was echoed in much of what Henry Moore from the EPA had to say about the Government's response to China Sword.

However, it is fair to say that Loren Otto from Airborn Insight probably stole the show with his video presentation of drone technology monitoring landfills for heat spots. It was amazing to see what the technology could do and how it could assist in the management of landfills.

We continue to attract attendees from across southern NSW and northern Victoria to the Conference with over

80 people in attendance. Other presentations delivered were:

- Daniel Adler, Local Government NSW: Asbestos Waste Management and the Model Asbestos Policy for Councils
- James Smith, Wagga Wagga City Council: Don't Dump, It's Dumb - The City of Wagga Wagga's campaign on illegal dumping
- Henry Moore, NSW EPA: China's National Sword Policy
- Alex Tomic, Cleanaway: Container Deposit Scheme
- Matthew Dimmock, Office of Local Government: CDS Refund Sharing Agreements
- Ron White, NSW EPA: NSW Domestic Waste and Recycling Data
- Kristy Cosier, Netwaste: Engaging community through Waste2Art
- Alex Taylor, Transport Canberra and City Services, ACT Government: Implementing the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016
- Rose Read, MRI E-cycle Solutions: E-waste update - bans, reviews and current achievements

We are very grateful for the substantial support we receive from the EPA for this conference, which is so important for the development of people working in waste and resource recovery in rural areas.

Speaker presentations from the *No Time to Waste* Conference can be downloaded from the REROC Waste Forum website [waste.reroc.com.au](http://waste.reroc.com.au)

### Mapped Out

The annual Mapped Out conference showcases the use of spatial data to enhance the operation and delivery of government services. Organised by the Riverina Spatial Information Group (RivSIG) and REROC as a professional development activity for staff working in the spatial data field, the annual conference provides a great opportunity to network with staff from other councils, and organisations that work in the spatial data sector.

The 2017 conference was held on Thursday 9 November

2017 at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga. It was another successful year with almost 90 delegates attending from a large range of LGAs and services. This year there were also a lot of new faces in attendance, and many commented that they would be returning for the 2018 Mapped Out conference.

This year's conference was also tied to an additional event held the day before and another held the day after by Spatial Services NSW. This opportunity for REROC and RIVSIG to work collaboratively with Spatial Services NSW not only increased the professional development opportunities for those attending but also delivered a wide range of topics for the delegates.

Speakers at the 2017 Mapped Out Conference were:

- Ron Avery, Office of Environment & Heritage and James Miller, Informed Solutions – Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) portal
- Sam Ebert, TAFE NSW - What we have learnt through our Drone Essentials training
- David Southwell, Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census Data
- George Havakis, GISSA International– A collaborative approach delivering integrated benefits to life cycle management of infrastructure assets
- Dr John Dawson, Geoscience Australia– SBAS Satellite Positioning, GDA2020 and ELVIS Elevation Information System
- Mike Day, Office of Environment & Heritage – Regional Scale State Vegetation Type Map: Methods, Products and Innovations
- James Davis, Junee Shire Council – Delivering council strategic outcomes through spatial data
- Stephanie Plattner, State Emergency Service – NSW Flood Data Access Program
- Wayne Patterson, NSW Spatial Services – Update and overview of Spatial Services

- Brenton Ray – Smart State NSW
- Michael van den Bos – What's in a name? Naming Principles, Processes and Guidelines
- Thomas Grinter – Preservation of Survey Infrastructure (POSI)
- Greg Windsor – NSW Whole of Government Addressing Initiatives
- Adrian White – Cadastre NSW

Presentations from the event can be downloaded from the REROC website at [www.reroc.com.au](http://www.reroc.com.au)

## Governance and Leadership Workshop for Councillors

REROC again looked for opportunities to provide the elected members within our Member Councils with the opportunity to develop their skills. Regionally-delivered workshops allow councillors to access professional development opportunities at minimal cost and also provides a forum for participants to meet their counterparts from across the region.

When Statewide Mutual addressed REROC in mid-2017 about their services, one of the opportunities presented was a workshop which fitted with REROC's Governance and Leadership training for councillors.

The Australian Institute of Company Director's (AICD) Integrity Management in Local Government course was delivered in February in Wagga Wagga. Most of the Member Councils were represented at the workshop. The course was sponsored by Statewide and organised through Jardine Lloyd Thompson and REROC.

Governance, leadership and risk management were the focus of the day, with trainer Eddie Stewart providing lots of practical examples that applied to council situations. Case studies were also used to hone skills. Attendees that were members of the AICD also received 8 DPD points for their attendance.

Image below: 2017 Mapped Out Conference.





Image above: Students construct their bridge at Build a Bridge... & get over it! Camp, August 2017.

## Build a Bridge and Get Over it.

Following a 12 month hiatus, REROC in partnership with the regional school-industry organisation, Compact Inc. held its 11th Build A Bridge... & get over it!® Camp on the 14-16 August 2017. Sponsored once again by IPWEA (NSW) and REROC, the Camp hosted 25 students in years 9-11 from schools in Wagga Wagga, Cootamundra, Gundagai, Tumut, Tumbarumba and West Wyalong.

The Camp aims to address skills shortages in civil engineering by encouraging students to consider a career in the field. The hands-on activities and mentoring by experienced engineers that come from our Member Councils and the RMS gives students a real taste of whether the career might be for them. Since its inception just under 40% of the students that participated have gone on to a career in some form of engineering.

The Camp ran for 3 days under the direction of camp facilitator, Nigel Worne, a highly experienced Construction Project Engineer, who has been with the Build a Bridge program since it began.



The students are broken into four competing teams; each team is required to design a bridge that will cross a running creek at Borambola. Students take measurements of the creek, its depth and width to determine the size of the bridge they want to build.

Throughout the Camp students were engaged in a journey exploring key Engineering concepts from design and development, to completion of bridge construction. Students participate in practical activities, working alongside REROC Engineer mentors, teaching engineering basics such as: Laser levels, Soil Compaction testing, Forces in equilibrium and Spatial coordinates.

Each team is required to design a bridge and at the completion of the design phase, students presented their designs to engineers and their peers who use a matrix assessment approach to choose the winning design. On the final day of the camp the winning bridge was constructed over a running creek at Borambola by the students. The students cross the bridge to receive their Certificate of Participation.

# Building communities

It's been another busy year for REROC and the Youth and Community Development Network with local government continuing to play a vital role in strengthening and connecting our communities. From REROC councils' delivery of engaging, interactive school holiday programs to REROC's delivery of the Youth Leadership Forum and Take Charge workshops we have been working collaboratively with councils, services and schools to deliver some inspiring programs for young people living in the eastern Riverina, encouraging them to have a strong voice in society and empowering them to make a difference in their communities.

## Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum 2017

2017 saw the delivery of the fifth successful Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum. The Forum was held on Thursday 31 August at Joyes Hall, CSU in Wagga Wagga with 81 students and 13 teachers from 11 schools across the REROC region participating in the day.

The Leadership Forum aims to inspire young people to "take charge" in their own communities, the region and beyond by allowing them to hear from others who have done just that. REROC's Member Councils want young people living in their communities to seek to engage with councils and to participate in local decision-making. The Forum delivers

speakers and workshops that build their capacity to better engage and "take charge". It also provides an opportunity to remind students that they are part of a region and to meet and interact with others in their region that share the same interests and concerns.

Students participating in the 2018 Leadership Forum listened to a fantastic lineup of guest speakers which included, Lilly Lyons, Youth Ambassador for Save the Children, host of her own radio show and recipient of the 2016 Pride of Australia Medal. Sam Clark, Youth Ambassador for R U OK? and recipient of the 2015 National Youth Awards for Youth Health and Brynlea Gibson, the 2015 Australian Youth Leadership Award and iAward winner for her work on a communication system that will eventually enable remote control of robots using simple intuitive human movements.

Students also participated in a number of fun engaging workshops throughout the day which included creating balloon powered vehicles from recyclable materials, using social media for good and a session on Mindfulness with The Mindful Warrior.

Students were also kept energised throughout the day with short sessions of ZUU movement (pictured below right) – a training technique that mimics animal movement. We saw some very impressive frog hopping, lizard slithering and gorilla movements from the students!

*Images below: Students participate in a mindfulness workshop at Take Charge Leadership Forum (left). Take Charge 2017 guest speakers, Lilly Lyons, Sam Clark and Brynlea Gibson (top right). ZUU Movement workshop (bottom right).*





Images above: Walla Walla workshop (left). Tumut workshop (centre). Cr Mayor James Hayes OAM welcomes students to the Tumut workshop (right).

## 2018 Take Charge is on the Road!

Following on from another successful Forum in August 2017 and after consultation between REROC and the REROC Youth and Community Development Network it was decided that from 2018 onwards the Take Charge Riverina Leadership Forum would run every second year. We recognised that it required enormous effort from some of the schools in the Region to attend the Leadership Forum in Wagga Wagga, so the decision was made that every second year Take Charge would hit the road!

The decision enabled the Take Charge Team to get out and about into the REROC Member LGAs to deliver localised workshops with the students. Four local workshops were planned for the 2018 school year, two in the first half of the year and two in the second. The workshops focus on capacity building in the areas of public speaking, confidence building and mindfulness.

To facilitate delivery and to continue with our goal of reminding students that they are part of a region and not just their LGA the workshops were delivered on a cluster basis. This approach also ensured that we could cover all the Member Council LGAs in the most efficient fashion, while still minimising the amount of travel for the participating schools. The REROC member councils were clustered together as follows:

- Bland Shire / Temora Shire / Cootamundra-Gundagai
- Cootamundra-Gundagai / Snowy Valleys
- Coolamon Shire/ Junee Shire / Wagga Wagga
- Greater Hume / Lockhart Shire

In May 2018 the Take Charge team hit the road to visit Tumut and Walla Walla to deliver the first round of the four regional Take Charge Leadership workshops. Over 90 students from Tumut, Batlow, Tumbarumba, Gundagai, Billabong and St Paul's High Schools participated in the workshops which was a fantastic start to the 2018 Take Charge Leadership program.

REROC engaged Ms Amie Morris from the FRANK Team to deliver workshops that inspired students with tips and tools on the art of great communication, how to spot leadership traits in themselves and develop skills to become great leaders in their local communities. The feedback from these localised workshops was extremely positive with both teachers and students commenting on how much they got out of the sessions.

The Mindful Warrior – Ms Anna Gannon returned to work with us, after her very successful participation in the 2017 Take Charge Forum, to deliver her Mindfulness program with the students. Students attending the workshops were guided through discussion, tapping techniques, meditation and a spot of chair yoga, all tools they can take with them to assist in restoring balance within their lives when things get a bit difficult e.g. stress around exam time. Feedback from Anna's workshops was amazing with students commenting how much they enjoyed the meditation sessions and several schools expressing interest in engaging Anna's Mindfulness program within their own schools.

The Mayor of Snowy Valleys, Cr James Hayes OAM was able to attend the Tumut workshop, while Mayor of Greater Hume, Cr Heather Wilton attended the Walla Walla workshop. The Mayors welcomed the students, and shared information about their roles, the local council and opportunities for youth in each of their respective LGAs.

The Workshops also shone a light on just how many of the students are already members of their local youth councils or actively volunteering in their local community. Whether it is umpiring at the local football club, helping run the canteen on game day, tutoring primary school students or helping at the local church we have some incredible students that at a young age are already making valuable contributions to their communities.

The REROC Youth Network team also played a vital role in this workshop both in the preparation and during the event. Support from the councils for these local workshops has been fantastic with all jumping on board to assist with catering, venues and staff for the day.

## Take Charge and Volunteer

Take Charge and Volunteer aims to make it easier for young people to volunteer by connecting them with volunteer organisations through an easy to use website. Would-be volunteers are able to search for volunteer opportunities, which are placed on the website under Areas of Interest headings such as "Events, Tourism and Fundraising", "Business and Administration" and "Environment, Agriculture and Animals".

This year our focus has been on upgrading the website to improve the user experience, increasing the number of young people who use the site and promoting the service to Volunteer Organisations.

### Take Charge and Volunteer goes to CSU Market Day – Orientation week 2018

Wanting to increase the number of over 18s that use the site *Take Charge and Volunteer* participated in the 2018 CSU Market Day on Monday 19 Feb 2018. With over 800 new university students commencing at CSU Wagga in 2018 it was a successful day talking to new and existing students about the Take Charge and Volunteer program and ways they can be involved in the local communities throughout the REROC LGAs.

The Market Day was also a great opportunity to promote the program to the over 18 age bracket and network with other community services attending the day.

### Take Charge and Volunteer Promotions

It is vital that Volunteer Organisations know about the website and how to use it. *Take Charge and Volunteer* held the first round of information sessions to deliver information about the program on Monday 25 June 2018 at the Commercial Club in Wagga Wagga. Over 100 community organisations were contacted via phone, email and social media to participate in the information sessions with a range of services from Wagga, Junee and Cootamundra registering to attend the three information sessions run throughout the day. The information sessions aimed to build on the number of services using the program which would then also lead to an increase in volunteer opportunities that are listed on both the website and Facebook pages.

Take Charge and Volunteer information sessions will also be organised for Temora, Greater Hume and Snowy Valleys in the 2018/19 year.

To date we have 43 services registered on the site, 130 volunteers registered and 290 followers on the Take Charge Facebook page.

Take Charge and Volunteer has also been utilising social media as a platform to connect with both services and potential volunteers. It is encouraging to see that we have had an increase in activity on social media over the last year both in number of followers and also people sharing our content. Throughout the 2018/19 year the interaction for the Take Charge program through social media channels will be increased.

Don't forget the **Take Charge and Volunteer Info Sessions** are on next **Monday 25 June 2018**. Join us for a cuppa and a chat to find out how the program can assist you in finding volunteers!

Call Kate or Dianne at REROC on 02 6931 9050 to register for one of the sessions



## NEED HELP FINDING VOLUNTEERS?

JOIN US FOR THE

TAKE CHARGE  
AND VOLUNTEER  
INFORMATION SESSIONS

Monday 25 June 2018

Commercial Club  
77 Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga

Session times:  
9:30am - 10:30am  
11:30am - 12:30pm  
1:30pm - 2:30pm

Take Charge and Volunteer is a free service provided to community groups and charities by the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils and your local council. For more information about the program visit [www.takecharge.org.au](http://www.takecharge.org.au)

RSVP preferred session time to Kate or Dianne at REROC (02) 6931 9050 or email [khardy@reroc.com.au](mailto:khardy@reroc.com.au) by Wednesday 20 June 2018



Images above: Take Charge and Volunteer marketing material.

# Building strategic capacity

REROC continues to look for opportunities to build strategic capacity through collaboration across our Member Councils and beyond. Working together to create economies of scale and scope is a central purpose for REROC and one which has expanded to take in working closely with other ROCs and JOs. Our collaboration with RAMROC, CENTROC and CBRJO resulted in the Southern Lights project, one of the largest and most ambitious projects REROC has ever been involved in.

Over the years, collaboration activities have embraced everything from aggregated procurement to the development of shared intellectual property that is customised for an individual council's use. In some instances, the products that we have developed have been used by other ROCs and non-member councils in their own operations. This year has seen our activities in procurement increase with the appointment of Kate Hardy to a part-time position in the area.

An important facet of REROC's collaborative approach is the work we do with the State agencies that operate within our region. Strong ties have been forged through the delivery of common projects with the Department of Planning and Environment, the Office of Environment and Heritage, Office of Regional Development, the RMS, the Department of Transport, the EPA, the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. We also worked collaboratively with Eastern Riverina Arts and the Regional Development Australia – Riverina, who share similar footprints to REROC's.

## Collaborating Strategically

### Regional Biodiversity Support Officer

The Office of Environment and Heritage invited REROC to submit a funding proposal for the employment of a Regional Support Officer to assist councils across the Riverina-Murray Region to build capacity to deal with the new NSW Biodiversity Conservation legislation. Marcus Wright, who came to us with great experience in the natural resource management field, commenced work in February and is working with the 22 REROC and RAMROC Member Councils. The project will run until June 2019.

Marcus is working with the REROC and RAMROC councils to assist staff to come up to speed with the Biodiversity Conservation Reform legislation. A great communicator, Marcus has visited all 22 councils that make up the Region, completing an analysis of the assistance that council planning and environmental staff need to meet local government's obligations under the legislation.

A number of training opportunities have been offered to council staff to assist them to better understand the

legislation. Marcus also attends the REROC Planners' Group meeting to provide advice and an update on the project. Marcus also provides councils with advice on their obligations and the processes required to deal with developments under the new legislation.

The project is guided by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from REROC, RAMROC, OEH and OLG. Marcus has been based at Coolamon Shire Council and we are grateful for the ongoing support that the Council provides to Marcus.

### Southern Lights Project

Southern Lights is the most ambitious project that REROC has ever been involved in. It aims to replace approximately 75,000 street lights with state-of-the-art LED lighting and smart control technologies across 41 Local Government Areas covering almost all of southern NSW. The project is a joint initiative between REROC, RAMROC, CENTROC, CBRJO and Broken Hill City Council.

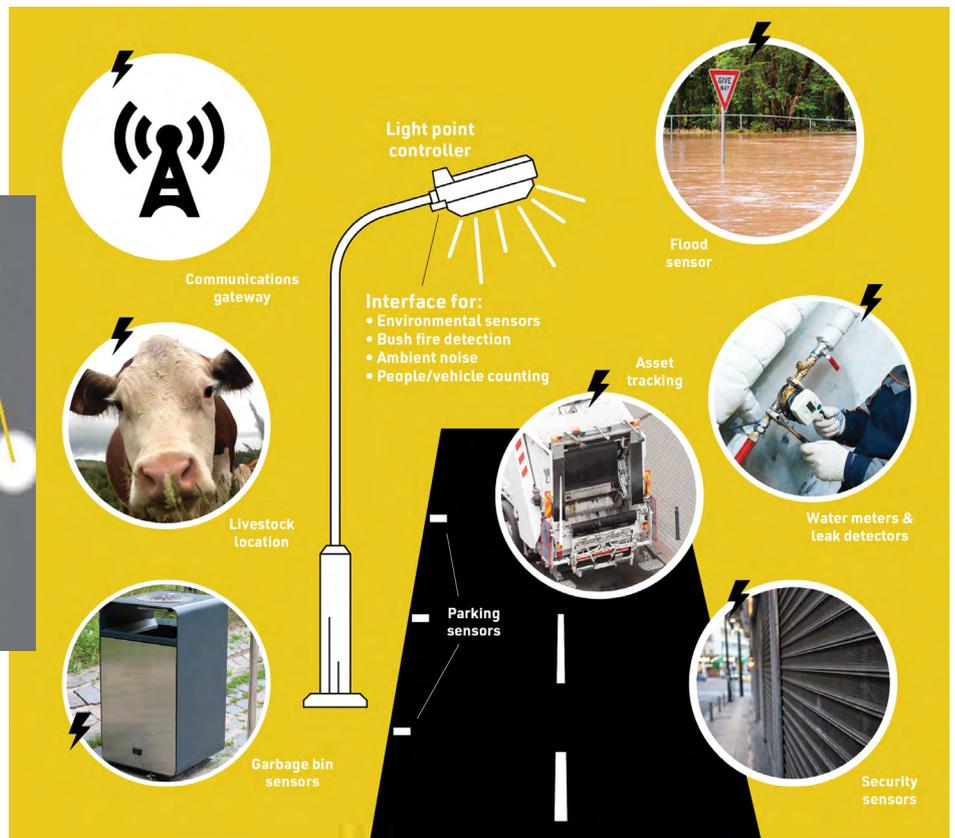
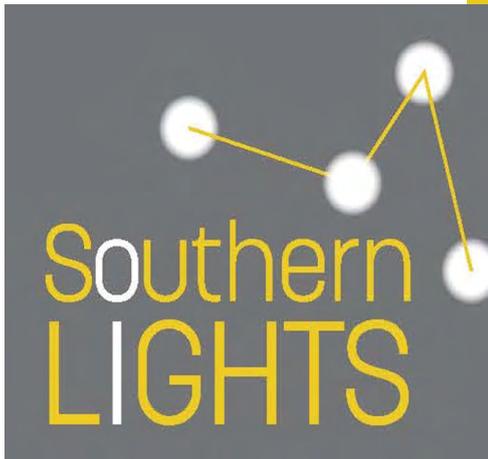
It is well established that using LEDs for street lighting reduces the cost of energy used by the lights, substantially reduces the operational cost of the lights and, by delivering high quality white light, increases the efficiency and effectiveness of public lighting which improves safety and reduces crime. Notably, unlike metropolitan areas, many regional NSW residential streets are currently lit with lower quality, yellow-coloured lighting, so a switch to LED lighting will make significant and noticeable improvements to public lighting.

An LED roll out when accompanied by smart controls technology can dramatically improve service levels by notifying the operator of outages and other faults. Smart controls technology also allows a wide range of operating regimes not currently possible, including dimming during the off-peak, raising lighting levels during peak times, optimising lighting levels to exactly meet compliance levels, facilitating automated population of asset registers and improving the accuracy of billing.

Smart street lighting controlled networks are also being increasingly recognised as the likely backbone of smart city deployments as, once installed, they are able to support a range of other devices in the public domain at low marginal cost.

The Southern Lights project therefore has the potential to become the backbone upon which towns and cities across southern NSW can be transformed into Smart Communities.

Since March, REROC has been providing the day-to-day management of the project: liaising with the other Southern Lights members, consulting with Essential Energy and working with our consultants Next Energy to develop a robust business case for the project.



**Riverina-Murray Regional Plan**

Since the release of the Plan, REROC has been working collaboratively with the Department of Planning on its implementation. REROC along with other ROCs in southern NSW met in Dubbo in early 2018 to discuss ways to implement the Freight Transport initiatives contained in the Plan. Work continues on a co-ordinated approach to delivery of this element on the Plan.

**REROC Regional Freight Transport Plan**

The REROC Regional Freight Transport aims to deliver an integrated, regional approach to freight transport planning for the eastern Riverina region. The goal is to build a network of efficient and effective freight transport routes that increase economic outcomes for our Region. The Plan, which identifies the constraints to network efficiency in the region, is supported by a mapping tool that can be accessed at [reroc.giscloud.com](http://reroc.giscloud.com).

Work continues on the Plan to update it with a view to release the third edition towards the end of 2018.

**Bridge and Culvert Assessments A Fixing Country Roads Project**

This project was identified through the Regional Transport Plan. REROC applied to Infrastructure NSW for funding to assess 26 bridges and culverts across 6 REROC LGAs to determine if they were fit for HML use. REROC received \$208,000 from the State Government to undertake the project.

The project was completed in late 2017 finding that 19 of the 26 bridges did not meet HML standards. The project not only provided assessments on each of the bridges but also plans and costings that councils could utilise to make funding applications to correct the problems that were identified.

The REROC grant was one of the first for a non-road authority organisation under Fixing Country Roads and the regional approach was supported by Transport for NSW. We were extremely pleased the application was successful because it recognised the benefits that can be achieved through councils working collaboratively. As a result of the collaborative approach there was only one funding deed and REROC prepared and delivered all the reports on the project, creating substantial savings in time for the councils that participated in the project. We are advocating more projects through Fixing Country Roads using a similar format.

**Gateway Project: Industrial Land Mapping**

This project showcases the strength of the REROC collaboration by demonstrating the organisation's capacity to innovate. The Gateway Project was developed in response to a request from the Department of Industry to provide easily accessible information on industrial land in the Region. The goal was to provide a gateway through which developers could ascertain what land was available that met their needs, where it was located and the services that were attached.

We are continuing to update the information on the Gateway and to look for ways to promote its use.



Image above: The REROC Planning Technical Committee meets every second month.

## Collaborating Operationally

REROC's special interest groups and sub-committees continued to meet throughout the year. The committees draw their membership from Member Councils' operational staff and in some instances councillors. These groups are a valuable professional development opportunity as they provide a platform for participants to learn from each other, share information and hear from experts in their particular field through the attendance of guest speakers.

### REROC Waste Forum

The Waste Forum is partially funded through the EPA as one of NSW's 8 Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWG). The EPA's funding comes through the *Waste Less Recycle More* initiative which enables the Forum to deliver programs in waste management and resource recovery.

The Forum is chaired by Coolamon Shire Council General Manager, Tony Donoghue with Greg Ewings from Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council providing support as the Deputy Chair.

The Group meets on a bi-monthly basis and its activities are showcased in the section Managing Waste and Promoting Resource Recovery.

### Riverina Spatial Information Group (RivSIG)

RivSIG supports staff who work in the spatial data field. It draws its membership from local government and state agencies. The Group is chaired by Laurie Thiele from Wagga Wagga City Council.

RivSIG takes the lead role in the organisation of the *Mapped Out* Conference and provides staff working in spatial data with much needed networking and professional development opportunities.

### Infrastructure/Engineers Sub-committee

The Committee considers major infrastructure issues in the Region and is primarily concerned with the delivery of the REROC Regional Freight Transport Plan as well as addressing specific issues that arise from the engineering functions within councils. The Committee has also continued to monitor issues such as the Grain Harvest Management Scheme and the NHVR consent regime. The Committee meets in Coolamon, once every three months and is chaired by Coolamon Shire Council's General Manager, Tony Donoghue.

### Planning Technical Committee

This Committee made up of staff involved in the planning area meets every second month in Wagga Wagga. It has had a very active role in the development of the Riverina-Murray Regional Plan and the Gateway Project. The Committee looks at ways to solve common planning issues through the development of regional policies that can be applied in individual LGAs.

### Youth and Community Development Network

The REROC Youth & Community Development Network brings together all the council staff working with youth and community development in the REROC region. The Network meets bi-monthly and aims to assist Member Councils by working together to enhance youth and community development services in the region.

A key activity on the calendar for the Network is the Take Charge Youth Leadership programs and Take Charge & Volunteer.

## Water and Waste Water Technical Committee

This Committee is comprised of council staff from the General Purpose councils that are working in water and waste water and from both the county councils.

The Committee is looking at ways to introduce more energy efficiency into the operation of water and waste water plants, meeting Best Practice, meeting Integrated Water Cycle Management guidelines and developing a Regional Infrastructure Demand Study.

## The Workforce Development Sub-committee

This Committee meets on a quarterly basis to address issues that relate to Member Council's human resource and workforce development issues. The Committee is chaired by Steve Pinnuck General Manager of Greater Hume Shire Council.

The Committee is looking at ways to increase professional development opportunities for council staff and councillors and promoting careers in local government. This year the Committee has only met intermittently.

## Collaborative Procurement

Late in 2017 this aspect of REROC's activities took a step forward with the engagement of Kate Hardy as our Regional Procurement Officer. The goal of engaging Kate on a part-time basis was to increase the level of regional procurement activities undertaken by REROC. In addition Kate will follow-up with councils to ensure that they have entered into contracts for finalised procurements and that they are taking full advantage of procurement contracts by checking they are using the value-added opportunities that suppliers have included in their bids.

We have undertaken a number of activities in the procurement area this year including:

## eProcure online procurement system

In May 2018 REROC started running all its procurement projects through eProcure, an online portal powered by TenderSearch. The move to a digital platform for procurement projects will streamline procurement projects and enable all procurement information to be stored in one location. The program will also allow for easier distribution of information between REROC, participating councils and potential suppliers and will assist with the management and evaluation of submissions. We are trialling the program for a period of 18 months and then assessing its effectiveness.

## Asset revaluation of operational land, buildings and structures

We ran a group procurement of asset revaluations at the end of December, 5 Member Councils participated. JLT AssetVal commenced the work in early January and completed it at the end of March.

## Construction and Demolition Waste Crushing

We attempted a group procurement for Construction and Demolition Waste. We received good interest with a number of companies downloading the tender documentation, however we did not receive any final bids. We believe that this was because of the distances involved in the work and the cost of moving heavy machinery.

## Waste Metal Collection

We ran two metal waste collection tenders during the course of the year. These are very valuable to the Member Councils as it is a way of generating income from the waste materials that councils collect and offsetting the cost of operating landfills.

## Learning Management Systems

We commenced research into the procurement of a regional Learning Management System that would encompass a number of our Member councils.

## Southern Lights

We have been facilitating the procurement processes associated with Southern Lights. It is anticipated that the Group will need to go out to Expressions of Interest for the supply of some of the services and products required.

## Bitumen Emulsion Group Purchase

Our group procurement of bitumen emulsion continued this year. The Region purchases over a million dollars of the product.

## Liquid Alum Group Purchase

This group procurement is used by water authorities. Five councils are participating in this arrangement which will continue for another 2 years.

# Managing waste and promoting resource recovery

The Waste Forum is one of eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs) operating in NSW with funding support from the EPA. All the VRWGs meet regularly throughout the year with the EPA to discuss issues in waste management and resource recovery for rural and regional communities. The VRWG program is supported by the NSW EPA *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative funded from the waste levy.

The Waste Forum meets every second month and the projects undertaken by the Forum are included on the website [waste.reroc.com.au](http://waste.reroc.com.au). A written report on Waste Forum activities is included in the REROC Board papers.

Information on the Forum's group procurement activities and its very successful *No Time to Waste* Conference can be found in earlier reports.

## Waste Forum Website Launched

The REROC Waste Forum's work is now showcased on a brand new website, [waste.reroc.com.au](http://waste.reroc.com.au). The website, developed by local firm Embarketing, was launched in mid-April.

The website provides links to the Waste Forum's projects, strategies and resources. The new look ensures that the Waste Forum's work is easily accessible for Member Councils and others.

## 2017-2021 Regional Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy

In late 2017 the review of the Waste Forum's Regional Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy was completed. The document is an update of the previous 2014-2021 Strategy reflecting achievements that had been made and new challenges to be addressed. Our vision for the Strategy is: Building a sustainable region through developing and encouraging the implementation of best practice initiatives in waste management and resource recovery.

The Strategy's Mission Statement is: Achieve efficiency in waste management and resource recovery by working collaboratively with all levels of government, the community and business for sustainable outcomes.

Six Themes were adopted for the Strategy, each of which has a number of Strategic Objectives for delivery. The Themes are as follows:

- Theme 1: Avoid and reduce waste generation
- Theme 2: Increase recycling and divert waste from landfill
- Theme 3: Manage problem wastes better
- Theme 4: Reduce litter
- Theme 5: Reduce illegal dumping.
- Theme 6: Council Capacity Building and Professional Development

The Strategy, once it receives final approval from the EPA, will be available for download from the Waste Forum website.

Image below: REROC Waste Forum website.



## REROC Waste Forum

### Co-operation between REROC member councils in relation to waste management

The REROC Waste Forum was established in 1997 to promote co-operation between REROC member councils in relation to waste management. Since that time it has expanded beyond waste management issues to encompass a wide variety of environmental issues and has been responsible for initiating a number of diverse projects.

[Read more about us here](#)



Image above: Temora Community Recycling Centre

## Community Recycling Centre (CRC)

The CRC program has proved to be very successful. We have CRCs operating in Coolamon, Cootamundra, Culcairn, Gundagai, Junee, Lockhart, Temora, Tumbarumba, Tumut and West Wyalong. The CRCs collect low toxic waste including, paint, batteries, fluorescent tubes and smoke detectors.

We have continued to deliver an education campaign to promote the CRCs ensuring that residents are aware that they have access to this free disposal service, which is funded by the EPA. The education campaign has encompassed TV, radio, cinema and newspaper advertising as well as social media awareness, brochure mail outs, attended community events, completed landfill surveys and established a website [www.crcriverinamurray.org.au](http://www.crcriverinamurray.org.au) We joined with the RAMROC Waste Groups to run the TV, radio ads and website to ensure consistency across the Riverina/Murray region.

We increased access to CRC services by making a bulk purchase of recycling stations that could be placed in council offices and libraries. These are great for dropping off small recyclables like CFLs, batteries and phones. Eight stations, which were branded to match the CRCs, were purchased and located in Coolamon, Cootamundra, Culcairn, Gundagai, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and West Wyalong.

REROC also received funding as part of the original application to establish a mobile trailer service for residents in smaller communities. This year we have finalised the signage, supporting documentation and equipment required for its operation. The mobile trailer will be based in Greater Hume, however, it is expected that all councils will have access to it.

## Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

REROC and our Member Councils are still working on improving the presence of CDS redemption facilities in our Region. We are very concerned that not all the LGAs in the REROC region have ready access to redemption points. We are also aware that some of our communities are not happy with the level of access they have to facilities.

REROC and its Member Councils worked hard prior to the Scheme's launch last December to find a solution that would allow council waste facilities to be part of the Scheme's arrangements for redemptions. We believed it made sense for residents to bring their redeemable containers to the local waste facility for refunds, particularly when returning large numbers of them.

Unfortunately, we were unable to agree on an approach that was both acceptable to the Scheme's operators TOMRA-Cleanaway and financially viable for the councils. The Waste Forum will continue to promote the Scheme while looking for ways to improve access for residents.



## E-waste Collection

In June, REROC renewed its contract with MRI-PSO for the collection and processing of the Region's e-waste. The new contract which covers all the REROC Member Councils' LGAs ensures that both residents and councils will continue to enjoy free e-waste collections for the next 2 years.

The arrangement falls within the Federal Government's National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NCRS), which requires that importers and manufacturers of televisions and computers put arrangements in place for the collection and recycling of their end-of-life products. MRI-PSO is contracted by a number of importers and manufacturers to arrange collections on their behalf.

Computers, computer peripherals and televisions no matter how old are eligible for collection. REROc manages the collection logistics for e-waste by receiving a per tonne amount to manage the transport of e-waste from the participating councils into Kurrajong Recyclers. During the past year just over 66 tonnes of waste has been collected and sent for processing at Kurrajong Recyclers.

Free council e-waste collection points are located in Coolamon, Cootamundra, Culcairn, Gundagai, Junee, Lockhart, Temora, Tumbarumba, Tumut, West Wyalong and in Wagga Wagga at Kurrajong Recyclers and the Gregadoo Landfill.



## Safe Sharps

We commenced a major upgrade of the Safe Sharps website this year. The site had become very dated and it showed. The update will also include an upgrade of the Smart Device apps both Android and Apple® and the introduction of an Apple Watch app which is an exciting new feature. The overhaul of the site and its supporting technologies was undertaken by local developer Devraj Mukherjee at Anomaly Software, who has been involved in the project from its inception.

The project which first launched in 2014 now has over 3,000 locations listed. We are constantly receiving updates from users which ensures the data remains up to date, proving that the approach that the project has taken of "crowd sourcing" its updates has been very successful. The website and apps have the capacity for people to report when a location is no longer active or something has changed. In addition users can add new sites. The reports come by email to REROc, where we check out the report and make the relevant changes to the site's information. We also regularly contact councils around Australia to ask them to check their information and advise if changes are required.

Once the current upgrades are completed and the new site is operational we will be looking to hold a launch to promote the new and improved products.

## Environmental Education Programs:

### Recycling Education Campaign – Recycle Night? Recycle Right!

Launched in mid-2017 this project has gone from strength to strength, significantly reducing the level of contamination our local Recycling Facilities are finding in kerbside recycling. The project aims to raise the awareness of residents that what goes in their home recycling bin is touched by human hands. The REROc Waste Forum believed that a greater understanding of how their waste is processed and the impact of contamination on the people that process that waste would result in households changing their behaviours.

The campaign was conceived, developed and delivered by REROc working closely with local creative team of Jackie Cooper from Jack of Hearts who did all the video work and Cristy Houghton from Embarketing who took care of the messaging, the advertisement preparation and all the social media. They spoke to and filmed workers at Kurrajong Recycling (Wagga Wagga), Elouera (Cootamundra) and Valmar (Tumut) about how poor practices at home impacted on their work and the effectiveness of recycling.

We have run television, cinema and print advertising, as well as printing posters and cards and using social media to get our message across. In a REROc-first we have also used bus advertising in Wagga Wagga.

We were invited to speak about the campaign at the National Waste Conference held in Coffs Harbour in May where it made a real impact. The representative from WasteMinz in New Zealand expressed interest in adopting a similar project there, while NetWaste in central NSW have already developed their own campaign based on the same concept. Northern Rivers Waste has also asked to use the concept in their region. This local creative team deserve our congratulations on their unbelievable work which knocked them dead in the aisles at the Conference.

The Recycling Facilities have advised that when the advertisements are running there is a noticeable decrease in the amount of contamination found in the kerbside bins. In the longer term we would like to see this behavioural change hold even when the advertisements are not running.

The Campaign is supported by a website [www.recyclenight.org.au](http://www.recyclenight.org.au) that provides information on what can be recycled for each of the participating Recycling Facilities and where consumers can view longer stories about the people who work at the facilities.

## Kindy Kits

Each year the Waste Forum distributes library bags to every Kindergarten child in the Region. Over 2,000 bags are distributed and this year a decision was made to use calico bags for the project. The bags are more environmentally friendly, can be washed and are lighter and easier for the children to use.

The bags contain information on reducing waste in lunchboxes and promote the message of reduce, reuse and recycle. There are activity sheets, brochures and bookmarks that encourage in-class activities. The project which has been running since 2004 is well received by the schools both large and small.



Image above: Kindy Kits library bags.

## King and Queen of Green

Once again this year the King and Queen of Green show, developed by Eaton Gorge Theatre Company, came back to the region this time with their new RRRR Pirate show. They visited in June and went to Cootamundra and Coolamon LGAs. They were here for 3 days and performed to 764 students across 7 schools. The performers, Juliet Scrine and Ian McColm, really connect with the primary school students and we receive very positive feedback from teachers who report on the high level of engagement.

Images below: The RRRR Pirates from Eaton Gorge Theatre Company deliver the environmental message.



## Organics Case Study

The Case Study on Coolamon Shire Council's Food Organics and Garden Waste collection and processing system, *A Case Study of Coolamon Shire: Positive aspects for FOGO service and composting facility implementation* was published this year. The Study includes information on the project background, study methodology, findings and recommendations for introduction of a FOGO service and composting facility in a rural setting.

The Study was prepared to encourage councils to consider introducing a kerbside organics collection and can be downloaded from the Waste Forum's website.

# Working with others



## Eastern Riverina Arts

Eastern Riverina Arts and REROC share a common footprint which facilitates collaboration between the two organisations as we service the same councils and communities. Scott Howie, the Eastern Riverina Arts Executive Director attends REROC's Youth and Community Development Network meetings providing invaluable advice and assistance to Member Councils as well as working with them to develop joint projects. Scott is also actively involved in the development and delivery of the Take Charge Youth Leadership Forum.

This year the Youth and Community Development Network moved their meetings to the Eastern Riverina Arts' Office as a tangible way of improving interaction.



## RENEW NSW

The REROC Waste Forum is one of eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWG) operating in regional NSW. RENEW NSW is the banner organisation for the VRWGs which are partially funded by the NSW EPA.

RENEW members meet on a quarterly basis generally alternating between a Sydney location and a regional location. RENEW is convened by NSW EPA, Tracey Cornell is REROC's representative on RENEW and she is regularly joined at meetings by Waste Forum Chair Tony Donoghue, Deputy Chair Greg Ewings and REROC Chief Executive Officer Julie Briggs.

RENEW is an important and influential group as it is often first in line to receive information and advice from the EPA about directions, funding and issues relating to waste management and resource recovery. REROC's involvement in RENEW is invaluable in ensuring that we are at the forefront of developments in the environmental sector. This was particularly the case during the last year with the development of the NSW CDS, where we were able to discuss issues arising from the roll-out as well as developments with China Sword.

This year RENEW met at Coolamon following the *No Time to Waste* Conference.



## The Compact

The relationship between the Compact and REROC has operated over a considerable number of years. Compact is REROC's conduit into high schools across the Region where we promote a number of career initiatives such as Build a Bridge, Work Inspirations and work experience programs.

Increasingly Member Councils are embracing the opportunity to grow their own staff and critical to this is engaging with young people about to embark on their future careers. The Compact's role in engaging with schools is vital to member councils' success in bringing young people a greater understanding of the potential careers in local government.

The Compact is our primary partner for the delivery of the *Build a Bridge...and Get Over It!* Project.



## Regional Development Australia

REROC maintains a strong and on-going relationship with RDA-Riverina. The RDA has an important role in furthering the economic development of the region a goal that is important to our member councils.

REROC works with the RDA on the development of plans relating to infrastructure in the region and particularly road and rail transport issues as well as regional telecommunications. We believe that it is important that the Region puts forward a cohesive voice on these issues in order to have a chance to attract much needed funding. RDA representatives are invited to attend REROC Board meetings. RDA Executive Officer, Rachel Whiting and Chairperson Miriam Dayhew regularly attend REROC meetings where they are able to provide an update on RDA activities.



Image above: Meeting of RENEW at Coolamon in June.

## NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)

The DPC regional office is an important conduit to state agencies operating in the Region.

Julie Briggs attends the Regional Leadership Executive meetings which are convened by the DPC for the Riverina-Murray region. The DPC Regional Manager, formerly Trudi McDonald, and now James Bolton regularly attend REROC Board meetings and events in order to provide updates on activities at a State level.

## NSW ROCs' Initiatives

REROC regularly meets with other ROCs and Joint Organisations to discuss issues relating to local government and explore potential collaborations. These meetings have been far more numerous in the last year as a result of the proclamation of the new JOs and the work we are doing with Southern Lights project.

# Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

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## Overview

These financial statements are Special Purpose Financial Statements and cover the operations for the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils.

All figures presented in these financial statements are presented in Australian currency.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Executive.

REROC has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements.

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# Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

## Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2018

### Statement by Executive

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

the Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements

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

- present fairly REROC's operating result and financial position for the year, and
- accord with REROC's accounting and other records.

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



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Rick Firman  
Chairman



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Tony Donoghue  
Treasurer

## Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2018

Budget 2018		Notes	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
<b>Income from Continuing Operations</b>				
<b>Revenue:</b>				
41,800	User Charges & Fees	2a	73,130	66,575
10,000	Interest & Investment Revenue	2b	9,241	930
29,000	Other Revenues	2c	68,334	52,346
322,873	Grants provided for Operating Purposes	2d	438,228	728,281
231,373	Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	2e	231,373	216,262
<b>Other income:</b>				
0	Net gains from the disposal of assets	4	0	2,597
<b>635,046</b>	<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>		<b>820,306</b>	<b>1,066,991</b>
<b>Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>				
638,269	Materials & Contracts	3a	798,024	1,042,444
0	Depreciation & Amortisation	3b	7,390	7,738
79,268	Other Expenses	3c	86,531	81,923
<b>717,537</b>	<b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>		<b>891,945</b>	<b>1,132,105</b>
<b>(82,491)</b>	<b>Net Operating Profit/(Loss) for the Year</b>		<b>(71,639)</b>	<b>(65,114)</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5a	636,932	702,816
Receivables	5b	120,071	99,297
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>757,003</b>	<b>802,113</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	6	27,365	34,755
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>27,365</b>	<b>34,755</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>784,368</b>	<b>836,868</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	7	82,848	63,709
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>82,848</b>	<b>63,709</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>82,848</b>	<b>63,709</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>701,520</b>	<b>773,159</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Earnings	8	701,520	773,159
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>701,520</b>	<b>773,159</b>

Statement of Cash Flows  
for the year ended 30 June 2018

Budget 2018	Notes	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
<b><i>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</i></b>			
<b><i>Receipts</i></b>			
55,587	User Charges & Fees	76,973	66,575
10,000	Interest & Investment Revenue	541	930
590,371	Grants & Contributions	704,779	944,543
39,130	Other	67,719	68,382
<b><i>Payments:</i></b>			
(661,420)	Material & Contracts	(830,262)	(1,043,880)
(80,571)	Other	(85,634)	(81,923)
<b>(46,903)</b>	<b><i>Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities</i></b>	<b>(65,884)</b>	<b>(45,373)</b>
<b><i>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</i></b>			
<b><i>Receipts</i></b>			
0	Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	0	16,364
<b><i>Payments:</i></b>			
0	Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	0	(36,961)
	Purchase of Investment	(500,000)	0
<b>0</b>	<b><i>Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities</i></b>	<b>(500,000)</b>	<b>(20,597)</b>
<b><i>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</i></b>			
<b><i>Receipts</i></b>			
0	Proceeds from Borrowings & Advances	0	0
<b><i>Payments:</i></b>			
0	Repayments of Borrowings & Advances	0	0
<b>0</b>	<b><i>Net Cash provided (or used in) Financing Activities</i></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>(46,903)</b>	<b>Net Increase/(Decrease in Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(565,884)</b>	<b>(65,970)</b>
702,816	plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	702,816	768,786
<b>655,913</b>	<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents - end of the year</b>	<b>136,932</b>	<b>702,816</b>
Additional Information			
	plus: Investments on hand - end of year	500,000	0
	<b>Total, Cash, Cash Equivalents &amp; Investments</b>	<b>636,932</b>	<b>702,816</b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2018

## Contents of the notes accompanying the financial statements

Note	Details	Page
1	Summary of significant accounting policies	32
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# Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2018

## Note 1. Significant accounting policies

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This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial report preparation requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*. The board have determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity.

The financial report was approved by the Executive.

The financial report is for the entity Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils as an individual entity. Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils Inc is an Association, incorporated and domiciled in New South Wales, Australia. Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*. The financial report complies with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards but does not comply with the disclosure requirements of these standards.

### (a) Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements', AASB 107 'Statement of Cash Flows', AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors', AASB 1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures', as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

#### *Historical Cost Convention*

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets as described in the accounting policies.

### (b) Revenue

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

Membership fees are recognised as revenue when no significant uncertainty as to its collectability exists, if the fee relates only to membership and all other services or products are paid for separately, or if there is a separate annual subscription. Membership fees are recognised on a basis that reflects the timing, nature and value of the benefit provided if the fee entitles the member to services or publications to be provided during the membership period, or to purchase goods or services at prices lower than those charged to non-members.

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking in to account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

### (c) Contributions - Government Grants and Donations

A non-reciprocal contribution or grant is recognised when the entity obtains control of the contribution or grant and it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity, and the amount of the contribution or grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions attached to the contribution or grant that must be satisfied before the entity is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of contribution or income is deferred until those conditions are met.

A non-reciprocal donation is recognised when the right to receive a donation has been established. When the entity receives grants but is obliged to give directly approximately equal value to the contributor, recognition of grant income will be deferred until the delivery of service.

## Note 1. Significant accounting policies (continued)

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### (d) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

### (e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and at banks, short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less held at call with financial institutions, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

### (f) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

#### *Plant and equipment*

Plant and equipment is measured at cost. Where plant and equipment was acquired at no cost or for a nominal amount, cost is deemed to be the fair value as at the acquisition date.

#### *Depreciation*

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Land and the land component of any class of fixed asset is not depreciated.

### (g) Trade and Other Receivables

Trade debtors are carried at their nominal amount. Collectability of debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts known to be uncollectable are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised when some doubts as to collection of the debt exists.

### (h) Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent the liabilities for goods and services received by the entity that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within normal trading terms.

### (i) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

### (j) Going concern basis of preparation

REROC reported a net loss for the period of \$71,640 (30 June 2017: loss of \$65,113).

REROC reports net cash flow used in operating activities of \$65,884 (30 June 2017: \$45,373). REROC has a surplus of working capital (being the amount the current assets exceed current liabilities) of \$674,155 as at 30 June 2018 (30 June 2017: \$738,407).

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The value attributed to REROC's assets represent true and fair values on the basis that REROC is a going concern.

The Association has ongoing financial support from the member Councils and is satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

### (k) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

## Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2018

### Note 1. Significant accounting policies (continued)

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#### **(I) New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not effective**

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the current reporting period and which have not been applied.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements, REROC considers that the standards and interpretations listed below will have an impact upon future published financial statements ranging from additional and / or revised disclosures to actual changes as to how certain transactions and balances are accounted for.

#### **Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2018**

- *AASB 9 Financial Instruments*

This replaces AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement, and addresses the classification, measurement and disclosure of financial assets and liabilities.

The standard introduces a new impairment model that requires impairment provisions to be based on expected credit losses, rather than incurred credit losses.

Based on assessments to date, REROC does not expect the standard to have a material impact.

#### **Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2019**

- *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities and AASB 2016-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities*

AASB 15 will replace AASB 118 Revenue, AASB 111 Construction Contracts and a number of Interpretations. AASB 2016-8 provides Australian requirements and guidance for not-for-profit entities in applying AASB 9 and AASB 15, and AASB 1058 will replace AASB 1004 Contributions.

Together they contain a comprehensive and robust framework for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of income including revenue from contracts with customers.

While REROC is still reviewing the way that income is measured and recognised to identify whether there will be any material impact arising from these standards, these standards may affect the timing of the recognition of some grants and donations.

## Note 2. Income from Continuing Operations

	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
<b>(a) User Charges &amp; Fees</b>		
Scrap Metal	31,686	37,638
No Time to Waste Conference	18,260	7,255
e-Waste Transport	7,994	11,884
"Build a Bridge" Project	5,000	291
GIS	0	0
Mapped Out Income	10,190	9,507
<b>TOTAL USER CHARGES &amp; FEES</b>	<b>73,130</b>	<b>66,575</b>
<b>(b) Interest &amp; Investment Revenue</b>		
Interest on REROC Account	9,241	915
Interest on CRC Account	0	15
<b>TOTAL INTEREST &amp; INVESTMENT REVENUE</b>	<b>9,241</b>	<b>930</b>
<b>(c) Other Revenues</b>		
Training	1,000	1,960
Youth Network	3,500	0
Bitumen Emulsion Rebate	10,285	17,456
Streetlighting	(50)	2,430
Waste Management	1,949	14,276
Meetings & Catering	2,107	0
LGP Rebates	16,388	0
Strategic Collaboration	32,934	0
Sundry Income	221	16,224
<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUES</b>	<b>68,334</b>	<b>52,346</b>
<b>(d) Grants</b>		
Youth Project	0	20,000
EPA Waste	205,171	329,632
EPA Household Hazardous Waste Funding	0	75,000
Compost Doctor Project	0	0
CRC Education	58,610	57,500
L-RIP	3,500	31,500
Illegal Dumping		
FCR	25,000	144,080
Biodiversity Officer Project	145,947	0
CRC	0	70,569
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>438,228</b>	<b>728,281</b>
<b>(e) Contributions</b>		
Council Contributions	231,373	216,262
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>231,373</b>	<b>216,262</b>

### Note 3. Expenses from Continuing Operations

	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
<b>(a) Materials &amp; Contracts</b>		
Executive Services	208,696	203,606
- Sustainability Project	13,000	0
- Youth Project	28,208	9,699
- EPA Waste	252,427	338,822
- EPA Household Hazardous Waste	0	75,000
- Illegal Dumping Project	0	20,000
- CRC Education	49,600	115,000
- L-RIP	1,350	33,650
- Waste Management	33,280	14,613
- Scrap Metal	17,957	1,156
- "No Time to Waste" Conference	7,573	11,955
- e-Waste	6,533	6,865
- "Build a Bridge" Project	12,820	608
- GIS	4,244	2,305
- Mapped Out Expenditure	11,751	7,024
- FCR	25,000	144,080
- Strategic Collaboration	50,309	0
- Procurement Officer	28,847	0
- Biodiversity Officer Project	46,429	0
- CRC Project	0	58,061
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS &amp; CONTRACTS</b>	<b>798,024</b>	<b>1,042,444</b>
<b>(b) Depreciation</b>		
- Waste Management Depreciation	7,390	7,738
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION COSTS EXPENSED</b>	<b>7,390</b>	<b>7,738</b>

**(c) Other Expenses**

Action Plan Projects	4,971	3,581
Advertising	2,334	304
Careers in Local Government	0	0
Insurance	7,303	7,296
Legal/Accounting/Audit	4,342	3,823
Meetings/Catering	8,131	5,198
Phone	4,564	4,032
Printing/Stationery/Postage	5,472	5,504
Rent	21,828	21,400
Representations	7,186	6,709
Streetlighting	8,313	9,167
Subscriptions	508	281
Sundry	1,538	1,079
Training	970	1,922
Travel	4,071	3,753
Web Site	5,000	3,332
Youth Network	0	4,542
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>86,531</b>	<b>81,923</b>

#### Note 4. Gains or losses from the disposal of assets

	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
Proceeds from disposal - plant and equipment	0	16,364
Less: Carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off	0	13,767
<b>Net gain/(loss) on disposal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,597</b>

#### Note 5 - Cash & Cash Equivalents & Receivables

	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
<b>(a) Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash on Hand and at Bank		
- RERO Account	136,874	702,815
- CRC Account	1	1
- Beyond Bank	57	0
Investments		
- Beyond Bank	500,000	0
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>636,932</b>	<b>702,816</b>
<b>(b) Receivables</b>		
User Charges & Fees	95,299	64,013
Accrued Interest	8,700	0
GST Receivable	16,072	35,284
<b>TOTAL RECEIVABLES</b>	<b>120,071</b>	<b>99,297</b>

# Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

## Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2018

### Note 6 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

	as at 30/06/2017				as at 30/06/2018						
	At Cost	At Fair Vale	Acc Dep'n	Carrying Value	Additions	WDV of Disposals	Dep'n Expense	At Cost	At Fair Vale	Acc Dep'n	Carrying Value
Plant & Equipment	36,962	0	2,207	34,755	0	0	7,390	36,962	0	9,597	27,365
<b>TOTAL</b>											
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>36,962</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>34,755</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,390</b>	<b>36,962</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,597</b>	<b>27,365</b>

## Note 7 - Payables

	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
<b>(a) Payables</b>		
Goods & Services Operating Expenditure		
- Materials & Contracts	17,848	63,709
GLE Strategic Planning	65,000	0
<b>TOTAL PAYABLES</b>	<b>82,848</b>	<b>63,709</b>

## Note 8. Retained earnings

	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
<b>(a) Retained Earnings</b>		
Movements in Retained Earning were as follows:		
Balance at beginning of Year	773,159	838,273
a. Correction of Prior Period Errors	0	0
b. Changes in Accounting Policies	0	0
c. Other Comprehensive Income	0	0
d. Net Operating Loss for the Year	(71,639)	(65,114)
e. Transfers between Equity	0	0
<b>Balance at End of the Reporting Period</b>	<b>701,520</b>	<b>773,159</b>
<b>Retained Earnings are represented by:</b>		
REROc	111,180	170,686
Strategic Collaboration	189,570	206,945
Sustainability Projects	34,991	47,991
Biodiversity Officer Project	99,518	0
Youth Project	0	24,762
EPA Waste	2,496	49,751
Illegal Dumping	0	0
CRC Education	9,010	0
L-RIP	0	(2,150)
Waste Management	47,345	66,528
Scrap Metal	196,624	190,285
"Build a Bridge" Project	0	1,770
GIS	10,786	16,591
	<b>701,520</b>	<b>773,159</b>

# REROC delegates

As at 30 June 2018

## **Bland Shire Council**

Cr. Tony Lord  
Mr. Ray Smith

## **Coolamon Shire Council**

Cr. John Seymour OAM  
Mr. Tony Donoghue

## **Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council**

Cr. Abb McAlister (Administrator)  
Mr. Allen Dwyer

## **Goldenfields Water**

Cr. Dennis Palmer  
Mr. Darryl Hancock

## **Greater Hume Shire Council**

Cr. Heather Wilton  
Mr. Steve 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 Crackanthorp

## **Snowy Valleys Council**

Cr. James Hayes OAM  
Mr. Matthew Hyde

## **Temora Shire Council**

Cr. Rick Firman OAM  
Mr. Gary Lavelle PSM

## **Wagga Wagga City Council**

Cr. Greg Conkey OAM  
Mr. Peter Thompson

## REROC Member Contact Details

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**Website** www.junee.nsw.gov.au

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### **Riverina Water County Council**

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### **Temora Shire Council**

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### **Snowy Valleys Council**

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**Website** www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

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# REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL  
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

[www.reroc.com.au](http://www.reroc.com.au)

