

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| REROc Chairman's report | 2 |
| Speaking out | 6 |
| Workforce development | 10 |
| Building strategic capacity | 14 |
| Managing waste and promoting resource recovery | 22 |
| Working with others | 26 |
| Financial Statements | 28 |
| Members' delegates to REROc | 43 |
| REROc member contact details | 44 |



REROC Chairman, Cr Rick Firman OAM with Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr MP (left) and Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Michael McCormack MP (right)

REROC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I'm proud to present my third annual Chairman's report for the previous 12 months.

To suggest we have had an extraordinarily busy year would be an understatement. The REROC Board or 'Family' - as we like to refer to it, have become, in my view, an even stronger and more united team.

Whilst we have been busy, we, as a 'Family', also continue to mourn the loss of our Senior Project Officer, Mrs Tracey Cornell. She was a crucial member of the REROC team, and we will ensure her memory lives on.

Among the major events this past year has been the establishment of the Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO), which commenced in October, 2018, establishing a strong voting Board of seven mayors supported by twelve non-voting Board members. The JO's Member Councils are Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart and Temora. Goldenfields Water & Riverina

Water County Councils are also non-voting Members of the RivJO Board and James Bolton from the NSW DPC also holds a non-voting position on the Board.

I was honoured to have been elected as the Inaugural (Independent) Chairman of that RivJO Board. The way we have split the work between our two organisations has operated well. We have also been mindful to ensure that Board members are not overly committed, in terms of workload. For our Chief Executive, Mrs Julie Briggs and staff, the same cannot be said. Both REROC & RivJO Boards are committed to an external, independent review process, which will take place in the first half of next year. This will assist in determining the way forward for both REROC & RivJO. JOs do have a long way to go, and, frankly, their future across the State seems to be on shaky ground. However, we remain committed to doing whatever we have to do to ensure we have a strong Riverina region.

I now note some of the multitude of REROC activities we have carried out over the past year;

- The State election dominated the landscape in early 2019. It was very pleasing that post-election a dedicated Local Government Minister was appointed. We're looking forward to working with the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP and her team, with several meetings already occurring on your behalf.
- We have continued our lobbying activities (through RivJO) and have continued to meet with Local MPs, to apprise them of our issues. We have also met with Ministers where appropriate. We met with Minister Stokes in June to discuss problems with the application of s7.12 contributions to State Significant Developments, particularly solar farms, and received a good hearing. We also recently met with Regional Transport & Roads Minister, The Hon. Paul Toole MP, regarding the 15,000km of roads the State wished to take back from local Councils. I'm pleased to advise Minister Toole is currently recruiting for a TaskForce, who will review the entire proposal, which we applaud.
- The Southern Lights Project, the largest roll out of smart LED lighting, by geographic area, in Australia, has also kept REROC busy, particularly our Chief Executive, Mrs Briggs. REROC took on the management of the project which covers 41 LGAs across southern and central NSW. The project finalised the procurement of new smart-ready LED lighting in early 2019 and then moved on to preparing the documentation for the procurement of the Smart Controller System that will enable the lights. Our goal is for Councils to use that System to deploy other Smart City devices. The tender for the Smart Controller System is expected to generate worldwide interest

and was released to the market in September. The first of the smart-ready LED lights will be deployed in Albury City in late 2019. The project is a collaboration between REROC, Central NSW Councils, RAMJO and CRJO and Broken Hill City Council. We're 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 and I applaud our Chief Executive, Mrs Briggs, and our staff for the tremendous time and effort they have put in to be where we are today.

- The *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* Campaign continues to impress, promoting better behaviours in householders when sorting their waste - reminding them that it's sorted by hand. The Campaign was Highly Commended at the 2018 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards. Well done to our late Mrs Cornell, Senior Project Officer, Mrs Kate Hardy and the team for putting in a great effort with this positive initiative.
- The NSW Public Lighting Code was finalised in late 2018. After more than a decade of lobbying, the new Code, commencing on 1 July 2019, will be mandatory. The Code is the set of rules by which Essential Energy and other street light providers have to abide by when delivering services. REROC has been involved in the preparation of the new Code for the last five years. This is most important because the Code is the only way Councils have of enforcing their rights in relation to the services they receive for street lighting. In the past, if service standards were not maintained under a voluntary Code there was little that could be done. Now, we have a Code which is tied to the lighting provider's licence provisions and IPART is monitoring their activities. Another fine achievement.

REROC Chairman, Cr Rick Firman OAM speaking at the 2019 No Time To Waste Conference





Minister for Local Government, Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, REROC Chairman, Cr Rick Firman OAM and Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, Hon. John Barilaro.

- Mr Marcus Wright, as our Regional Biodiversity Officer, provided our Member Councils with much needed assistance in dealing with the new Biodiversity Conservation Reform legislation. He worked closely with our planners to support them in their work and also arranged for training. In May, we ran a training session for all senior staff and councillors in Wagga Wagga to provide information on the legislation and its impact on Council operations. Mr Wright left in May to take a position with the OEHL and we thank him and wish him all the best for his future.
- We held the Mapped Out Conference in November 2018 which attracted people from across southern NSW and northern Victoria. In 2017, the Conference grew to two days, adding a day focused on the services and products provided by NSW Spatial Services. This has continued for 2019. This Conference provides a unique opportunity for Council officers - across our entire Region - to see the latest in service and technology developments in this fast growing area of expertise.
- We continued to undertake regional procurement activities extending our activities this year by collaborating with RAMJO on a liquid alum procurement and Central NSW JO on our electricity tender. I know this is appreciated by the REROC Board and the Councils we represent.
- We held the Local Government Energy and Innovation Conference in March, with the support of the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEHL). This was the third time that REROC has hosted this type of event that focuses on how councils can implement energy efficient initiatives to improve savings for our member councils and communities.
- We work hard on our genuine engagement with State agencies such as Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPC), Planning, Transport for NSW, Roads & Maritime Services (RMS), Department of Planning & Industry (DPI), OEHL, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the Office of Regional Development (ORD).
- Our very successful 'No Time to Waste Conference' was held in June, now attracting people from across NSW including Sydney. This year a Zoo came to the Conference, with Mr Tony Caon presenting from Werribee Zoo about the ways the Zoo is working to reduce waste and become the world's first zero emissions Zoo. This was most interesting for us all.
- 'Take Charge Riverina Leadership Forum' hit the road in 2018, with an outreach program. Workshops were held in Temora and Cootamundra, which were attended by 90 enthusiastic students. The workshops addressed issues such as mindfulness and dealing with adversity as well as how to "sell" yourself with a digital resume. This engagement with young people is undertaken with the goal of encouraging them to take leadership roles in our communities.
- We completed an upgrade of our 'Safe Sharps' website and its accompanying Apps (Applications). The site, which has almost 3,000 locations across Australia, allows sharps users, like diabetics, to find the nearest sharps disposal point.



Left: RERO Energy Forum, Right: RERO CEO Mrs Julie Briggs, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Hon. Rob Stokes MP, RERO Chairman, Cr Rick Firman OAM and Mr Steve Pinnuck, General Manager, Greater Hume Shire

This is a basic overview of the meetings, roles, conferences and events RERO undertakes. Everyone of us as a Board, as a Mayor, Councillor, Staff member and Citizen - can be very pleased about the genuine commitment we have to each other and our respective communities, through these activities.

Over the past 12 months, the Board have hosted several guest speakers. To each of those individuals, I say thank you for making time to be with us and share information which will assist to strengthen our Councils, and in turn, our Riverina region.

The Board, staff and I wish to express our thanks to our State Members, for all their assistance during the past year. Ms Steph Cooke MP (Member for Cootamundra), Dr Joe McGirr MP (Member for Wagga Wagga) and newly elected MP, Mr Justin Clancy (Member for Albury). We also acknowledge the now retired Member for Albury, Mr Greg Aplin. Mr Aplin was a good friend of RERO's and we wish him well in his retirement. The RERO Board look forward to holding a meeting in State Parliament House, hopefully, during the first quarter of 2020.

We also salute our Federal Member for Riverina, the Hon. Michael McCormack MP. Deputy Prime Minister McCormack and his staff have been a solid support to RERO and we are grateful for the opportunity of hosting our RERO Board annually, in Canberra's Parliament House. It is crucial that we meet our Ministers, MPs & Advisors on their 'home turf', as much as it is for them to meet with us on ours.

The Board acknowledges our Regional Director for DPC, Mr James Bolton. His quiet support and counsel - in and out of the Board room - has been most appreciated.

It's appropriate to note RERO's regret that two of our foundation member Councils, Wagga Wagga City and Snowy Valleys, chose to resign their membership this year. This was met with obvious disappointment at losing members of the 'Family', however, we wish them well and continue to work with both, wherever possible and appropriate.

I take this opportunity to thank our RERO Executive Committee. The Executive, comprises myself as Chairman, RERO Deputy Chairman, Mayor Neil Smith (Junee Shire), Mayor Abb McAllister (Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional), Mayor Rodger Schirmer (Lockhart Shire), General Managers in Messrs Tony Donoghue (Coolamon Shire), Steven Pinnuck (Greater Hume Shire) and Ray Smith (Bland Shire). The extra commitment of meeting each month is a significant effort. These individuals give their all to the RERO Board and our members, which is very much appreciated.

A sincere thank you to our dedicated RERO Treasurer, Mr Tony Donoghue (Coolamon Shire), together with his assistant, Mrs Courtney Armstrong. Their contributions have been invaluable and our entire Board thank them for all they do.

On behalf of the RERO Board and our Member Councils, I formally acknowledge the efforts given to us by our Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Julie Briggs. Mrs Briggs is a remarkable lady and one who has earned respect from right across NSW. Her genuine belief in our Member Councils, our communities and our Riverina region is most inspiring. The Board warmly thanks Mrs Briggs for committing a major part of her life to us.

The Board also acknowledges our other RERO team members, in particular Mrs Kate Hardy, Mrs Claire Garrett and Miss Anneke Gehrmann, they are very capable and care deeply about the communities that make our RERO region.

Finally, I extend a vote of thanks to the Board Members of RERO. It is a very real privilege to serve as your Chairman. I feel blessed to work beside you all to further enhance our Councils and communities we proudly serve. With your continued vision, dedication and friendship I know the Riverina region will continue to be one of the strongest in Australia.

Thank you very much.

Cr. R. B. Firman OAM
Chairman

SPEAKING OUT

This year saw a change to REROC's traditional role in advocacy and lobbying with the commencement of the Riverina Joint Organisation.

The Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO), is a new entity created by the State government to support collaboration between councils. In 2018-19 REROC and the RivJO shared the same Member Councils, with the exception of Wagga Wagga City and Snowy Valleys who did not join the RivJO.

Joint Organisations, established under the NSW Local Government Act, have three core functions:

- Establish strategic regional priorities and develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities

- Provide regional leadership and be an advocate for strategic regional priorities
- Identify and take up opportunities for inter-governmental cooperation on matters relating to the joint Organisation area.

The Board resolved that with the commencement of the RivJO in October 2019 that REROC's advocacy and lobbying role would transfer to the JO while REROC would continue to pursue operational matters.

Therefore, this year has seen a combination of REROC and RivJO activities in the advocacy and lobbying area.

Section 7.12 Contributions to State Significant Developments

At the August 2018 Planners' Technical Committee meeting the planners identified a process whereby Development Consents for State Significant Developments issued by Department of Planning and Environment did not require the payment of Section 7.12 (the previous s94A) contributions. It was agreed that this was a significant issue because of the increasing number of large solar farms that are being built across southern NSW. The failure to require the payment of s7.12 contributions is costing councils millions of dollars in lost revenue.

REROC wrote to the then Minister for Planning, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP about the issue, requesting that the Planning Commission be directed to adhere to an individual council's planning policies and apply the s7.12 contribution where a council had that policy in place. A meeting with Ministerial advisors followed in late 2018, with a promise that the matter would be looked at.

Following the 2019 State election we wrote to the newly appointed Planning Minister, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, this time as the JO. We met with the Minister in early June to discuss the problem, advising that s7.12 contributions are vitally important to rural and regional councils as they provide a revenue stream that assists in the maintenance and renewal of community infrastructure. While solar farms provide job outcomes during the relatively short construction phase, once operational they require very few workers, consequently the economic benefits that flow to

local communities from these developments are short-lived.

We also pointed out that in our Region they are occupying prime agricultural land; therefore our communities are losing the work opportunities that the functioning farms which previously occupied the land generated. Consequently it is not just on-farm work that is lost, but also the work generated for transport operators, grain merchants, agricultural supply and machinery businesses as well as general retail and hospitality businesses.

The Minister was keen to resolve the issue and we agreed that perhaps the best way forward might be to adopt a scaled approach to the imposition of the contributions. We continue to work on the issue.

Mandatory Webcasting of Council Meetings

This issue has caused a great deal of concern for many of our Member Councils. Our Members have questioned the cost-benefit of the requirement which had to be in place by the second half of 2019. Member Councils were very concerned that it would also impact on their ability to move meetings to rural halls and other venues outside their council chambers.

We took the issue to the Minister for Local Government; however the State Government is committed to the approach, stating that it provides greater transparency and accessibility. The Minister was keen however to ensure that councils adopted the lowest cost method of meeting the requirements, which included sound recording the meeting and uploading it later to the council's website.

AER Determination of Street Lighting Pricing

We, together with the other Southern Lights partners, participated in the consultations for the Australian Energy Regulator's price determination on street lighting. The AER Determination was for the 2019-2024 period with consultations ramping up in the second half of 2018. Essential Energy, in response to concerns about their initial pricing proposal for public lighting, established a consultative group to discuss their submission to the AER. REROc had raised concerns in our AER submission on three key issues:

1. Very high cost of overheads;
2. LED Maintenance Price; and
3. A proposal to include the cost of removing old supply lines from the poles. We believed that the cost of this work is met through Distribution Network Charges not the SLUOS.

Meetings continued throughout late 2018 and early 2019 with Southern Lights an active participant in the negotiations, working with Essential Energy to identify savings that could be passed through to councils.

As a result of that work council street lighting charges should decline by an estimated \$7 million (about 1/3) per annum from 1 July 2019 with about 50% of this flowing to Southern Lights NSW member councils as recurrent savings.

Impact of the Increase in the Emergency Services Levy (ESL)

In June without any suitable forewarning, which would have allowed councils to undertake appropriate financial planning, we were advised that the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) to be levied for the 2019/20 Financial Year would be between 23%-28% higher than the ESL that was paid by councils for the 2018/19 Financial Year.

We crunched the numbers looking to see what the impact would be on our Member Councils and were shocked to find that the increased Levy would soak up between 42%-63% of the total revenues raised by our Member Councils through the 2019/20 rate peg. Regionally, of the \$990,243 in additional income raised through the rate peg, \$485,498 was to be paid out in ESL, leaving our Member Councils with budgets which no longer balanced.

We wrote to the Premier and Minister for Local Government, Hon Shelly Hancock MP to express our strong concerns, particularly as the Levy increase was announced after council budgets had been completed. The Government passed legislation in December 2018 aimed at addressing workers' compensation issues for Emergency Services staff and volunteers. Councils received a Notice from the Office of Local Government (OLG) dated 6 May 2019 advising that there would be additional costs but not stating the quantum of those costs.

The advice in June was met with opposition across the sector with LGNSW estimating the total additional cost to local government would be \$19 million. In August, in response to the across the board opposition from local government, the NSW Government announced that it would contribute \$14 million towards the cost increase. However, we are very aware that this was a one-off payment and that councils will be required to find the additional funding in the 2020/21 Financial Year.

REROc Board Meeting, Wagga Wagga, April 2019





Left: REROC CEO Julie Briggs. Centre: NSW Police District Commander, Superintendent Bob Noble speaks at a Board meeting. Right: REROC Strategy planning workshop

NHVR Removal of Delegations from Local Government

In August 2018 the REROC Infrastructure/Engineers' Technical Group alerted us to a decision by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) to remove the delegation from local councils to deal with approvals for oversize and overmass vehicles to use roads for which councils are the road authority.

The Engineers advised that, as a result, a council would now have to seek approval for its own oversize or overmass vehicles to access one of its council roads and pay a fee to do so. Once the NHVR received the application it would send it back to the council, in its capacity as the road authority, for approval. The council, as the road authority, would then be required to approve its own application and return the approval to the NHVR. The NHVR would then issue the official approval for the council to use the road - an exercise where process trumps outcome.

In addition, we were also advised that the new arrangement was likely to cause problems for the farming community, particularly during harvest and other peak times, when farmers often seek fast approval turnarounds to facilitate the movement of machinery and equipment.

We wrote to the then Minister Roads, Hon Melinda Pavey MP and the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Michael McCormack MP seeking assistance with the issue, however the matter remains unresolved.

Rate Pegging

We continue to monitor IPART's approach to the compilation of the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). For example in a year when the ESL rose by 25%, IPART only allowed for a 2% increase when it calculated the LGCI. The LGCI is the measure that IPART uses to determine the annual rate peg.

Our Member Councils have also resolved to advocate for councils to be permitted to raise their rates by up to 3% above the rate peg without seeking a Special Rate Variation. This stance is in keeping with the recommendations of the Samson Report but also recognises that the LGCI is based on a Business As Usual approach to service delivery and takes no account of the requirement for councils to implement initiatives identified in their Community Strategic Plans.

NSW Public Lighting Code

REROC has for many years lobbied for the NSW Public Lighting Code to be replaced with a mandatory regime. The Code is the only avenue by which road authorities can hold Distribution Network Service Provider's (DNSPs) like Essential Energy accountable for the undertakings they give to the Australian Energy Regulatory about the services that will be provided for street lighting.

Last year REROC continued lobbying for a mandatory Code through its involvement with Southern Lights NSW. Southern Lights was the only party from regional NSW involved in the Departmental consultations on the NSW Public Lighting Code. A compromise position was successfully negotiated by Southern Lights NSW with Essential Energy on key items such as repair times and penalties, which led to the Department agreeing to mandate the Code as a condition on the DNSP's licence. IPART has the responsibility of policing it, the DNSPs must now report to IPART on an annual basis.

The Code will, for the first time, see legally defined service levels for street lighting in NSW with maximum repair times, higher penalties, mandatory reporting and a greater council say over technology choice. A valuable lesson in never giving up!

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

We participated in consultations for the new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and strongly advocated for the inclusion of a dispute resolution mechanism and for councils to be able to access funding for mitigation works.

Our Member Councils continue to believe that it is imperative that the DRFA include "circuit breaker" arrangements that can be applied when the RMS and a council cannot agree on the cost of repairs. We also believe that the requirement for infrastructure to be returned to the exact same condition that it was in prior to the disaster occurring is very poor use of public funds. Our Members believe that where there is a sound business case for mitigation works to be carried out so that the infrastructure does not incur the same damage during the next disaster, then those works should be carried out instead of just repairs.

The DRFA is due for a review after its first year of operation, we will ensure that we feed into this review process to again press our case for the inclusion of the above items.

New Speed Restrictions while Passing Emergency Vehicles

Early in 2019 we wrote to the Minister for Regional Roads, Hon Paul Toole MP to raise our Members' concerns about the Trial that NSW Government had introduced requiring motorists to slow down to 40kms when passing a stationary emergency vehicle displaying blue and red flashing lights.

While our Members appreciated that the arrangements were introduced to improve workplace safety for emergency services' workers, we believed that it created safety issues for those that were required to immediately slow to 40kms. Our Members reported instances where passing motorists were "hitting the brakes" when they saw flashing lights and that the sudden, unexpected and substantial slowing of vehicles was creating a driving hazard for others on the road. This was particularly an issue on highways and regional roads where the speed limit is 110kms or 100kms an hour.

Our Members remained unconvinced that the application of a hard "40kms per hour" speed limit was the most effective way to create a safer working environment for emergency service workers. Our Members strongly supported a directive that required motorists to "slow down and move over safely" as being a more positive approach to the issue.

In a meeting with the Minister in October 2019, he was keen to advise that he had just released a directive that the requirement to slow down to 40kms would only be for roads where the speed limit was 80kms or less, in all other cases drivers are required to proceed with care.

Transition of Regional Roads to State Ownership

During the 2019 State Election, the Deputy Premier, Hon John Barilaro MP, promised that the Government would look at transferring some Regional Roads to State Government ownership.

While Regional Roads create a burden for councils, mainly through the fact that their depreciation must be shown in the Financial Statements, the repairs and maintenance of the roads provide much needed jobs for rural and regional communities. There is concern within the local government sector that the transfer of the roads will result in substantial job losses for councils.

Our Member Councils are very watchful of this development and we have written to and met with the Minister for Regional Roads, Hon Paul Toole to discuss our concerns.

Over the last 12 months the Board has heard from a number of experts presenting on issues that are of concern to the Member Councils and the communities they represent.

Clay Preshaw, the Director of Resource and Energy Assessment with the Department of Planning and Environment spoke about solar farms and the application of s7.12 contributions

Superintendent Bob Noble, NSW Police District Commander for Riverina spoke about issues relating to community safety in our Region

Matt Berger, Principal Analyst and Manager from Department of Planning and Environment's Housing and Population Insights spoke about collecting and analysing population data for the Region

Melinda Hillary, Senior Project Officer, Regional Preparedness, Climate Change and Sustainability Division, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment spoke about the Adapt NSW initiative.

James Bolton, Director Riverina Murray, DPC Regional, James is an Associate Member of both Boards. At each Board meeting James provides the Members with updates on matters relating to the delivery of State government services in our Region and beyond.

Meetings with State and Federal Members of Parliament

REROC continued to seek opportunities to engage with State and Federal Members of Parliament. We attempted to keep our local members in the loop by ensuring that they received copies of all the correspondence that was sent to Ministers, the Deputy Premier and the Premier.

We thank our local State representatives for their support over the last 12 months: Dr Joe McGirr (Member for Wagga Wagga), Justin Clancy (Member for Albury) and Greg Aplin the former Member for Albury, Steph Cooke (Member for Cootamundra) as well as MLCs the Hon Bronnie Taylor (former Parliamentary Secretary for Southern NSW) and Hon Wes Fang.

We also stayed in contact with our Federal Members Hon Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister and Member for Riverina and the Hon Sussan Ley, Member for Albury and Minister for the Environment about Federal issues such as Mobile Phone Blackspots and Roads to Recovery funding.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting and developing Member Council workforces is an important aspect of the activities that REROC undertakes. Councils in regional areas are either the largest or one of the largest employers in their LGA, employing everyone from labourers to highly specialised personnel like town planners, surveyors, librarians, accountants, engineers and of course general managers. Consequently, REROC actively engages in ways that we can provide

opportunities to enhance professional development and support staff in their work.

Councillors are also an important part of the professional make-up of councils and consequently are encouraged to attend REROC Conferences and Forums. We also look for opportunities to design and conduct training activities specifically for councillors.

No Time to Waste Conference 2019

REROC's annual Rural & Regional Waste Management Conference *No Time to Waste* attracted almost 100 attendees drawn from across NSW and northern Victoria and was held in Wagga Wagga at the Rules Club on Wednesday 5 June.

In its tenth year, the 2019 conference provided an exciting line-up of speakers who informed and inspired attendees with projects and approaches that addressed a wide variety of waste avoidance and resource recovery issues.

This year, the Zoo came to Wagga Wagga with Tony Caon from Werribee Zoo, part of Zoos Victoria, taking the keynote speaker spot at the Conference. Mr Caon spoke about how waste is managed at Victoria's largest free range zoo and also talked about the activities it is implementing to become the world's first carbon neutral zoo. The Zoo faces numerous challenges dealing with waste and resource recovery, however how the Zoo deals with processing tonnes and tonnes of rhinoceros poo certainly stole the show!

The Circular Economy was in the spotlight when Dr Farshid Pahlevani from SMaRT Centre at the University of NSW gave a talk on how we can transform Australia's resource recovery industry by equipping it with an advanced manufacturing capability, focusing on small-scale manufacturing of materials recovered from waste.

Other speakers on the day covered a wide variety of topics: the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) 20 Year Waste Strategy, Asbestos Management, Albury City Council's Upcycle Shop, Lockhart Shire Council's glass in road base project, Downer Australia's Reconomy projects, the new Safe Sharps website and apps and data collection at regional landfills.

The Conference also showcased a variety of trade stands, we had representations from Tarpomatic, Kurrajong Recycling, IMMIX Integrated Metal Management, NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Flip Screen, Leonards Advertising, Drum Muster, Source Separations Systems, Recovered Energy Australia and the SMaRT Centre @ UNSW Sydney.

The Conference facilitates professional development for people working in waste avoidance and resource recovery in rural and regional areas as well as providing a valued platform to develop relationships with others working in the same field.

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 new REROC Waste Forum website waste.reroc.com.au

No Time to Waste Conference 2019



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, it is one of the few significant professional development activities run in regional NSW for people 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 as well as catchup on the latest technological innovations in the field.

The 2018 conference was held on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 November at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga. In 2017 for the first time we added a second day which was devoted to presentations from NSW Spatial Services, this proved so successful that it was again included in 2018 program.

Over 80 people attended the first day with many staying on for the second day. Once again we focussed on getting a broad range of speakers who were able to demonstrate the practical ways in which spatial data and mapping are being used to increase service efficiencies, deliver new initiatives and identify needs and gaps.

Michael Lean's opening address about the way that the Riverina LLS is using remote sensing and mapping to track wild dogs in the Kosciuszko National Park and feral pig movements in the western NSW, demonstrated the efficiencies that can be gained in controlling feral animals using spatial data.

This was followed by an address from Marcus Wright our Regional Biodiversity Officer who spoke about GIS and Biodiversity Reform. Other speakers on the day included Ben Nicholson from the Department of Planning and Environment who spoke about Next Generation Data Delivery, Jenny Levy from Benalla Rural City Council who talked about Using a Collaborative Approach to Spatial Capabilities to Identify and Improve Access to Healthy Food with Families and Children. Steve Forbes from ACT Emergency Services Agency spoke about Current Developments for Spatial Data in Emergency Services.

Mapped Out started in 2005 as a celebration of World GIS Day and has continued each year since, providing a much needed, localised professional development opportunity for local government and state agencies as well as others working in the field.

Presentations from the event can be downloaded from the REROC website at www.reroc.com.au

2018 Mapped Out conference



Local Government Energy and Innovation Conference

This was the third time that REROC had organised an event focusing on the energy and innovation for local government. We partnered with the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Riverina Joint Organisation to deliver the Conference which was held in March 2019.

Setting the tone for the day, Dean Lynch, Relations Manager for Snowy 2.0 spoke about the project and its innovative approach to Powering the Energy Future. Kylie Walker, Regional Energy Co-ordinator with OEH gave an overview of the projects and activities that were already underway in the Riverina-Murray region.

Matthew Dudley from Albury City Council spoke about how his Council had developed an Energy Management Framework while Jason Ip spoke about Energy Management at Riverina Water. Innovative was again in the spotlight when Edward Maher from CSU Green talked about CSU's Large Scale Rooftop Solar project and David Webb, Director of Engineering at Lockhart Shire spoke about the Lockhart Shire Micro-grid project.

Tony Donoghue, General Manager at Coolamon Shire and James Davis, GM at Junee Shire talked about Councils Working in Partnership with their Communities on Energy Management. Other topics covered included Generating Revenue through ESCs, Solar PPAs and the Southern Lights NSW project which will see 75,000 public lights replaced by LEDs over the next 3 years.

Presentations from the event can be downloaded from the REROC website at www.reroc.com.au

Marcus Wright presents at the Biodiversity Conservation Reforms Workshop



Intensive Agricultural Development: Planners' Workshop

At the end of September 2018, REROC held a very successful one-day event for town planners from the Riverina-Murray Region. The workshop focused on Intensive Agriculture developments, which is a significant issue for planners. The REROC Planners' Group members agreed that Workshop on the issue would benefit their professional development.

REROC extended an invitation to the RAMJO planners to attend which was taken up by a number of their member councils. 18 planners attended representing 13 LGAs across the Riverina-Murray.

Lilian Parker, Manager Agricultural Landuse Planning with the NSW Department of Agriculture arranged for 5 DPI guest speakers to attend. Each speaker was a specialist in their field. The speakers addressed the specific intensive agriculture streams of poultry, pigs, livestock and horticulture. In addition Tim Archer, Team Leader, Strategic Frameworks Policy and Strategy with the Department of Planning and Environment attended to speak about planning issues in relation to intensive developments.

Marcus Wright, the Riverina-Murray Biodiversity Officer attended to provide an insight on how the new conservation reform legislation impacted on developments. A feature of the day was the Panel Discussion that took place at the days' conclusion where the speakers undertook a Q&A that covered a broad range of topics.

The day was such a success that it was agreed that the Planners' Workshop should become an annual event with the REROC Planners' Group determining the agenda and focus areas for the day.

Biodiversity Conservation Reforms Workshop

This workshop was held in May 2019 for Councillors, General Managers, Engineers and Town Planners to address the new Biodiversity Conservation Reform legislative framework.

Marcus Wright, our Regional Biodiversity Conservation Reforms Project Officer, provided attendees with an overview of the legislation and how it could impact on council operations. The Workshop was requested by members, as they agreed that they needed to develop a more in-depth understanding of the reform legislation and its impacts.



Students construct their bridge at Build a Bridge... & get over it! Camp, August 2018.

Build a Bridge and Get Over it.

REROC in partnership with the regional career development organisation, COMPACT Inc. held its 12th *Build A Bridge...& get over it!* Engineering Camp on the 20-22 August 2018. Sponsored once again by IPWEA (NSW) and REROC the Camp hosted 24 students from schools in Wagga Wagga, Cootamundra, Gundagai, Tumut, Temora, West Wyalong and Culcairn.

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.

Throughout the Camp students were engaged in a journey exploring key engineering concepts from design and development, to completion of bridge construction. The students were mentored by both camp facilitator Nigel and engineers from the REROC Member Councils and from the RMS throughout the 3 days.

Build a Bridge combines hands-on practical work with theory to build an understanding of engineering. Allocated into teams, students participated in practical activities, working alongside the engineer mentors, teaching Engineering basics such as: Laser levels, Soil Compaction testing, Forces in equilibrium and Spatial coordinates. Each team was required to design a bridge that would span a running creek in the grounds of the Borambola Sport and Recreation facility. At the completion of the design phase, students presented their designs to Engineers and their peers who chose the winning design. On the final day of the camp the winning design was constructed over a running creek at Borambola by the students.



BUILDING STRATEGIC CAPACITY

Working together to create economies of scale and scope has always been one of REROC's core purposes. It is not only the procurement activities that we pursue but also the opportunities that we generate to solve problems together, to develop shared intellectual property and to seek and implement regional solutions for local problems.

Our continued collaboration on the Southern Lights NSW project with RAMJO, CNSWJO, CRJO and Broken Hill City Council has taken those activities to a new level. It is the most ambitious project that REROC has ever taken a lead role in, and will result in significant savings and benefits for the 41 councils that are part of the project.

This year REROC also made the decision to join CNSWJO in an aggregated procurement for retail electricity and

to bring RAMJO into our aggregated procurement for liquid alum. These cross-regional collaborations generate additional benefits for our Member Councils by increasing the scale of aggregated procurements and in doing so reduce costs for all.

We continue to seek opportunities to work with State agencies on mutually beneficial projects, working 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

Southern Lights NSW

Southern Lights NSW is an enabling infrastructure project designed to deliver better, safer, cheaper lighting and smarter, connected communities. Not only will lighting levels be improved, the project will provide significant connectivity benefits to regional and rural communities across southern NSW from Bega to Broken Hill. It is the largest project that REROC has ever embarked upon and one which we provide the day-to-day project management for.

The project will see one of the largest deployments of smart-enabled LED lighting in Australia, with over 75,000 LED street lights deployed across a geographic area that is approximately the same size as the United Kingdom.

Covering 41 Local Government Areas, the Southern Lights project is evidence of the capacity for local government to collaborate for innovation. Southern Lights' Project Partners are REROC the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO), Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO), Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) and Broken Hill City Council.

The Project Partners are working very closely with Essential Energy, the Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP) for the Southern Lights' Region. This close working relationship is pivotal to the successful delivery of the project. REROC provides the day-to-day management of the project, constantly liaising with the project partners

and individual councils, preparing correspondence and other support materials, arranging meetings as well as preparing the business case. In September 2018 REROC ran an EoI for Smart Controller Systems to test the market's appetite for providing communications solutions that would support smart LED lighting. This information was used to prepare the final business case for the project.

REROC and Next Energy, consultants for the Southern Lights' Group worked closely with Essential Energy on the preparation of a robust Business Case that demonstrates the return on investment for the project for each participating council. This was provided to the NSW Government in October 2018. We had hoped for some funding assistance towards the project, based on the strong case that was presented, however we learned in June 2019 that funding was not available.

Southern Lights representatives and Next Energy also worked closely with Essential Energy on the preparation and evaluation of the tender for the procurement of smart LED lighting and the preparation of the tender specifications for the communications backbone that will support the delivery of smart lighting.

After much planning and negotiating the first of the new smart-ready LED street lights will be deployed in Albury City's LGA commencing in late 2019. The deployment is expected to take about 3 months. Following Albury City, the next lights to be deployed will be in the City of Bathurst, then Orange City and Wagga Wagga City with others to follow.

We anticipate that by early to mid 2020 over 27,000 smart-ready LED lights will be operating in the Southern Lights NSW Region. The new LED lighting is expected to reduce energy consumption by up to 57% and dramatically reduce the maintenance costs, generating substantial savings for councils. In addition, the project on completion will reduce CO² emissions by approximately 19,500 tonnes per year.

Meetings are held on a monthly basis to inform the project and develop the pathway forward. The Southern Lights representatives, ensure that the needs of local government are paramount in the decision-making process. Most if not all of the outcomes, processes, procedures and technology choices that have been made over the almost 3 years the project has been running will be of benefit to every council in Essential Energy's footprint.

The inclusion of a communications backbone to enable the LED lights to "talk" to a Central Management System, means that every participating council will be able to see how their lights are performing. They will also have access to communications that can be utilised to deploy other Smart City devices, like flood sensors, bin sensors and parking sensors. Some of the lights will also include Zhaga ports that can be enabled to provide environmental sensing that can monitor for smoke, climate and noise. Councils will be able to choose what Smart City devices they want to use in their communities and make third-party arrangements for their use.

More information on the project can be found at www.southernlightsnsw.org.au.

Regional Biodiversity Support Officer

The Office of Environment and Heritage partially funded the employment of a Regional Biodiversity Conservation Reforms Support Officer. The project commenced in February 2018, with the employment of Marcus Wright into the position, and encompassed 22 REROC and RAMROC Member Councils.

Marcus worked closely with all 22 councils that make up the Region completing an analysis of the assistance that council planning and environmental staff needed to meet local government's obligations under the legislation, running training sessions and attending meetings of planners. Marcus also provided councils with direct advice on the biodiversity regulations to support staff in processing of planning applications.

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

We wanted to ensure that as a result of the project permanent resource materials would be available for councils and the public to assist them in dealing with the biodiversity legislation. Materials were prepared by Marcus and reviewed by experienced biodiversity practitioners for uploading to the REROC website. The materials, in the

form of flowcharts and information sheets, will provide guidance to both the public and councils, with council-directed information available through a password-protected portal on the site.

In early May, REROC also hosted a very successful workshop on Biodiversity Conservation reform and its impact on council operations and agricultural enterprises. The workshop was attended by mayors, General Managers and engineers as well as planning staff from across the Riverina-Murray Region. As the project due to finish in August 2019 a survey of the participating councils was undertaken in May to determine what further training should be undertaken to improve their understanding of the legislation.

Unfortunately, Marcus finished up with the project in May 2019, taking a new position with the OEH. We had hoped to quickly fill the position to allow the project to continue, as it had secured additional funding to allow it to continue until February 2020. Unfortunately, the position has not been filled and instead we are looking to arrange training for staff based on the responses to the survey.

REROC thanks Marcus for his commitment to the work and his enthusiastic approach to engaging with the participating councils to help them come to grips with the new legislation.



2018 Transport Forum and 2019 Biodiversity Reform Workshop

Transport Forum

The Forum was held on Thursday 29 November 2018. The speakers attending were as follows:

- » Tim Hansen, Stakeholder Specialist, NHVR;
- » Shane Sykes, Inland Rail Regional Liaison Officer, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities; and
- » Brendon Reynolds, Manager of Freight Industry Partnerships, Transport for NSW

The Forum aimed to address a number of issues identified by the Infrastructure/Engineers' Group and with a good cross-section of General Managers, engineers, planners and one councillor in attendance discussion was robust.

The NHVR dealt in some detail with problems with the delegation and approvals process and with Chain of Responsibility.

Shane Sykes provided an update on the Inland Rail, its focus on economic development and the establishment of distribution centres based around rail hubs. He stressed that the focus of the Inland Rail is about internal, domestic freight transport not export products. Therefore a large part of the project will be picking up and dropping off regional freight.

Brendon Reynolds spoke about the Freight and Ports Strategy, the Heavy Vehicle Access Policy and the way that Transport for NSW is trying to leverage opportunities generated by Inland Rail by focusing on east-west connectivity.

We are looking at making the Forum an annual event, in the same way as the Planners' Workshop is.

Contaminated Land Regional Project Officer

REROC was fortunate to receive funding from the EPA to engage a regional project officer to work in Contaminated Land and to assist councils with the transition to the management of Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS). Unfortunately the recruitment process that ran in May and June did not result in the selection of a person to run the project.

The recruitment process is continuing.

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 with the goal of building 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 www.reroc.giscloud.com.

The Plan has provided a foundation upon which Member Councils have been able to apply for funding particularly through Fixing Country Roads. The first Plan was released in 2014 just before the announcement of Fixing Country Roads, we have updated the Plan every two years since then. It is a living document and one which REROC is very proud of.

Collaborative Procurement

The REROC Member Councils have continued to collaborate on procurements and this year have extended our activities to including RAMJO and the Central NSW JO as well as running procurement activities on behalf of the Southern Lights project.

Our Member Councils place a very high value on these group purchasing activities. Regional procurements, not only save council's time and money through the use of a single set of procurement documents, they also generate savings by harnessing the economies of scale created through larger procurements.

We have continued to use the eProcure online procurement system which has improved the efficiency of the process.

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

Expression of Interest for Smart Control Systems - Southern Lights

In second half of 2018, on behalf of the Southern Lights NSW Group, we prepared an EoI for Smart Control Systems for LED street lighting. This was a very important procurement exercise because it was intended to demonstrate whether or not the proposed 75,000 smart-ready LED lights could in fact be connected with a communications system.

Southern Lights and our partners Essential Energy were concerned that we were proposing to deliver a service that in fact could not be supported by current technologies, particularly in remote and rural areas of NSW. Extensive documentation was prepared for the EoI, with Essential Energy also providing suppliers with information on their assets to enable suppliers to model their solutions.

The EOI was extremely successful, attracting interest worldwide. It clearly demonstrated that there were a number of technologies that would support the deployment of smart-enabled LED street lighting. The information gained through the EoI process also informed the development of the full Business Case which was delivered to the NSW Government in October 2018.

Waste Metal Collection

REROC has been arranging for the collection of waste metal for its Member Councils for 15 years, the procurement has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in income for the participating councils, turning waste into a resource and helping councils offset the costs associated with operating landfills. This year almost 2,500 tonnes of waste metal was collected for recycling.

Liquid Alum Group Purchase

This product is used by water authorities. It was agreed in June that REROC would invite RAMJO to participate in the next round of procurement for this product. The current contract ended in August 2018 and the addition of the RAMJO councils increases the buying capacity for all councils as well as increasing the attractiveness of the procurement for suppliers.

Collection of Household Hazardous Waste

The Household Hazardous Waste collection (Chemical CleanOut) is held by the REROC Waste Forum every 2 years. This year the Cleanout was held in May. Prior to the commencement of the CleanOut, REROC goes out to tender for a service provider who will set up collection sites in each LGA and collect the chemicals and dispose of them in an environmentally sensitive way.

Expression of Interest for Energy Saving Certificate Accredited Providers

This need was identified by the Water and Wastewater Technical Group. Councils when they install energy efficient infrastructure to replace old inefficient machinery are able to generate Energy Savings Certificates (ESCs) to help offset the cost. Prior to implementing new energy efficient infrastructure however, a council must have appointed an Accredited Provider who is able to generate ESCs. REROC went to EoI to identify accredited providers who were willing and able to work in regional areas, generating a list of options for councils to choose from.

Retail Electricity Tender

The process commenced for a new retail electricity tender in June 2018. We are working closely with Central NSW JO on this procurement of electricity for large and small sites as well as street lighting.

Request for Tender (RFT) for the Construction of Ardlethan Sewerage Scheme on behalf of Coolamon Shire Council

This was the first time that we had provided assistance to a Member Council to run a procurement. Using our on-line procurement platform we successfully worked with Coolamon Shire to deliver the RFT.

Collaborating Operationally

REROC has a number of Technical Groups that operate as sub-committees. Most of the Groups meet every second month, however some meet every 3 months. The committees draw their membership from Member Councils' operational staff. 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.

This year we have formally extended the membership of both the Planning Technical Committee and the Energy Management Group with representatives from relevant NSW Government agencies. The Planning Technical Committee now has representatives from the Department of Planning and from Primary Industries as members while the Energy Group has been joined with representatives from the Office of Environment and Heritage. The Infrastructure/Engineers' Sub-committee has always included a representative from the NSW RMS.

The Groups often identify issues that require a lobbying or advocacy response, with the commencement of the Riverina JO and its adoption of these activities on behalf of the Region, the Riverina JO now also has a representative General Manager appointed to each of the Groups. It is the representative's responsibility to report on the activities of the Group to the JO Board and bring forward any issues that require a JO response.

Infrastructure/Engineers' Sub-committee

The Committee considers major infrastructure issues in the Region and is primarily responsible for the delivery of the REROC Regional Freight Transport Plan. The sub-committee also addresses specific issues that arise from the engineering functions within our Member Councils.

The Committee considers issues relating to freight transport, roads, as well as other infrastructure issues like mobile phone connectivity. This is often addressed by guest speakers and this year heard from Ron Dillon, Senior Mine Safety Officer with the Department of Planning and the NHVR on heavy vehicle regulation.

The Committee meets in Coolamon, once every three months and is chaired by Coolamon Shire Council's General Manager, Tony Donoghue.



Gail Fuller, RivSig Member presents at RivSig Mapped Out Conference

REROC Waste Forum

The Waste Forum is our longest running technical group, it was first established in 1998. 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. The funding enables the Forum to deliver a wide variety of programs in waste management and resource recovery.

The Forum is chaired by Coolamon Shire Council General Manager, Tony Donoghue. The Group meets on a bi-monthly basis and its activities are showcased in the section Managing Waste, Promoting Resource Recovery and Environmental Sustainability. The Forum is also a member of RENEW NSW.

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 has been ably chaired by Laurie Thiele from Wagga Wagga City Council for almost a decade.

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. The Group decided to meet in different locations around the Riverina-Murray region this year to reflect its diverse membership.

Planning Technical Committee

This Committee made up of staff involved in the planning area and 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.

The Committee also provides responses to draft planning documentation and draft SEPPs and regional plans prepared by the State.

It is responsible for the agenda on the annual Planners' Workshop which brings together planners from across the Riverina-Murray Region. The committee has regularly met with representatives from the Department of Planning and from the Department of Primary Industries and this year made the decision to invite representatives from both departments to become permanent members of the Committee.

Youth and Community Development Network

The RERO Youth & Community Development Network brings together council staff working with youth and community development in the RERO 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 Forum.

Energy Management Group

This is a new Group that commenced this year. The catalyst for its formation arose primarily through on-going discussions in the Water and Wastewater Group about energy efficiency measures. The Groups' activities will fall into the following areas:

- » **Off the Grid** – projects and aggregated procurements that develop energy independence
- » **On the Grid** – projects and aggregated procurements that address energy efficiency and energy management
- » **Energy Production** – projects and aggregated procurements that target production of energy for local government and/or the community
- » **Community Programs/Initiatives** – projects that promote positive energy outcomes for the communities that the Member Councils represent
- » **Advocacy and Lobbying** – responding to what is happening in the energy space and providing advice to the RERO Board and the Riverina JO Board.

The Group meets every 2 months and looks at ways in which energy efficiency initiatives can be progressed in the councils. The OEH attends the meetings providing great information on programs that the State is delivering. One of the first projects that the Groups is pursuing is rationalising very small electricity sites.

Water and Waste Water Technical Committee

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

The Committee comes together to discuss issues that specifically relate to delivering water and waste water services. Members share knowledge about their activities and share ways in which they have addressed and resolved issues. This year we have considered a variety of issues including looking at meeting Best Practice, meeting Integrated Water Cycle Management guidelines, developing a Regional Infrastructure Demand Study and the procurement of a 5 year rolling cycle inspection regime for sewers.

Workforce Development Sub-committee

This Committee meets on a quarterly basis to address issues that relate to Member Councils' 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.

Collaborating with Communities

What a busy year it has been for REROC and the Youth and Community Development Network with the delivery of a number of local workshops across the Region enabling local government once again to play a vital role in strengthening and connecting our communities. We have had a great year working collaboratively with councils, services and schools to deliver an inspiring program for young people living in the eastern Riverina.

Take Charge Leadership Workshops 2018 – Take Charge is on the road again. Temora and Junee here we come!

The decision to take the REROC Take Charge Youth Leadership program on the road enabled the Take Charge Team to get out and about into the REROC Member LGAs to deliver localised workshops for high school students.

Four local workshops were held during the 2018 school year, two of which fell in the 2017/18 financial year and were highlighted in the 2017/18 REROC Annual Report and the remaining two delivered in the second half of the school year in Temora and Junee. All four of the workshops focused on capacity building in the areas of public speaking, confidence building and mindfulness.

To facilitate the delivery of the workshops and to continue with our goal of reminding students that they are part of a region and not just their own LGA the workshops were delivered across the REROC region 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 for the Take Charge Youth Leadership workshops as follows:

- » **Cootamundra-Gundagai / Snowy Valleys**
(Delivered 17/18)
- » **Greater Hume / Lockhart Shire**
(Delivered 17/18)
- » **Bland Shire / Temora Shire / Cootamundra-Gundagai** (Delivered 18/19)
- » **Coolamon Shire / Junee Shire / Wagga Wagga**
(Delivered 18/19)

In August the Take Charge team hit the road for Temora and Junee to deliver the final round of Take Charge workshops for 2018. Having already visited Tumut and Walla Walla in May, these workshops were the last of the four regional Take Charge Leadership workshops being held throughout the REROC LGAs in 2018.



Following on from the very successful workshops delivered in May we once again teamed up with Ms Amie Morris from The FRANK Team to deliver a capacity building workshop on developing communication and presentation skills. The workshop provided students with tips and tools on the art of great communication and presentation skills and how to further develop leadership skills which may assist them in becoming great leaders in their local communities.

We also included once again the very popular Mindfulness sessions run by The Mindful Warrior – Ms Anna Gannon. Students attending the Mindfulness workshops were guided through discussion, tapping techniques, meditation and a spot of chair yoga, all tools that can be utilised in everyday life if things get a bit difficult e.g. stress around exam time.

Feedback from both Anna and Amie's workshops was extremely positive with both students and teachers commenting on how much they enjoyed the sessions and how much they got out of them.

We were also joined in Junee by Cr Neil Smith, Mayor Junee Shire who welcomed the students to the event and shared with them his passion for the town by reciting a poem he had written about Junee. Mr James Davis, General Manager Junee Shire Council also participated in the day and spoke with the students about school based apprenticeship programs.

Over the two days in Temora and Junee we were joined by over 80 students from Temora High School, St Anne's Central School, Ungarie Central School, Cootamundra High School, Aria Park Central School, Ardlethan Central School, Coolamon Central School, Junee High School, Koorinal High School and the Riverina Anglican College. It was fantastic to see so many students from the various schools attending.



It was also great to see a large number of students already doing great things within their local communities. From members of local youth councils, student representative councils or students who are actively volunteering in their local community we have some incredible young people in the REROC region who are making valuable contributions to their communities.

The four regional workshops delivered in Tumut, Walla Walla, Temora and Junee overall had over 170 students participating which is a fantastic result for our first run of local Take Charge Youth Leadership workshops. We are looking forward to delivering another exciting program for the students when we once again run the larger Regional Forum in 2019.

The Youth and Community Development Network has played a vital role in the preparation and running of the Take Charge Youth Leadership workshops in 2018. From assisting with venues, organising catering, chasing up attendees, sourcing local presenters, the support from the REROC councils for these local workshops has been fantastic.

Did you enjoy today's Take Charge Workshop? If yes, what did you like about it? If no, what didn't you like about it?

- "Yes, I liked today's workshop because the speakers were really passionate."
- "I liked the encouragement of stepping outside our comfort zones and making a new friend."
- "I enjoyed today because I liked the different workshops and we were involved in it. It taught us about being a good leader."
- "Yes, I was given new tips for improving my leadership skills. All speakers were interesting and engaging."
- "I loved it!"



MANAGING WASTE AND PROMOTING RESOURCE RECOVERY

The Waste Forum was the first Technical Group established by REROC and it has operated continuously for over 20 years. It brings together the Member Councils to discuss ways in which REROC can implement regional solutions that address waste management and resource recovery. The Forum's focus is on implementing solutions that work for rural and regional communities and to that end we have had great success with programs like Safe Sharps, organics recycling, the implementation of CRCs, running community and school-based education programs and the establishment of free, local e-waste collections.

With the advent of the China Sword and the issues that have impacted on Australia's ability to dispose of its recyclable materials the need to find local and regional solutions that allow the efficient and effective implementation of resource recovery have increased.

The Waste Forum is one of eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups operating in NSW with funding support from the EPA. All the VRWGs meet regularly throughout the year to discuss issues in waste management and resource recovery for rural and regional communities with the EPA. The VRWG program is supported by the NSW EPA's *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 outlined on the website waste.reroc.com.au. Information on the Forum's group procurement activities and its very successful *No Time to Waste* Conference can be found in earlier reports.

2017-2021 Regional Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy

The Waste Forum continues to implement programs that deliver on its Regional Strategy. There were six Themes 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 is available for download from the Waste Forum website.

E-waste Collection

REROC Member Councils and their residents and small businesses continue to enjoy the benefits of a free e-waste collection in each of their LGAs.

The collections fall under the Federal Government's National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS), 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. REROC has contracted with MRI-PSO who in turn is contracted by a number of importers and manufacturers to arrange collections on their behalf. The waste that is collected is processed at Kurrajong-Recyclers, supporting local employment opportunities.

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 from MRI-PSO to manage the transport of e-waste from the participating councils into Kurrajong Recyclers. During the past year just over 80 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.



Community Recycling Centres

The CRC program continues to be very successful, providing a much needed service to each of our Member Councils.

CRCs are 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. In 2018-19 36.2 tonnes of waste was collected through the CRCs. The waste collected is disposed of by a service provider that works under contract to the EPA.

In addition our CRC mobile service is now up and running. The service is currently housed at Greater Hume Shire and is available for use by all our Member Councils. The mobile service allows councils to reach out to their communities, particularly their smaller communities, it also provides a platform for councils to distribute other waste related information to their residents.

Each year we evaluate the effectiveness of the project, through community surveys as well as speaking to people that are using the facilities. The evaluations are showing good use of the facilities with people visiting regularly and good repeat visitation. A summary of results from the surveys undertaken with users of the CRCs follow.

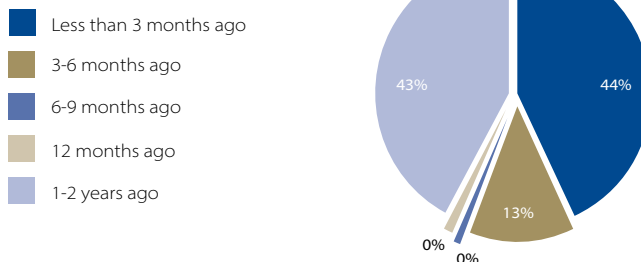


Safe Sharps

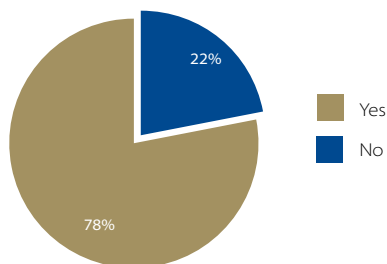
A major upgrade of the Safe Sharps website was completed this year. The site now has a fresher, sharper and more modern look with improved features and operability. The update also included upgrades of all the Smart Device apps both Android and Apple® and the introduction of an Apple Watch® app which 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 in 2014.

2018-19 CRC Survey

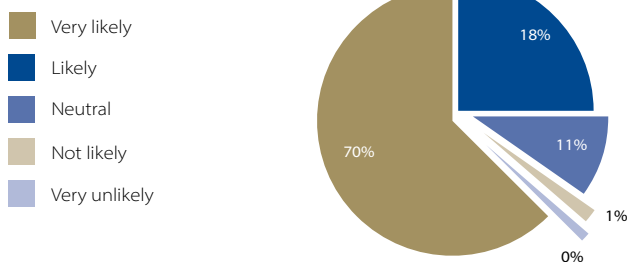
When did you last visit the CRC?



Have you used the CRC before?



How likely are you to recommend the CRC to family and friends (Landfill survey respondents)





Tony Donoghue, Chair of the RERO Waste Forum, and Moly Tregoning from the EPA at the 2019 No Time to Waste conference

Promoting the Circular Economy

We have actively engaged with the SMaRT Centre at the University of NSW attending consultations on the Circular Economy. The implementation of Circular Economy initiatives is a positive way that we can respond to the China Sword issue and also promote the development of small-scale manufacturing of materials recovered from waste. Dr Farshid Pahlevani from SMaRT Centre spoke at the *No Time To Waste* Conference on how we can transform Australia's resource recovery industry by equipping it with an advanced manufacturing capability.

We will be seeking opportunities to partner with the SMaRT Centre on initiatives that recognise the challenges of resource recovery in rural and regional areas.

King and Queen of Green

The King and Queen of Green have proved to be one of the highlights of our schools' education program. The team from Eaton Gorge Theatre Company returned with their RRRR Pirate Show extolling the virtues of recycling, reusing, reducing and rethinking what can be done to decrease waste. Performers Juliet Scrine and Ian McColm, really connect with the primary school students who engage completely in the Show. We have received extremely positive feedback from the participating schools.

During 2019 the King and Queen of Green performed 8 shows in Greater Hume and Lockhart Shires with a total of 743 students attending.

Recycling Education Campaign – Recycle Night? Recycle Right!

This project aims to raise the awareness of residents that what goes in their home recycling bin is touched by human hands. The RERO 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 householders changing their behaviours. We have asked them to wash out their containers, stop putting food waste and nappies in the bin and to check that everything that goes in there is recyclable.

The campaign which runs on television, cinema, social media and in print advertising, is supported with posters and cards that can be handed out. This year Snowy Valleys placed the branding on the side of their garbage trucks, featuring the workers from Valmar. Cootamundra-Gundagai is looking to do the same and feature workers from Elouera.

We commenced work, this year on a second set of advertisements, again working with Kurrajong Recycling (Wagga Wagga), Elouera (Cootamundra) and Valmar (Tumut) MRFs. Our creative team of Jackie Cooper from



Jack of Hearts who did all the video work and Cristy Houghton from Embarketing came up with a new approach with the workers thanking everyone for doing the right thing with their recycling.

The Campaign is supported by a website 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.

We nominated the campaign for a Local Government Excellence in the Environment Award and received a Highly Commended at the awards ceremony held in Sydney in late 2018. This is the last resource recovery campaign that our very dear Tracey Cornell helped to create. She loved this campaign and would have been pleased to see it recognised at a State level.

Kindy Kits

2019 is the 15th year that the REROC Waste Forum has provided Kindergarten students with library bags filled with information and activity sheets aimed at reducing waste at school. Over 1,700 calico bags were distributed to every primary school in the REROC Region. We have moved to using calico because they are more environmentally friendly, can be washed and are lighter and easier for the children to use.

Compost Doctor Website

We continue to operate this website and answer questions as they arise. Users are able to ask questions about home composting and we have a qualified horticulturalist who answers them. The website stores the questions and answers and then can sort through them to respond to the next question. Consequently the site is constantly building its database of questions and answers.



REROC tour of Kurrajong Recycling and Coolamon Shire's Organics Processing area

Regional Facility Tours

Members of the Waste Forum have visited waste and resource recovery facilities in the Region to learn more about how waste is being managed and recovered.

This year visits were undertaken to Coolamon Shire's Organics Processing area and to Kurrajong Recyclers, with a visit also planned for JWL at Cootamundra to look at mattress recycling.

Regional Collection Contracts

We have continued to pursue opportunities for regional collection contracts. In addition to the arrangements we have in place for e-waste mentioned above we have also undertaken a regional contract for the collection of waste metal.

This year we have explored the opportunity to contract regionally for the collection of mattresses and tyres and have met with local collectors to consider options.

RENEW NSW Meetings

RENEW is the umbrella organisation for the VRWGs that operate in regional NSW. Meeting every 4 months, RENEW offers us the opportunity to hear directly from the EPA about the latest issues and to feedback a regional perspective on their initiatives. In addition we are able to identify opportunities to collaborate with other VRWGs in the State and this is exemplified by our joint approach to advertising for the CRCs.

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.

The Youth and Community Development Network moved their meetings to the Eastern Riverina Arts' Office and we are very grateful for their support.



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, Kate Hardy is REROC's representative on RENEW and she is regularly joined at meetings by Waste Forum Chair Tony Donoghue 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.



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 careers in local government.

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 regularly attends REROC meetings where she provides an update on RDA activities.



CEO of REROC, Julie Briggs, at the 2018 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards

NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)

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

Julie Briggs, in her role as CEO of RivJO, attends the Regional Leadership Executive meetings which are convened by the DPC for the Riverina-Murray region.

The DPC Regional Manager, James Bolton is an Associate Member of the RivJO Board and regularly attends REROC Board meetings and events in order to provide updates on activities at a State level.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

| Contents | Page |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Statement by the Executive | 29 |
| 2. Primary Financial Statements: | 30 |
| – Income Statement | 30 |
| – Statement of Financial Position | 30 |
| – Statement of Cash Flows | 31 |
| – Statement of Changes in Equity | 32 |
| | 33 |
| 3. Notes to the Financial Statements | |
| | |
| 4. Independent Auditor's Reports: | |
| – On the Financial Statements | |

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.

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2019

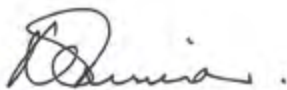
Statement by Executive

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.



Rick Firman
Chairman



Tony Donoghue
Treasurer

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2019

| Budget 2019 | | Notes | Actual 2019 | Actual 2018 |
|--|--|-------|------------------|-----------------|
| Income from Continuing Operations | | | | |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| 0 | User Charges & Fees | 2a | 79,128 | 73,130 |
| 0 | Interest & Investment Revenue | 2b | 12,724 | 9,241 |
| 0 | Other Revenues | 2c | 167,005 | 68,334 |
| 0 | Grants provided for Operating Purposes | 2d | 679,387 | 438,228 |
| 0 | Contributions provided for Operating Purposes | 2e | 238,676 | 231,373 |
| Other income: | | | | |
| 0 | Net gains from the disposal of assets | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | Total Income from Continuing Operations | | 1,176,920 | 820,306 |
| Expenses from Continuing Operations | | | | |
| 0 | Materials & Contracts | 3a | 948,174 | 798,024 |
| 0 | Depreciation & Amortisation | 3b | 7,390 | 7,390 |
| 0 | Other Expenses | 3c | 62,529 | 86,532 |
| 0 | Total Expenses from Continuing Operations | | 1,018,093 | 891,946 |
| 0 | Net Operating Profit/(Loss) for the Year | | 158,827 | (71,640) |

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2019

| | Notes | Actual 2019 | Actual 2018 |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents | 5a | 871,508 | 636,932 |
| Receivables | 5b | 103,055 | 120,071 |
| Total Current Assets | | 974,563 | 757,003 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment | 6 | 19,975 | 27,365 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 19,975 | 27,365 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 994,538 | 784,368 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Payables | 7 | 134,192 | 82,848 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 134,192 | 82,848 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 134,192 | 82,848 |
| NET ASSETS | | 860,346 | 701,520 |
| Equity | | | |
| Retained Earnings | 8 | 860,347 | 701,520 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | | 860,347 | 701,520 |

Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2019

| Budget 2019 | Notes | Actual 2019 | Actual 2018 |
|---|--|----------------|------------------|
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | | |
| Receipts | | | |
| 95,299 | User Charges & Fees | 93,844 | 76,973 |
| 4,464 | Interest & Investment Revenue | 16,960 | 541 |
| 0 | Grants & Contributions | 918,063 | 704,779 |
| 0 | Other | 167,005 | 67,719 |
| Payments: | | | |
| 82,848 | Material & Contracts | (898,767) | (830,262) |
| 0 | Other | (62,529) | (85,634) |
| 182,611 | Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities | 234,576 | (65,884) |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | | |
| Receipts | | | |
| 0 | Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment | 0 | 0 |
| Payments: | | | |
| 0 | Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment | 0 | 0 |
| | Purchase of Investment | (3,223) | (500,000) |
| 0 | Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities | (3,223) | (500,000) |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities | | | |
| Receipts | | | |
| 0 | Proceeds from Borrowings & Advances | 0 | 0 |
| Payments: | | | |
| 0 | Repayments of Borrowings & Advances | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | Net Cash provided (or used in) Financing Activities | 0 | 0 |
| 182,611 | Net Increase/(Decrease in Cash & Cash Equivalents | 231,353 | (565,884) |
| 136,932 | plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year | 136,932 | 702,816 |
| 319,543 | Cash & Cash Equivalents - end of the year | 368,285 | 136,932 |
| Additional Information | | | |
| | plus: Investments on hand - end of year | 503,223 | 500,000 |
| | Total, Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments | 871,508 | 636,932 |

Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2019

| | Actual 2019 IPP&E | | | Actual 2018 IPP&E | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| | Notes | Accumulated Surplus | Revaluation Reserve | Total Equity | Accumulated Surplus | Revaluation Reserve | Total Equity |
| Opening Balance | | 701,520 | | 701,520 | 773,159 | | 773,159 |
| Restated Opening Balance | | 701,520 | 0 | 701,520 | 773,159 | 0 | 773,159 |
| Net operating result for the year | | 158,827 | | 158,827 | (71,640) | | (71,640) |
| Restated net operating result for the year | | 158,827 | 0 | 158,827 | (71,640) | 0 | (71,640) |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | | | | | | |
| - Gain/(loss) on revaluation of IPPE | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other comprehensive Income | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | 158,827 | 0 | 158,827 | (71,640) | 0 | (71,640) |
| Equity - balance at end of reporting period | | 860,347 | 0 | 860,347 | 701,519 | 0 | 701,519 |

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2019

Contents of the notes accompanying the financial statements

| Note | Details | Page |
|------|---|------|
| 1 | Summary of significant accounting policies | 34 |
| 2 | Income from continuing operations | 37 |
| 3 | Expenses from continuing operations | 38 |
| 4 | Gains or losses from the disposal of assets | 40 |
| 5(a) | Cash and cash equivalent assets | 40 |
| 5(b) | Receivables | 40 |
| 6 | Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment | 41 |
| 7 | Payables | 42 |
| 8 | Retained earnings | 42 |

Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 1. Significant accounting policies

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)

(d) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the organisation 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 profit for the period of \$158,827 (30 June 2018: loss of \$71,640).

REROC reports net cash flow provided by operating activities of \$234,576 (30 June 2018: used in \$65,884). REROC has a surplus of working capital (being the amount the current assets exceed current liabilities) of \$737,316 as at 30 June 2019 (30 June 2018: \$674,155).

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)

(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 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 2019 | Actual 2018 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| (a) User Charges & Fees | | |
| "Build a Bridge" Project | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Energy & Innovation Conference | 5,800 | 0 |
| e-Waste Transport | 8,215 | 7,994 |
| GIS | 0 | 0 |
| Mapped Out Income | 14,122 | 10,190 |
| No Time to Waste Conference | 14,872 | 18,260 |
| Scrap Metal | 31,119 | 31,686 |
| TOTAL USER CHARGES & FEES | 79,128 | 73,130 |
| (b) Interest & Investment Revenue | | |
| Interest on RERO Account | 12,724 | 9,241 |
| TOTAL INTEREST & INVESTMENT REVENUE | 12,724 | 9,241 |
| (c) Other Revenues | | |
| Bitumen Emulsion Rebate | 11,165 | 10,285 |
| JO Contribution | 27,887 | 0 |
| LGP Rebates | 0 | 16,388 |
| Meetings & Catering | 622 | 2,107 |
| Procurement | 10,000 | 0 |
| Strategic Collaboration | 94,874 | 32,934 |
| Streetlighting | 0 | (50) |
| Sundry Income | 14 | 221 |
| Training | 0 | 1,000 |
| Waste Management | 16,443 | 1,949 |
| Youth Network | 6,000 | 3,500 |
| TOTAL OTHER REVENUES | 167,005 | 68,334 |
| (d) Grants | | |
| Biodiversity Officer Project | 101,500 | 145,947 |
| CRC Education | 75,440 | 58,610 |
| EPA CRCB Funding | 139,960 | 0 |
| EPA Household Hazardous Waste Funding | 75,000 | 0 |
| EPA Waste | 205,687 | 205,171 |
| FCR | 0 | 25,000 |
| L-RIP | 81,800 | 3,500 |
| Youth Project | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL GRANTS | 679,387 | 438,228 |
| (e) Contributions | | |
| Council Contributions | 238,676 | 231,373 |
| TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS | 238,676 | 231,373 |

Note 3. Expenses from Continuing Operations

| | Actual 2019 | Actual 2018 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| (a) Materials & Contracts | | |
| Executive Services | 213,858 | 208,696 |
| - "Build a Bridge" Project | 12,984 | 12,820 |
| - "No Time to Waste" Conference | 10,088 | 7,573 |
| - Biodiversity Officer Project | 118,148 | 46,429 |
| - CRC Education | 78,434 | 49,600 |
| - CRCB Contaminated Lands Project | 1,297 | 0 |
| - Energy & Innovation Conference | 5,844 | 0 |
| - EPA Household Hazardous Waste | 56,616 | 252,427 |
| - EPA Waste | 213,959 | 0 |
| - e-Waste | 5,787 | 6,533 |
| - Fixing Country Roads | 0 | 25,000 |
| - GIS | 620 | 4,244 |
| - L-RIP | 0 | 1,350 |
| - Mapped Out Expenditure | 11,446 | 11,751 |
| - Procurement Officer | 32,469 | 28,847 |
| - Scrap Metal | 0 | 17,957 |
| - Strategic Collaboration | 147,039 | 50,309 |
| - Sustainability Project | 25,800 | 13,000 |
| - Waste Management | 0 | 33,280 |
| - Youth Project | 13,785 | 28,208 |
| TOTAL MATERIALS & CONTRACTS | 948,174 | 798,024 |
| (b) Depreciation | | |
| - Waste Management Depreciation | 7,390 | 7,390 |
| TOTAL DEPRECIATION COSTS EXPENSED | 7,390 | 7,390 |

(c) Other Expenses

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Action Plan Projects | 2,568 | 4,971 |
| Advertising | 0 | 2,334 |
| Insurance | 8,008 | 7,303 |
| Legal/Accounting/Audit | 5,007 | 4,342 |
| Meetings/Catering | 8,012 | 8,131 |
| Phone | 3,512 | 4,564 |
| Printing/Stationery/Postage | 5,042 | 5,472 |
| Rent | 21,828 | 21,828 |
| Representations | 1,254 | 7,186 |
| Streetlighting | 0 | 8,313 |
| Subscriptions | 694 | 508 |
| Sundry | 405 | 1,538 |
| Training | 966 | 970 |
| Travel | 1,501 | 4,072 |
| Web Site | 3,732 | 5,000 |

TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES

62,529

86,532

Note 4. Gains or losses from the disposal of assets

| | Actual 2019 | Actual 2018 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Plant and equipment | | |
| Proceeds from disposal - plant and equipment | 0 | 0 |
| Less: Carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off | 0 | 0 |
| Net gain/(loss) on disposal | 0 | 0 |

Note 5 - Cash & Cash Equivalents & Receivables

| | Actual 2019 | Actual 2018 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| (a) Cash & Cash Equivalents | | |
| Cash on Hand and at Bank | | |
| - REROC Account | 368,225 | 136,874 |
| - CRC Account | 1 | 1 |
| - Beyond Bank | 59 | 57 |
| Investments | | |
| - Beyond Bank | 503,223 | 500,000 |
| TOTAL CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS | 871,508 | 636,932 |
| (b) Receivables | | |
| User Charges & Fees | 80,583 | 95,299 |
| Accrued Interest | 4,464 | 8,700 |
| GST Receivable | 18,008 | 16,072 |
| TOTAL RECEIVABLES | 103,055 | 120,071 |

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 6 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

| | as at 30/06/2018 | | | | as at 30/06/2019 | | | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| | At Cost | At Fair Vale | Acc Dep'n | Carrying Value | WDV of Disposals | Dep'n Expense | At Cost | At Fair Vale | Acc Dep'n | Carrying Value |
| Plant & Equipment | 36,962 | 0 | 9,597 | 27,365 | 0 | 7,390 | 36,962 | 0 | 16,987 | 19,975 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | |
| INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT | 36,962 | 0 | 9,597 | 27,365 | 0 | 7,390 | 36,962 | 0 | 16,987 | 19,975 |

Note 7 - Payables

| | Actual 2019 | Actual 2018 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| (a) Payables | | |
| Goods & Services Operating Expenditure | | |
| - Materials & Contracts | 75,492 | 17,848 |
| GLE Strategic Planning | 58,700 | 65,000 |
| TOTAL PAYABLES | 134,192 | 82,848 |

Note 8. Retained earnings

| | Actual 2019 | Actual 2018 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| (a) Retained Earnings | | |
| Movements in Retained Earning were as follows: | | |
| Balance at beginning of Year | 701,520 | 773,159 |
| a. Correction of Prior Period Errors | 0 | 0 |
| b. Changes in Accounting Policies | 0 | 0 |
| c. Other Comprehensive Income | 0 | 0 |
| d. Net Operating Profit/(Loss) for the Year | 158,827 | (71,639) |
| e. Transfers between Equity | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at End of the Reporting Period | 860,347 | 701,520 |

Retained Earnings are represented by:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| REROC | 87,598 | 111,180 |
| Strategic Collaboration | 137,406 | 189,570 |
| Sustainability Projects | 9,191 | 34,991 |
| Biodiversity Officer Project | 82,870 | 99,518 |
| Youth Project | 0 | 0 |
| EPA Waste | 5,639 | 13,911 |
| EPA Household Hazardous Waste | 18,384 | 0 |
| Illegal Dumping | 0 | 0 |
| CRC Education | 6,017 | 9,010 |
| L-RIP | 81,800 | 0 |
| Waste Management | 59,585 | 35,929 |
| Scrap Metal | 220,353 | 196,624 |
| "Build a Bridge" Project | 0 | 0 |
| GIS | 12,841 | 10,786 |
| Contaminated Land | 138,663 | 0 |
| CRC Project | 0 | 0 |

REROC DELEGATES AS AT 30 JUNE 2019



Bland Shire Council

Cr. Brian Monaghan
Mr. Ray Smith

Coolamon Shire Council

Cr. John Seymour OAM
Mr. Tony Donoghue

Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council

Cr. Abb McAlister
Mr. Phil McMurray

Goldenfields Water

Cr. Dennis Palmer
Mr. Aaron Drenovski

Greater Hume Shire Council

Cr. Heather Wilton
Mr. Steven Pinnuck

Junee Shire Council

Cr. Neil Smith
Mr. James Davis

Lockhart Shire Council

Cr. Rodger Schirmer
Mr. Peter Veneris

Riverina Water County Council

Cr. Greg Verdon
Mr. Andrew 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

Regional Development Australia

Ms. Rachel Whiting

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Mr James Bolton

REROC MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

Bland Shire Council

PO Box 21, West Wyalong NSW 2671
Ph (02) 6972 2266 **Fax** (02) 6972 2145
Email council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au
Website www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au

Coolamon Shire Council

PO Box 101, Coolamon NSW 2701
Ph (02) 6930 1800 **Fax** (02) 6927 3168
Email council@coolamon.nsw.gov.au
Website www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au

Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council

PO Box 420, Cootamundra NSW 2590
Ph 1300 459 689 **Fax** (02) 6940 2127
Email mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au
Website www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au

Goldenfields Water County Council

PO Box 220, Temora NSW 2666
Ph (02) 6977 3200 **Fax** (02) 6977 3299
Email office@gwcc.nsw.gov.au
Website www.gwcc.nsw.gov.au

Greater Hume Shire Council

PO Box 99, Holbrook NSW 2644
Ph (02) 6036 0100 **Fax** (02) 6036 2683
Email mail@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au
Website www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au

Junee Shire Council

PO Box 93, Junee NSW 2663
Ph (02) 6924 8100 **Fax** (02) 6924 2497
Email customerserviceteam@junee.nsw.gov.au
Website www.junee.nsw.gov.au

Lockhart Shire Council

PO Box 21, Lockhart NSW 2656
Ph (02) 6920 5305 **Fax** (02) 6920 5247
Email mail@lockhart.nsw.gov.au
Website www.lockhart.nsw.gov.au

Riverina Water County Council

PO Box 456, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Ph (02) 6922 0608 **Fax** (02) 6921 2241
Email admin@rwcc.nsw.gov.au
Website www.rwcc.nsw.gov.au

Snowy Valleys Council

76 Capper Street, Tumut NSW 2720
Ph 1300 275 782 **Fax** (02) 6941 2678
Email info@svc.nsw.gov.au
Website www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

Temora Shire Council

PO Box 262, Temora NSW 2666
Ph (02) 6980 1100 **Fax** (02) 6980 1138
Email temshire@temora.nsw.gov.au
Website www.temora.nsw.gov.au

Wagga Wagga City Council

PO Box 20, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Ph 1300 292 442 **Fax** (02) 6926 9199
Email council@wagga.nsw.gov.au
Website www.wagga.nsw.gov.au

REROC Office

PO Box 646,
81-83 Johnston Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Ph (02) 6931 9050 **Fax** (02) 6931 9040
Email mail@reroc.com.au
Website www.reroc.com.au

REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

www.reroc.com.au