

REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

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Cr Rick Firman OAM, REROC Chairman, officially opens the REROC Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum held at CSU Wagga Wagga in March 2021.

REROC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am delighted to present my fifth annual report as Chairman of the REROC Board. Once again, we have been affected by this wretched COVID-19, however, I believe we are all doing our best to play our role in assisting our communities and Federal and State Governments, in terms of promoting vaccinations and testing, as well as patience and perseverance.

The Board and I acknowledge the crucial roles played by our Prime Minister, our Premier, their Governments and Opposition Benches. We appreciate their collective efforts.

It is also appropriate to acknowledge our various health professionals for working tirelessly to keep us as safe as possible.

We have also been blessed across our Region with a bumper harvest. It certainly has assisted to boost our respective local economies, with this upcoming season also looking promising. Our beautiful Riverina region has far more to be grateful for than otherwise.

The REROC Board, Chief Executive and team have continued to work very hard and kept busy during this past 12-month period.

It is important to note we work collaboratively with the Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO), whenever it makes sense to do so, on projects such as the Regional Freight Transport Plan and the Skills Shortages project, two very crucial initiatives.

I now reflect on just some of the countless REROc activities our Board and team have carried out, during the past year;

- Southern Lights - by the end of June 2021, all but three of our Member Councils had deployed the new energy efficient LED lighting. These new lights are saving councils thousands of dollars a year in energy costs as well as assisting the State Government to meet its energy targets. This is a project which has been very well received from the over 40 participating councils from Bega to Broken Hill.

The CEO is part of the Tender Evaluation Review for the Communications Network that will enable the new LED lights to become Smart Lights, communicating with a Central Management System. The Board and I warmly congratulate our Chief Executive, Mrs Julie Briggs and Kate Hardy for their project management and our team at REROc for their expertise in bringing this to fruition.

We have continued to be involved in the on-going reviews of the NSW Public Lighting Code and REROc is credited as one of its authors. After a decade of lobbying we were pleased that the Code has been made mandatory, meaning that failure to meet its requirements has implications for the DNSP's (Essential Energy, Endeavour and Ausgrid) licence. The Review, held during 2020-2021, was a small one, however we were able to successfully argue for changes to the timeframes for the repair of lights to increase accountability and to clarify the requirements around the installation of 10 or more lights.

A special vote of thanks to our partners in the Southern Lights Project including; Central NSW JO, Canberra Region JO, Riverina And Murray JO and Broken Hill Council.

- Our work with our Technical Groups has been on-going. These groups are integral to REROc's success, providing a platform for staff to discuss issues, hear from experts and identify problems that can be addressed at a regional level. The Groups also identify issues that require advocacy by the Riverina Joint Organisation and to that end, a General Manager representative from the JO sits on each of the Technical Groups. Special thanks to Steve Pinnuck who convened the Workforce Development Group and Tony Donoghue who convened both the Infrastructure Technical Group and chaired the REROc Waste Forum.
- Our RivSIG and Waste Forum Technical Groups are also behind our very successful 'Mapped Out' and 'No Time to Waste' Conferences. As a result of COVID, we had to postpone and then cancel the 'No Time to Waste' Conference. The 'Mapped Out' Conference was also postponed but was successfully held in March of this year, with almost 100 attendees coming from all points in NSW, and with one of our Trade Stand exhibitors making the trip over from Perth.
- With the introduction of the *Design and Building Practitioners' Act* we have been exploring ways that we can ensure that our Senior Engineers are still able to operate and meet the requirements of their council roles and the new Act. This has included approaching Engineers Australia to discuss recognition of older qualifications held by engineers to ensure that they meet Professional Engineer status. This is an issue that will not only impact on the operation of REROc Member Councils but rural councils across NSW.

Cr Neil Smith, James Davis, Cr Dennis Palmer, Aaron Drenovski and Phil McMurray at a meeting of the REROc Board





Emily Jones from Greater Hume Council doing an exceptional job as MC at the REROC Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum held at CSU Wagga Wagga in March.

- Our Biodiversity Conservation Project was completed last Financial Year, however, we have continued to maintain the Biodiversity information pages on the REROC website so that it can be accessed by Council staff and our communities.
- Our REROC Waste Forum lobbied with other Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs) to obtain transitional funding so that we could continue to deliver regional programs until June 2022. We would like to see the VRWG funding continue, because it is such a valuable resource to us all.
- We are working hard alongside RivJO on the exciting Skills Shortages Project. We want to help ourselves to address the many local government skills shortages across our REROC footprint. Although COVID has delivered some 'road blocks', these are only temporary as we look forward to helping 'ramp-up' this initiative over the next 12 months.
- In terms of Youth, REROC's 'Take Charge Forum' was again a tremendous success. It was a pleasure to again attend this important day and meet our student leaders from schools across our region as well as the amazing guest speakers. Well done to all involved with this flagship event and for the other great work our Youth & Community Development Network undertake. Well done to the entire REROC team and the Youth and Community Development Network for hosting another exceptional event.
- We have decided to host another Councillors' Training Programme, next year. In partnership with Central NSW JO, REROC will review and enhance our 2018 programme, to make it more relevant for our new councillors. It is expected the training will be held early in 2022.
- We have worked closely with RivJO on the vitally important issue of Housing Shortages across our REROC area. We've hosted several workshops in this space, which were extremely well-supported. We will continue our work in this crucial space.
- Our *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* initiative continues to go from strength to strength. Whether it's TV or social media, beer coasters or bus advertisements, it has all assisted to ensure this fantastic project continues to have a positive influence in our respective REROC communities.
- REROC Members also continue their strong support of the 'opt in/opt out' collaborative procurement. Our Members believe this a crucial part of potential cost saving measures and efficiencies. The beauty of this is that Member Councils can voluntarily determine to participate in a specific activity or not.
- As recent tradition would normally dictate, our Board had intended to make a visit to Canberra to meet with Federal politicians to discuss regional issues. Once again COVID put paid to those plans and we hope that in 2022 we will be able to make the visit.

This is a broad and condensed reflection on the various activities REROC immerses itself in. I invite you to read of our further efforts, in our Annual Report. As mayors, as councillors, as staff and citizens we can all be proud of the genuine commitment we have to our precious REROC and to each other.

Even though COVID influenced the availability of guest speakers we could host, we continued to listen and learn. Thank you to all those who gave up time to speak with our REROC Board.

At the end of June we also farewelled a long-standing Member of REROC, Riverina Water County Council (RWCC). The Board and I thank RWCC for their past support and wish them well.

Our Board, Chief Executive and team wish to express our thanks to our respective State Members of Parliament, for their ongoing commitment and support. To Ms Steph Cooke MP (NSW Member for Cootamundra), Dr Joe McGirr MP (NSW Member for Wagga Wagga) and Mr Justin Clancy MP (NSW Member for Albury) we extend our sincere appreciation.

It is appropriate to formally acknowledge our Federal Member for Riverina, the Hon. Michael McCormack MP. Mr McCormack has also been a strong ally of REROC and we are deeply grateful to him and his staff for the way they have supported our work. We also thank Mr McCormack for his term as Deputy Prime Minister. Our REROC Board and Members are most appreciative for the funding that has come to us all, as a result of his efforts.



Cr Abb McAlister, Cr John Seymour OAM, Tony Donoghue, Cr Rodger Schirmer and Peter Veneris at the 2020 REROC AGM held at the Rules Club in Wagga Wagga.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of our REROC Executive Committee. The Executive team for the past 12 months have included;

CHAIRMAN: Mayor Rick Firman OAM
(Temora Shire)

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mayor John Seymour OAM
(Coolamon Shire)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Mrs Julie Briggs

TREASURER: Mr Tony Donoghue PSM
(Coolamon Shire)

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: Mayor Abb McAlister
(Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council)

Mayor Rodger Schirmer
(Lockhart Shire)

Mr Steven Pinnuck
(Greater Hume Shire)

Mr Ray Smith PSM
(Bland Shire)

Mr James Davis
(Junee Shire)

The additional commitment shown by the Executive which has added to their responsibilities as REROC Board Members is very much appreciated by us all.

It is important to note that two of our current Executive & Board members have announced they are choosing to retire from local government, Mayor Seymour and Mayor Schirmer. These two gentlemen have contributed a great deal to their respective Shire communities, to the successful operation of REROC and to our wider Riverina region. Whilst we wish them well, they will always remain a special part of our REEOC Family.

I would like to sincerely thank our Treasurer, Mr Tony Donoghue who is capably supported by Mrs Courtney Armstrong for their work with the REROC finances.

The Board thanks them both for their extra effort and responsibilities as well as Coolamon Shire Council for its willingness to provide these core services at no charge .

At this time, I would like to pay a special tribute to our Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Briggs. It continues to amaze me the obvious commitment and dedication she has toward the REROC Member Councils. Mrs Briggs is 'always on call' for us, with her work ethic simply remarkable. Besides Mrs Briggs' impressive intellect and attention to detail, it is her genuine care and concern for building up

Board meeting held at The Rules Club in Wagga Wagga. Face-to-face Board meetings were restricted over the last 12 months due to COVID.



our respective communities that touches me most. Besides her regional roles, Mrs Briggs also holds several other important roles at a State and National level. On behalf of the Board members, our councils and communities, I extend our warm gratitude to our Chief Executive.

The Board and I also share our warm thanks to our REROC team members. To Mrs Kate Hardy, Mrs Claire Garrett, Mr Paul Worsfold and Mr Isaac Cornell, we thank them for all their efforts.

I extend a very warm vote of thanks to the Board members of REROC. It is a very real and genuine privilege for me to serve as your Chairman, particularly to be elected by my esteemed Fellow Mayors and General Managers from across our REROC footprint. It is an honour to work beside you with our ultimate objective being to further enhance our cherished Riverina region.

Finally, to our Member Councils – to each Councillor, and staff member who make up our eight-Member REROC Family, I extend my personal thanks to you all. Your genuine commitment in seeing that the exceptional work of REROC continues, is very special. With your continued support, REROC will keep achieving ensuring that our much-loved Riverina region thrives and prospers well into the future.

Thank you very much,

CR R B FIRMAN OAM
CHAIRMAN

Cr Linda Scott, President LGNSW and ALGA with Mr Scott Phillips, CEO of LGNSW address the REROC Board.



SPEAKING OUT

Since the establishment of the Riverina Joint Organisation, REROC has referred issues that require lobbying and advocacy to the JO. However, as many of the issues that are dealt with arise from our Technical Groups, REROC continues to play a pivotal role in informing the process.

Each of the REROC Technical Groups has a General Manager that represents the Riverina JO as a member of the Group with the specific purpose of identifying issues that should be taken to the JO for consideration. The matters that are brought forward for the JO to consider

taking action cover all Local Government operational areas. There remain some issues, however, that continue to remain within REROC's sphere of operations including anything to do with street lighting, the NSW Public Lighting Code and AER Pricing Determinations.

REROC also works to keep our local State and Federal Members informed of issues that are impacting or likely to impact on council operations. Notwithstanding, the role that the JO plays, there have been a number of issues that REROC has spoken out about over the last 12 months.

National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme

A break in COVID lockdowns saw REROC meet with the Federal Minister for Waste Reduction and Environment, Hon Trevor Evans MP at Parliament House in Canberra in late June. The meeting discussed the effectiveness of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS) in rural and regional areas. The need for the meeting was the result of REROC's e-waste collection system collapsing when SIMs Metal pulled out of the Scheme leaving Kurrajong Recycling without a receiver for the product.

The NTCRS is a program initiated by the Federal Government to require the importers and local manufacturers of televisions, computers and peripherals to meet the cost of their end-of-life disposal. The Scheme requires that Liable Parties (importers and manufacturers) make Approved Arrangements for the collection and recycling of the products. The Liable Parties are set a target for the collection of the end-of-life products (they can collect anything not just their own products). The target is based on the quantity of product that is brought into Australia by each Liable Party.

REROC has consistently argued, that specific targets should be set for remote, rural and regional areas to ensure that they are adequately serviced. The legislative regime that supports the Scheme requires that Liable Parties have collection points in regional areas but does not obligate them to collect any waste at those points. What we find occurring is that the collection points are in out of the way places and are generally poorly publicised. This in turn minimises costs for the Liable Party because they are not required to transport the waste for processing.

REROC has had a partnership with Kurrajong Recycling in place since 2012 to process e-waste that is collected in REROC Waste Forum Member Councils. The arrangement is dependent upon Kurrajong having firm arrangements in place with Liable Parties to take the e-waste that Kurrajong recycles. The arrangement that Kurrajong had in place with SIMs Metal ended in April when SIMs decided it no longer wished to continue its role as an Approved Arrangement. Consequently, as Kurrajong had nowhere to send its processed e-waste, our Member Councils also had nowhere to send their unprocessed e-waste.

Establishing regional collection targets would force Liable Parties to make a genuine commitment to providing services in rural and regional locations. The meeting with Minister Evans allowed us to outline the issues that we were facing, the failure of the NTCRS to service the regions adequately and the need for legislative change to correct the problem.

Housing Shortages

REROC is working collaboratively with the Riverina JO on the creation of a Regional Housing Strategy. We have been able to utilise the work undertaken in the development of the Strategy to inform our advocacy on housing shortages and moving forward will use it to inform decisions at an operational level that impact on ways to address the problem. The lack of adequate housing choices impacts on the Region's ability to attract and retain skilled workers, business and industry. The impact is profound.

More information on the Strategy is contained in the Building Strategic Collaborations section of this Report.

NSW Public Lighting Code

The Code was due for a minor review during 2020-21 and this was undertaken. The Review focused on the timeframes and reporting requirements for DNSPs (Essential Energy, Endeavour Energy and Ausgrid). The DNSPs are required to report to councils and IPART on their performance. Thanks to almost a decade of lobbying where REROc took a lead role, the Code is now mandatory, with accountability tied to the DNSP's licence and monitored by IPART. Consequently, the Code is now a basic Service Level Agreement between the councils and the DNSP.

Along with timeframes and reporting, a further issue addressed in the Review were the requirements in relation to the installation of ten or less lights. There was some confusion in relation to these provisions and contestability. This was cleared up making it easier for councils to install new lighting.

The Review was finalised in early 2021, a more significant review of the Code will be undertaken in 2021-22. We would like to thank Graham Mawer and Paul Gowers from Next Energy for their expert guidance and support in relation to REROc's and Southern Lights' participation in the Code's review.

Section 7.12 Developer Contributions to State Significant Developments

In September 2018, REROc commenced lobbying then Minister for Planning, Hon Anthony Roberts for s7.12 contributions to be levied on State Significant Developments. Under the *NSW Environment Planning and Assessment Act* developers can be required to pay these contributions where there is no nexus between the development and infrastructure. Developers can only be asked to pay the contribution if they have not already been required to pay a contribution under s7.11.

The issue came to light when the Planners Technical Group identified that multi-million dollar investments in solar farms in the Region, which were being considered for approval by the State's Planning Commission, were being approved without being required to make any developer contribution. They were not being asked to pay s7.11 contributions because there was no nexus between infrastructure required for the development and the development and they were not being levied s7.12 contributions either.

Whilst any development under \$30 million can be required to pay the contribution when a council is the Consent

Authority, once it breaks the \$30 million threshold it becomes a State Significant Development with the State as the Consent Authority. Consistently the State has failed to apply the levy, costing rural and regional councils millions of dollars in revenue.

The Riverina JO took up the lobbying on this issue with the current Planning Minister, Hon Rob Stokes MP. We continue to lobby for the s7.12's wording to be changed from "may impose" to "must impose", as Member Councils believe this will provide greater certainty and clarity. It will also ensure that there is a level playing field for all developers, regardless of the size of the development. It is disappointing that after so much time has elapsed that we have not been able to make any inroads, REROc continues to support the RivJO's efforts.

Voluntary Regional Waste Group (VRWG) Funding

The REROc Waste Forum is one of 8 VRWGs operating in regional NSW. The VRWGs are partially funded by the EPA and this has been the case for over 15 years. In 2019 the EPA commenced work on its new 20 Year Waste Strategy, at the time the VRWGs were advised that the outcome of the Strategy would determine the level of funding that would flow to the VRWGs. The Waste Forum's VRWG funding agreement ended on 30 June 2021.

A draft of the Waste Strategy was expected by the end of 2020 with the final Strategy adopted in early 2021. It was anticipated that following the adoption of the Strategy a decision would be made on the funding for VRWGs. However, timelines slipped as did everything during 2020 and by the end of the year it was clear that the proposed timelines would not be met. Consequently, at the end of 2020 all the VRWGs found themselves with no guarantee of funding for 2021-22 and no plans for transitional funding in place.

The REROc Waste Forum worked with RENEW NSW and the other VRWGS to push for transitional funding for 2021-22 to provide some certainty of ongoing operations while the EPA finalised the Waste Strategy. REROc assisted in this process by putting together a survey for all the RENEW members to send out to their member councils to ask them how they valued their VRWG and what they would do if the funding was not available. Sixty-two councils responded to the survey with 90% of them rating the VRWG services either Highly Valuable or Valuable. In addition, the majority of respondents indicated that if the VRWGs were no longer operational they would be unable to undertake the same work themselves.

One year of transitional funding was approved for the VRWGs in mid-2021 providing certainty until the end of June 2022. Current indications are that funding will be on-going following the implementation of the new 20 Year Waste Strategy, the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*.

EPA Local Government Advisory Group

This new Group was formed by the EPA to provide input into the work that the EPA does that impacts on Local Government Operations. Tony Donoghue and Julie Briggs represent REROc and the REROc Waste Forum. Membership also includes LGNSW, the OLG, and representatives from the other Voluntary Regional Waste Groups, Metropolitan Waste Groups such as SSROC, the City of Sydney and RENEW NSW as well as senior staff from the EPA. The purpose of the Group is to:

1. Contribute to environmental policy, legislative and regulatory reforms;
2. Advise on the implementation of these reforms, including early identification and troubleshooting of systemic or collective challenges;
3. Engage with the best evidence of the day to drive continuous improvement to waste and resource recovery; and
4. Drive a circular economy for waste in NSW.

The Group meets every 2-3 months where there has been very strong engagement particularly as it discusses the new NSW 20 Year Waste Strategy (*NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*) and its implementation. REROc strongly supports the work of this Group as it is an important platform from which we can provide input into the development of environmental policy in NSW and particularly those that relate to waste management, resource recovery and increasingly as the State moves to its Zero Net Emissions goal energy management.

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

Once again, this year Member Councils have expressed their strong concerns about the cost of the ESL. There was initially elation when it appeared that amendments had been made to the NSW Local Government Act that would allow councils to levy the ESL contribution outside the rate peg and separately on rates' notices.

However, the amendment that was passed was in relation to the *Fire and Emergency Services Act* which in fact is not operational. LGNSW immediately began working with the Government and the Opposition on enabling legislation which would allow the proposed amendments to take effect. However, by the end of the Financial Year it was clear that this would not be achieved and the status quo remained with councils again having to meet 11.7% of the cost of the State-operated emergency services' agencies. A very disappointing result.

REROc continues to support the Riverina JO in its activities to raise the issue of financial accountability, particularly with the regards to the RFS budget and the impost that it places on cash-strapped rural councils.

Implementation of the *Design and Building Practitioners Act*

This new Act which commenced on 1 July 2021 will require that all engineers hold degree level qualifications in order to sign-off on building works. Currently, the new requirements only impact on Class 2 buildings however, it is anticipated that over time it will apply to all forms of construction.

Many of the engineers working in rural and regional locations hold qualifications other than a degree, if they could no longer authorise projects this would leave councils without key staff. REROc has been working with Engineers Australia to determine if there is a way to utilise their existing Skills Assessment process which is applied to overseas engineers to recognise the qualifications and experience of Australian engineers.



IPART Rates Review – Mining Rate

IPART's *Review of the Local Government Rating System Final Report* included Recommendation 34 which stated that:

Any difference in the rate charged by a council to a mining category compared to its average business rate should primarily reflect differences in the council's costs of providing services to the mining properties.

REROC supported Bland Shire Council's advocacy on the possible adoption of the recommendation which focused on concerns regarding the potential loss of income the change to the mining rate would mean to mining councils in regional NSW. In addition, we raised strong concerns in relation to the failure of the Government to genuinely consult with the affected councils and communities.

We were also particularly concerned that IPART justified the recommendation by determining that the mining rate should be more cost reflective of the services councils provide to those properties. Rates are not a services' tax; they are a property tax. It was very concerning to Members that IPART could be heading down a "slippery slope" that directly tied rates to the services ratepayers used.

We also raised concerns about the NSW Minerals Council's proposal that buffer land around a mine be reclassified as Environmental Land and rated accordingly.

Review of the NSW Planning Infrastructure Contributions Scheme

In May 2020 the Department of Planning released a bundle of proposed changes to the infrastructure contributions scheme in NSW. Unfortunately, while the changes included a proposal for a higher section 7.12 percentage, it did not include the change that REROC has lobbied for in relation to enforcing the obligation to pay the section 7.12 contribution on State Significant Developments.

The REROC Planning Technical Group reviewed the papers and proposed changes and provided feedback to the JO. The Riverina JO subsequently captured that feedback and prepared a response to the Department of Planning.

This was followed in June 2021 by the release of the *Infrastructure Contributions Amendments Bill*. The Bill proposed a number of sweeping changes to the Contributions' Scheme most of which will be detrimental to councils. One of the proposed changes is the creation of a Regional Contributions Fund (RCF), which will be held by Treasury. Developers will be required to pay the RCF where the contribution is part of a SEPP that impacts on the development. There is no requirement to apply the RCF funds to projects within the LGA where the development is occurring but instead the funds can be used anywhere in the State.

The REROC Planners' Technical Group assisted the Riverina JO to put together a response to the Bill and in preparing a response to the Upper House Hearings on the Bill. The Bill is yet to be passed consequently lobbying against it continues.

Steve Pinnuck, GM of Greater Hume Council and Convenor of the Workforce Development Group addresses the Board.



Engagement with State and Federal Members of Parliament

Over the last 12 months we have attempted to meet regularly with our local State and Federal members. COVID, has of course, placed a number of barriers in the way of personal meetings, however Zoom has been a standby and we have managed some face-to-face meetings.

We also ensure that copies of any correspondence or submissions that REROC makes that relate to State or Federal activities are sent to all our local MPs and MLCs, the Deputy Premier, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier, the Shadow Minister for Local Government and LGNSW.

Charles Sturt University (CSU) Community Advisory Committee

REROC has served on this Committee and its predecessor committees for over 15 years. The Committee's work focuses on activities at the Wagga Wagga Campus of CSU. Over the last 12 months there have been a lot of changes including a reduction in course offerings at Wagga Wagga. CSU is a significant asset to our Region, and it is important that our Member Councils have some input and understanding of its future directions.

We provided support for CSU's Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and were pleased to see that CSU was successful in its application for Federal funding.

REROC Honour Board

This year REROC established a virtual Honour Board on the REROC website. The Organisation has been operating for over 25 years and the addition allows us to recognise the Chairs and Deputy Chairs that have served REROC so well over the years. The Honour Board can be viewed at <https://reroc.com.au/reroc-honour-board>.

Steph Cooke MP, Member for Cootamundra, meets with the Board



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COVID-19 wreaked havoc on our well-laid plans for the 2020-21 year. We had hoped, like so many others, that after surviving 2020 that 2021 would be more like Business as Usual. To a degree this proved to be true, *Build A Bridge* and the *Mapped Out Conference* were held face-to-face and were very successful. However, we were forced to move the *No Time to Waste Conference* from October 2020 to February 2021 we then attempted an on-line approach which had limited uptake and the conference was finally cancelled.

However, our involvement with the Riverina JO's Skills Shortages project has gone from strength to strength. While some of the Project's face-to-face activities have had to be curtailed, it is building a strong foundation upon which we expect to see a number of projects launched in the future.

Councils in regional and rural areas are usually the largest if not the largest employer in their LGA. This aspect of REROC's operations aims to support councils to support their employees through the provision of sound professional development opportunities. We also aim to attract new workers to the sector and this is demonstrated in our work with the Skills Shortages Project and projects like *Build a Bridge*.

Councillors are also an important part of the professional make-up of councils and are strongly encouraged to attend REROC Conferences and Forums. We are always looking for opportunities to design and conduct training activities for both staff and councillors and this year we are collaborating with the Central NSW JO on an update of our Councillor Induction training materials.

No Time to Waste Conference 2020

Unfortunately, after many attempts and looking at all possible means to run the 2020 *No Time to Waste Conference* we were beaten by the impacts of the COVID-19 restrictions and had to make the difficult decision to cancel the event. We are looking forward to delivering a fantastic 2021 Conference.

We are very thankful to our sponsors, speakers and trade stand businesses for their patience as we have moved to accommodate the challenge of event management in a COVID world.

Mapped Out

In its fourteenth year, the annual *Mapped Out Conference* was held at The Rules Club in Wagga Wagga on 3 – 4 March 2021. Initially postponed from its usual November timing due to COVID restrictions, this was the first REROC conference that had been able to go ahead since *Mapped Out* in 2019. The Conference was a great success and highlighted the diversity of applications for spatial data, geographic information systems and supporting technologies.

We had speakers from Heli Surveys, NSW National Parks and Wildlife, Coolamon Shire Council, REROC, Wingecarribee Shire Council, Aerometrex, Goldenfields Water County Council and 1 Spatial. We were also joined

by the team from NSW Spatial Services showcasing the different Spatial Services programs and departments.

Over 80 people attended the two-day conference not only from the REROC Member Councils but from as far as Moree, Forbes, Benalla, Cowra, Snowy Monaro, Hilltops region, Coleambally and Albury. It was great to see so many people in the spatial data field being able to attend.

We had nine Trade Stands attend the Conference with representation from Chartis Technology, 4D Global, Aerometrex, LGP, Pozi Pty Ltd, 1 Spatial, Univerus, Heli Surveys and Trillium Software.

The Conference was a great opportunity for people working in regional NSW in both local government and the private sector to keep up to date with the latest technology and geographic information systems that can be utilised.

This year we introduced a cocktail reception after the first day which was sponsored by Aerometrex. The addition of this element was a great success and will become a regular item on the Conference agenda.

Our on-going collaboration with NSW Spatial Services who were also the Gold Sponsors for the conference continues to be a success as well.

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



Attendees at the Mapped Out Conference 2021

Skills Shortages in Local Government

The Workforce Development Group is the Steering Committee for this Riverina JO-lead project that aims to address skills gaps in councils.

The project encompasses the following activities:

- **Start Your Career Here Days** – for high school students to visit their local council and learn more about careers in local government.
- Over the last 12 months support materials for councils have been developed to assist in the delivery of the program. The support materials include information on the activities that can be held and the resources required to make the day a success.
- **Professional Placements Program** – for CSU and TAFE students to undertake work placements that progress their chosen career. The placements can be used for credit towards their course or simply a volunteer placement.
- We have also worked on resource materials for Professional Placements. The focus has been on recruiting CSU students into placements and to date, 8 placements have occurred. The outcomes of which have been very positive. The JO is considering initiating a Student Ambassador program that aims to have on-campus students promoting the placements to fellow students.
- **Come and Try Days** – directed activities and events, like *Build A Bridge*, that target high school students providing them with a taste of what a career in their chosen field would be like. It is a hands-on activity that is guided by council staff acting as mentors.
- We are currently designing Come and Try Days for Planning, Horticulture and Spatial Data. These are hands-on experiential learning activities to encourage students to consider those career areas. The *Where on Earth?* Day, which focuses on spatial data will be run in conjunction with Compact and Riverina TAFE.
- **Graduate Placement Program** – work has started on this Program which is new to the project. The need for a Graduate Program was identified when we became aware that we had nowhere for students to “go” once they had completed their Professional Placement. The Graduate Program aims to fill that gap.

The JO project was to have been completed in June 2021 but has been extended until December 2021.

Build a Bridge... and Get Over it!

This year REROC delivered the thirteenth *Build a Bridge* program. Run in partnership with Compact, the 3-day Camp aims to encourage students in years 10 to 12 to consider a career in civil engineering. Over the 3 days students participated in practical, hands-on activities that allowed them to experience the work that a civil engineer does.

Traditionally the Camp has been held in August but was moved to April to take advantage of the better weather and to allow Year 12 students attend. The August date conflicted with HSC Trials and consequently discouraged participation from Year 12.

Participants in the Camp are chosen by competitive entry and need to demonstrate that they understand what a civil engineer does and talk about why they would like to consider it as a career. The student's school is also required to sign-off on the application.

This year we had students attending from Mater Dei Catholic College Wagga, Wagga Wagga High School, Coolamon Central School, The Riverina Anglican College, Mt Austin High School, Temora High School, Koorngal High School, Cootamundra High School and Sacred Heart Central School Cootamundra. We also had 8 female students attend which is our highest number of female participants to date. It is very encouraging to see that we have increasing interest in civil engineering right across the board.

Participants in the Build a Bridge program



Our sponsors for this year's Camp were Riverina Water County Council, School of Engineering at Charles Sturt University, Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO) and Compact. The 2021 Camp was also run as part of the RivJO's Start Your Career Here program as one of its Come and Try Days aimed at encouraging students to consider careers in Local Government.

We had a number of Engineers from across the REROC region give up their time over the 3 days to attend the Camp and assist with mentoring the students. We also had the team from Transport for NSW, Pat Shaw and Blake Larkin attend to assist with the sessions and Mike Murphy from Regional Engineering Services assisted with the mentoring at the Camp.

The students were divided into teams for the duration of the Camp, with each team named after a famous engineer. The students participated in team building exercises run by Borambola Sport and Rec and in sessions run by engineers on soil testing, compaction testing, spatial co-ordinates and laser levelling. They then jumped into the hands-on element of designing a bridge to span the creek at Borambola Sport and Rec Centre.

Students worked from both the banks and on the water in kayaks to construct the full-size bridge across the creek and were very much looking forward to testing it out by walking across it to graduate from the program.

Our Camp facilitator, Mr Nigel Worne who is an integral part of the success of the camp has been working with us as the Camp facilitator since its inception in 2006.

Councillor Professional Development Training

Crisis Preparedness with Joann Wilkie NSW Treasury

This training was held for councillors on 15 May via video conference. Mrs Wilkie spoke about the interaction between community leaders and staff in the management of crisis as well as the roles that each play.

Councillor Training Package

We started work on revising the councillors' training package that we first delivered in 2018. We are working with the Central NSW JO on the review, as they used the materials we developed in 2017 and are very keen to use them again. The training is best delivered after new councillors have experienced a few meetings so the planning is that it will be held in early 2022.

BUILDING STRATEGIC CAPACITY

Building strategic capacity through collaboration that creates economies of scale and scope is a central purpose for REROC. Since its establishment in 1994 REROC Member Councils have actively sought out ways in which they can work collaboratively to improve the services they deliver to the communities they serve. Repeatedly, REROC has demonstrated through practical outcomes that working together is the best approach to achieving efficiencies in local government operations.

REROC's activities have embraced everything from aggregated procurement activities to the development of shared intellectual property that is customised for an individual council's use. In some instances, the products that we have developed have been used by other ROCs and non-member councils in their own operations.

Southern Lights NSW shows how we collaborate across the State. The project, which covers 41 LGAs is an initiative of REROC, RAMJO, CNSWJO and CBRJO. We were joined by Broken Hill City Council once the project was underway. REROC provides the project management for Southern Lights and works closely with the other regional organisations to deliver the project into their region.

REROC has also worked with the Riverina JO, CNSWJO, RAMJO and CRJO on the Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement project. The Best Practice project will provide

regional organisations and joint organisations with tools and guidance on procuring for groups of councils. We are also currently working with CNSWJO on an update to our Councillor Induction training module so that it will be ready to deliver after the next Local Government election.

An important facet of REROC's collaborative approach is the work we do with the State agencies that operate within our Region. Strong ties have been forged through the delivery of common projects with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Department of Regional NSW, Transport for NSW, the EPA and the Department of Primary Industries.

We continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with Eastern Riverina Arts and Regional Development Australia – Riverina, who share similar footprints. This year we have continued, when possible, to utilise Eastern Riverina Art's office for our Youth and Community Network meetings and have worked with the RDA Riverina on the Regional Housing project.

Our work with the community and building capacity and resilience continues to be an important aspect of our work. The Take Charge Youth Leadership Forum is seen by our Member Councils not only a way to build leadership in our youth but also resilience particularly in these difficult times.

Collaborating Strategically

Southern Lights NSW

Southern Lights NSW is one of the largest deployments of smart-enabled LED lighting in Australia, with over 75,000 LED streetlights deployed across a geographic area that is approximately the same size as the United Kingdom. Over the past 12 months almost 60,000 of the 75,000 new lights have been deployed. In the REROC Region only three councils are awaiting deployment in 2021-22, Coolamon, Gundagai and Lockhart.

In addition, the Southern Lights project was the catalyst for Essential Energy deciding to deploy energy efficient LED lighting to the balance of its service footprint, encompassing some 163,000 streetlights, making it the largest deployment of LED lights in Australia.

The savings generated by the project have been enormous not just in dollars but also in Green House

Gas emissions saved. The new lights use significantly less energy and require less maintenance which reduces operating costs. Councils have also benefitted from the Energy Savings Certificates (ESCs) generated by the project. The ESCs' value has risen considerably since the financial projections were undertaken for the initial Business Case in 2018. Most councils in the REROC region expect to see a Return on Investment in the lights in under 3 years.

The project was initiated by the Project Partners over 4 years ago, initially as a simple street lighting improvement program and grew to encompass the deployment of the latest technology in smart-enabled LED lighting that incorporated a communications system which supported timed dimming and the deployment of smart city devices.

REROC provides the day-to-day management for Southern Lights, constantly liaising with the project partners and individual councils, preparing correspondence and other

support materials and arranging meetings. Julie Briggs was part of the Essential Energy's Tender Evaluation Team for the procurement of both the lighting and the communications platform that will support the smart technology.

Southern Lights has worked closely with Essential Energy on the design and implementation of the project. Essential Energy is the owner of the streetlights so it was critical to not only convince them that this was the best way forward but then to work with them on the deployment and the Business Case. The Business Case was critical, Essential Energy may own the lights but councils pay for both the capital cost and the maintenance. This close working relationship has been essential to the successful delivery of the project.

Our consultants Next Energy have been integral to the success of the project, their commitment to providing high quality advice throughout the project that has been utilised by ourselves and Essential Energy.

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



New energy efficient LED street lights in action in Temora's main street.

Regional Housing Strategy

In December 2020 this issue was identified by the Planners' Technical Group as an emerging problem for the Region. The issue also came up in several other Forums leading REROC and the Riverina JO to agree to run a joint project to consider the problem.

Commencing in late December and finishing in mid-February, working with the Planners, we undertook an audit of the housing that was for sale, for rent and available through Airbnb to determine whether anecdotal information on the shortage was matched by on-ground data. We found that it was, not a single house for rent in West Wyalong or Lockhart, barely anything available for rent in Temora or Gundagai and rental properties in Wagga Wagga had fallen by two-thirds. Rental properties that were available were expensive and out of reach for many on low incomes.

Houses listed for sale were limited with much of it either undesirable or highly priced or both. In some LGAs where it had previously taken years for properties to sell it was now taking weeks. In addition, property prices had increased considerably, again impacting on the affordable housing stock. In addition, several LGAs were in growth situations, Evolution Mining in West Wyalong had advised that they wished to increase staff and needed additional

housing and the Gundagai abattoir was significantly increasing production and required new staff as well.

It was agreed that a Regional Housing Strategy should be developed together with the Riverina JO. Four workshops were held jointly with the JO, these were well attended not just by Member Councils but also by relevant State agencies including Regional NSW, Planning, Environment and the DPI along with RDA-Riverina, the HIA and community housing provider Argyle Housing to develop the Strategy.

Riverina JO Regional Housing Strategy Goals

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

Work on the Strategy has continued and has fed into initiatives that have been launched by the State Government to address the issues such as the Regional Housing Taskforce.



REROC, RivJO and State agency representatives attending one of the workshops aimed at developing a Regional Housing Strategy.

Sustainable Councils and Communities

An approach from the NSW DPIE's Sustainable Councils and Communities (SCC) project in early 2021 was very welcome. The SCC is a four-year program that provides focused and fast-tracked Government support to resource-constrained councils in NSW. The Program identifies and develops a tailored package of energy and resource efficiency proposals, data analysis and project scoping for the participating councils.

The Member Councils participating in the SCC are Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart and Temora. Our engagement with the SCC will result in REROC and its Members being 'investment ready' for energy efficiency or upgrade works on their infrastructure or buildings. It will also build the capacity of REROC and the participating Member Councils' staff to implement future upgrades and energy efficiency projects.

All the participating Member Councils were able to complete an Energy Savings Action Plan (ESAP) for their LGA prior to the end of the Financial Year, using funding and consultants provided through SCC. These ESAPs will be pivotal in the actions that we take both regionally and locally in achieving energy savings in council operations. Temora and Junee had completed their ESAPs prior to the commencement of the REROC SCC project but will now move forward as part of a REROC Regional project.

The Energy Management Technical Group has carriage of the project and will work with the SCC team to identify ways that the ESAPs can be implemented on a regional basis.

Integral to our successful involvement in the project has been Mark Caddey, Senior Project Officer with the SCC who has been supporting and guiding us through the project.

Regional Biodiversity Project

We are continuing to provide information on the Biodiversity Conservation legislation and its impacts on planning through the REROC website. The website is the legacy of the funding that we received to engage a Regional Biodiversity Officer. The site allows us to continue to support councils in dealing with the legislative regime.

We are supported in keeping the information up-to-date by NSW DPIE, who allow Marcus Wright to monitor the site's information and provide us with updates. It is an important resource to support the capacity of our Member Councils to deal with planning issues and the Biodiversity legislation. The web-based resource provides a decision-making pathway and includes flowcharts, information sheets and hyperlinks that provide guidance to both the public and councils.

Contaminated Land Regional Project Officer

This project, which covers 18 councils across the Riverina-Murray region is being run in collaboration with RAMJO. Two project officers have been engaged to work on the project, Matthew Dudley and Jacquie Vyner, both are based with RAMJO in Albury.

While the project is directed at the management of contaminated land the focus for the REROC-RAMJO project is to assist councils with the transition to the management of Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS).

Over the last 12 months the project has worked at improving contaminated land registers, providing councils with training on UPSS compliance and contaminated land management, and providing assistance in the preparation of supporting documentation. In addition, we have been considering how best to deal with legacy issues and our



JO Trainee, Isaac Cornell, assists at one of the Housing Strategy Workshops.

to integrate contaminated land records from third party providers into existing council information systems.

The project is due to conclude at the end of June 2022. We are aiming to have a website like the one that was developed for Biodiversity in place to provide on-going information to Member Councils on issues relating to contaminated land.

REROC Regional Freight Transport Plan

REROC first released its Regional Freight Transport Plan in 2014. However, as a result of structural changes, the Plan is now one of the Riverina JO's responsibilities. Nevertheless, through the on-going involvement of REROC's Infrastructure/Engineers' Sub-committee REROC remains a driving force behind it.

The Plan identifies the major freight routes in the Region and the constraints that impact on the effective movement of freight within and through the Region. Member Councils, the JO and REROC utilise the information to advocate and lobby for road funding and to identify opportunities to expand freight-based opportunities in the Region.

The JO obtained Capacity Building funding through the Office of Local Government and has applied part of this funding to undertaking data analysis of freight movements within and through our Region. The volume and value data that will be the outcome of this project will be invaluable for future funding requests and transport planning activities. The work which is being carried out by the team at CSIRO TransIT will be completed by the end of 2021.

This year, following our *Mapped Out* Conference, we entered discussions with RAMJO and Spatial Services NSW to join the RAMJO Freight Transport Plan and our Plan together on a single platform. It was always our

long-term goal for this to occur and to that end RAMJO used the same underlying data collection format as we did to facilitate the outcome. The ability to utilise a Spatial Services NSW platform as the basis for delivering the data will ensure that its reach is increased.

The Plan can currently be downloaded from the REROC website and has also been mapped at www.reroc.giscloud.com. We thank Dan Smith and Coolamon Shire Council for providing the mapping services for this project.

Mobile Phone Blackspot Mapping

We continue to map Mobile Phone Blackspots in the Region. We utilise this data to inform Member Council activities and our own lobbying.

The mapping has also been used by the Riverina JO to advocate for funding to address blackspots. The mapping has been prepared for REROC by Dan Smith at Coolamon Shire Council and we thank Dan and Coolamon for the time and resources provided.

Native Title Expert Panel

The creation of a panel of experts that Member Councils could engage to provide advice on Native Title issues was established in September 2020. The move responded to concerns raised by the Planners' Technical Group that they were going to have difficulties dealing with the complex issues which were expected to arise because of the transfer of significant areas of Crown Land to Local Government responsibility.

Over the last 12 months two firms on the Native Title Panel have run training sessions attended primarily by Planners and General Managers on dealing with Native Title.



Attendees at the Mapped Out Conference enjoy a networking session.

Collaborating Operationally

One of the key platforms for collaboration for council staff are the REROC 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 and in some cases State government agencies. We have encouraged State agency involvement in the Groups as it significantly improves the collaborative opportunities and information sharing.

The Groups provide the staff of the Member Councils with invaluable professional development opportunities

because they are a platform for participants to learn from each other, share information and hear from experts in their field through the attendance of guest speakers.

A General Manager from the Board of the Riverina Joint Organisation is also a member of each of the Technical Groups. This is the mechanism by which the Technical Groups provide guidance to the JO on issues that may require lobbying or advocacy action. In addition, the Group members provide comments and feedback to inform the responses and submissions the JO makes to inquiries and changes of legislation.

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 (VRWGs). The EPA's funding comes through the *Waste Less Recycle More* initiative. The funding enables the Waste Forum to deliver a wide variety of programs in waste management and resource recovery.

The Waste Forum was heavily involved in the lobbying activities that were undertaken by RENEW NSW to obtain transitional funding for the VRWGs.

The Waste 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. The Group is chaired by Narelle Hobson from Junee Shire. The Group's membership encompasses not only Member Councils but non-member councils as well as State agencies and other stakeholders who have an interest in spatial data and mapping.

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 meet in different locations around the Riverina-Murray region to reflect its diverse membership, however this year most meetings have been held via Zoom

Infrastructure/Engineers Sub-committee

The Committee considers major infrastructure and engineering issues in the Region. The sub-committee deals with issues that impact on road use and maintenance and is primarily responsible for the delivery of the 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, access arrangements and the potential for collaborative projects as well as other infrastructure issues like mobile phone connectivity. This year the sub-committee has reviewed the work of CSIRO's TraNSIT project to ensure that the data and assumptions that support the Report are ground-truthed for accuracy.

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

Planning Technical Group

This group is made up of staff involved in the planning area and meets every second month. The Committee looks at ways to solve common planning issues through the development of regional policies that can be applied in individual LGAs.

The Group also provides responses to draft planning documentation, draft SEPPs and regional plans prepared by the State, which inform Riverina JO's actions and responses.

It is responsible for the agenda on the annual Planners Workshop which brings together planners from across the Riverina-Murray Region. The Group has permanent representation from the Department of Planning and from the Department of Primary Industries.

The Group was the catalyst for the Regional Housing Strategy and has consistently provided input into its development.

Youth and Community Development Network

The REROC Youth & Community Development Network brings together all the council staff working with youth and community development in the REROC Region. The Network meets bi-monthly and aims to assist member councils by working together to enhance youth and community development services in the region. Prior to COVID meetings were held at Eastern Riverina Arts and we warmly thank Tim Kurylowicz the Executive Director of ERA for their support.

A key activity on the calendar for the Network is the *Take Charge Youth Leadership Forum*.

Water and Wastewater Technical Committee

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

The Committee comes together to discuss issues that specifically relate to delivering water and wastewater services. Members share knowledge about their activities and share ways in which they have addressed and resolved issues.

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 also acts as the Steering Committee for the Riverina JO's Skills Shortages' project. The project is developing pathways for students at high school, TAFE and university to experience careers in local government. The Member Councils have a strong commitment to "growing their own" workforce and this project will be a key to developing this approach.

Energy Management Group

The Group meets every 2 months and looks at ways in which energy efficiency initiatives can be progressed in the councils. Representatives from DPIE attend the meetings providing great information on programs that the State is delivering.

The Group will now steer the implementation of the Sustainable Councils and Communities' project as well as the regional implementation of the Energy Savings Action Plans. This will include guiding the next retail energy tender, projects in the adoption of Electric Vehicles and EV Charging stations as well as ways that councils can use the latest in energy technologies to reduce energy use.

Students at the 2021 Build a Bridge Camp participating in one of the capacity building sessions on laser levelling.



Collaborative Procurement

REROC Member Councils have continued to collaborate on a number of procurements throughout the 2020/21 year. This year we again extended our procurement activities to include joint procurements with RAMJO, Central NSW JO and the Riverina Joint Organisation. We have also undertaken procurement activities on behalf of the Southern Lights NSW project.

REROC Member Councils continue to place high value on the procurement activities undertaken by REROC. Regional procurements not only create resourcing efficiencies they also generate savings and provide increased value through larger collection volumes and increased buying power. A board decision made last year to allow non-member councils to participate on a fee-paying basis has allowed us to expand our procurement work.

Waste Metal Collections

REROC has arranged the collection of waste metal for its Member Councils for over 16 years with this procurement now generating hundreds of thousands of dollars in income for participating councils. The procurement and collection of waste metal in the Region has turned this waste material into a valuable resource that can assist councils to offset the costs associated with operating landfills.

During the 2020/21 period REROC Waste Forum Member Councils were invited to participate in two rounds of Metal Waste Collections with a total of 2755 tonnes of waste metal collected over this period. These two collections alone generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue for the participating councils.

The REROC Waste Forum Councils participating in these two rounds of waste metal procurement were Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart and Wagga Wagga.

Bitumen Emulsion Group Purchase

An RFQ was released in August 2020 for the bulk supply and delivery of Bitumen Emulsion to REROC Participating Councils. The RFQ closed on 2 September 2020 and an evaluation panel made up of one representative from each Participating Council was created to evaluate all submissions received. The Participating Councils in the Bitumen Emulsion RFQ were Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart and Temora.

Liquid Alum Group Purchase

In September 2020 REROC ran a joint tender with RAMJO for the purchase of Liquid Alum with REROC being the project managers on this procurement and the tender released through the REROC eProcure portal. The REROC Councils participating in this procurement were Cootamundra-Gundagai, Goldenfields Water and Riverina Water and the RAMJO participating councils were Albury City Council and Hay Shire Council. The RFQ closed at the end of September and an evaluation panel made up of one representative from each Participating Council was created to evaluate all submissions received. After analysis of all submissions received and an online meeting with the evaluation panel to discuss and nominate their preferred supplier, REROC advised the Participating Councils of the recommended supplier.

RFQ Sodium Hypochlorite

An RFQ was released in November for the bulk supply and delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite to REROC Participating Councils. The Participating Councils in the Sodium Hypochlorite RFQ are Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee and Riverina Water. Closing in December 2020, an evaluation panel made up of one representative from each Participating Council was created to evaluate all submissions and an online meeting with the evaluation panel was held to discuss and nominate a preferred supplier.

EOI for Southern Lights – Smart Sensors

An Expression of Interest (EOI) was released through the REROC eProcure portal in November 2020 inviting suppliers to submit innovative proposals for a range of low-cost smart city sensors that could be mounted in Zhaga Book-18 interfaces on streetlights in the Southern Lights' footprint. The release of this EOI highlighted just how far the Southern Lights project had advanced.

There was international interest shown in the EOI. It was intended that the information would be used to inform the Southern Lights' councils about the diversity of smart technologies that could be utilised through smart street lighting. In addition, the Zhaga Book-18 protocols addressed a number of compatibility concerns that had been raised in relation to utilising smart lighting. Southern Lights therefore wanted the EOI to measure the level of interest in engaging with this type of technology.

Over 10 responses were received, some from the most internationally recognised brands operating in the field. These were provided to Southern Lights to inform



Michael Nixon, guest speaker at the Take Charge Forum held at CSU Wagga Wagga in March

decision-making; however, we are unable to take matters further until Essential Energy can complete its business case in relation to the communications network for the lighting.

RFQ Camera Inspections and Jetting

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) was released in March 2021 to conduct a 5-year conduit inspection and jetting program for the REROC Participating Councils of Bland, Coolamon, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart and Temora.

The RFQ closed in April where an evaluation panel made up of one representative from each Participating Council was created to evaluate all submissions and an online meeting with the evaluation panel held to discuss and nominate a preferred contractor.

Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement (BPAP)

This is a Riverina Joint Organisation project which is being supported by REROC's procurement services. The Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement (BPAP) Program aims to deliver substantial cost savings for Member Councils by optimising opportunities for collaborative procurement and outlining what is 'Best Practice' when it comes to procurement activities.

A workshop for the RivJO/REROC General Managers and key council staff involved in procurement was held in May where the Western Research Institute (WRI) presented on the stages of the project. WRI also sought advice as to whether the Member Councils would be interested in a long-term procurement plan. It was agreed that the Member Councils would not pursue this part of the Project.

Collaborating with Communities

An important role for REROC is to work collaboratively within the Member Council communities to assist in providing programs where appropriate. We achieve this by working closely with our Youth and Community Development Network primarily to deliver activities to engage youth within their communities.

This year, once again, our major activity was the *Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum*.

Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum 2020

In August 2020 with the ongoing COVID restrictions still impacting on schools being able to attend external events the decision was made to postpone the 2020 *Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum* and hold the event in early 2021. The 7th Annual REROC *Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum* was held on Wednesday 24 March at CSU in Wagga Wagga with 148 students and teachers registered to attend the Forum, our biggest year yet. After a year of everything being put on hold and students not being able to participate in external excursions, sports or co-curricular activities it was exciting to see so many of our Region's schools represented on the day.

The day started off with a beautiful Welcome to Country by local Wiradjuri Elder, Aunty Kath Withers. We were also very grateful to have Cr Rick Firman attend to welcome the students and teachers and officially open the Forum, it was great Cr Firman could also spend the day with us to experience another Take Charge event.

Our MC for the day, Emily Jones from Greater Hume Council did an outstanding job and Cindy Smith from Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council kept the students fully engaged with a very exciting Sphero workshop.

Students participating in the Sphero workshop at the Take Charge Forum



The students heard from a range of speakers throughout the day:

- Hon Bronnie Taylor MP, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women was unable to attend in person but sent a video message for the students. The Minister's address encouraged the students to turn up and have a go in their communities, she also acknowledged the tough time students have experienced in parts of the REROC region over the past 12 months, first with bushfires and then with the impacts of COVID.
- Dr James Farley, Australian finalist in the Sony World Photography Organisation Student Prize in London, recipient of a Young Regional Artist Scholarship from Arts NSW (CREATE NSW) and NSW/ACT Young Achiever of the Year (Arts) spoke with the students about the importance of working hard, taking risks and being okay with sometimes failing along the way.
- Zoe Robinson, Youth Advocate, Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People opened the floor to hear firsthand from the students about what they would like to see improved or implemented within their LGA. It was encouraging to see how open the students from across the Region were, when asked what is working well in their town, what is not and what would they like to see occur. Zoe had one of the students note all the comments to take back to the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People.
- Michael Nixon, a finalist in the International Breakthrough Challenge, a global science video competition, aiming to develop and demonstrate young people's knowledge of science and scientific principles spoke about his competition entry. He spoke about how he made his video entry, the tips and tricks behind the scenes and also a look at some of his earlier work. To the student's surprise when Michael was asked did he intend to go on to do film or science now he had completed year 12, his answer, I am waiting on an offer from a United States University to study engineering!
- Paul Worsfold, Coordinator, *Start Your Career Here* Riverina Joint Organisation spoke with the students about the Program and the opportunities for students within local government. It was great to see many students chatting with Paul throughout the day at his *Start your Career Here* stand.

The students also participated in a number of workshops throughout the day, with Sphero Battle Bots, Digital Photography and Mindfulness sessions all running on rotation throughout the Forum.



As per previous years, students were asked to complete an evaluation at the end of the Forum, it is great to see that the students really enjoyed the day with 100% of students who completed the survey saying they enjoyed the Forum. The students were also asked, what did you like about the Forum and what didn't you like about it? Some of the students' comments are detailed below:

- *"I loved the great speakers and all the activities were really enjoyable. P.S the food was great :)"*
- *"It was inspiring and insightful. It taught me a lot about doing what I believe in"*
- *"It was very interactive and inspiring. All the activities were thought out and the people that spoke were very inspiring and taught me a lot"*
- *"I liked listening to all the speakers, they were all very interesting and the workshops were very fun and relaxing"*
- *"I really enjoyed the speakers and the wellness workshops"*
- *"I liked all the cool presentations and activities we could do"*
- *"Inspired to research more career opportunities and has increased my motivation to succeed in my leadership role"*
- *"I like how there was guest speakers coming in to talk about their life's work. I loved the STEM workshop because it was hands on and really fun working with groups"*
- *"I enjoyed being in a positive environment with people who want to lead as well"*
- *"I like everything about it, it showed me that there is a lot more opportunities"*

Hon Bronnie Taylor MP, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women addresses the Youth Forum via video link

Mindfulness Sessions delivered across the REROC/Riverina JO Region

The Riverina JO in consultation with the REROC Youth and Community Development Committee was successful in obtaining funding through the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network, Empowering our Communities Grant. The grant enabled the delivery of 16 Mindfulness sessions across the Region. The sessions were held as part of the member councils 2021 Youth Week programs with two sessions offered in each LGA. Sessions were booked not only in the main towns of West Wyalong, Coolamon, Cootamundra, Gundagai, Culcairn, Junee, Temora and Wagga Wagga but also in areas like Ungarie, Aria Park and The Rock. This ensured that we were reaching as many participants as possible throughout the 2-week period.

Unfortunately, the uptake of these sessions was lower than anticipated in some areas. We consulted with the REROC Youth and Community Development team with the main concerns around the lack of participation being the timing of the sessions (a lot of people away due to school holidays and the first-time people could travel freely without COVID restrictions) and a lack of familiarity with the concept of Mindfulness and what it involves. There was also some concern expressed around the stigma that can still surround youth mental health.

Youth who did participate in the sessions thoroughly enjoyed them and feedback received by The Mindful Warrior through social media has been extremely positive. We feel that even though some of these sessions were not well attended, The Mindful Warrior was still able to have a presence in each of the communities which allowed conversations to start around the importance of youth mental health.



REROC WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY

The REROC Waste Forum was the first of the Technical Groups established by REROC. It has operated successfully since 1998 and currently is partially funded as a Voluntary Regional Waste Group (VRWG) through the EPA's *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative. The Waste Forum is one of eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs) operating in NSW all of which are part of the RENEW NSW group.

The Forum is responsible for initiating collaborative projects and actions that assist Member Councils to implement and deliver solutions on managing waste and developing resource recovery solutions at a regional level. The longevity of the Waste Forum highlights the importance that the ROC and its Member Councils place on waste management and resource recovery.

Throughout the 2020/21 year, REROC has worked closely with RENEW NSW and the other VRWGs to secure ongoing funding, which had been placed at risk because of delays in the release of the NSW 20-Year Waste Strategy. REROC on behalf of all the VRWGs prepared an evaluation survey which was sent to every VRWG member council, with the collated responses used to support the request for an ongoing commitment of funding for the VRWGs past 30 June 2021. The aggregated report from this survey which detailed the importance of the VRWGs to local councils was shared with the EPA and provided both qualitative and quantitative data on the VRWGs' capacity to deliver services that benefitted their member councils and the communities those councils represent.

We were very pleased to receive news in November 2020 that our request for transition funding for the VRWGs had been approved for 2021/22. This was a great outcome for all VRWGs and their member councils and the result of a great deal of lobbying by all the VRWGs, RENEW, local councils and LGNSW pushing to retain the services of the VRWGs. The actions were also strongly supported by the EPA who had to request the additional funding from Treasury.

The 2020/21 year has been another challenging year in the world of waste with COVID-19 restrictions placing many obstacles on service and program delivery. "Business as Usual" has proved to be anything but, with Member Councils having to adapt and readapt to restrictions put in place because of COVID-19. Our Member Councils have worked hard to keep their landfills and other services

open during the lockdown periods. It has certainly been a changeable year, one where the flexibility of our Member Councils has come to the fore to ensure they were able to accommodate the needs and requirements of the residents they serve.

Restrictions that were put in place throughout the 2020/21 year also impacted on the delivery of quite a few of our programs and projects. Where possible we have readjusted our programs to meet the COVID-19 requirements with all REROC Waste Forums and RENEW meetings now being held online. All our community and school programs were impacted by the pandemic with most postponed and organised for later dates including our annual *No Time to Waste Conference* which was originally postponed until early 2021 and then was again postponed to October 2021.

In June 2021 we saw the release of the long-awaited NSW *Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041* (formally known as the 20 Year Waste Strategy) together with the *NSW Plastic Action Plan*. The major initiatives contained in the 2041 Strategy include:

- Mandating food and garden organics collections for all NSW households by 2030 and food waste from select businesses by 2025 (NSW Government to invest \$65 million over five years from FY2023 to assist)
- \$16 million investment in a new joint procurement facilitation service for local government for household waste services
- A series of feasibility assessments and engagement about the suite of infrastructure investment needed
- \$37 million Carbon Recycling and Abatement Fund to support circular design to reduce carbon-intensive materials and increase recycling
- Requiring landfill gas capture for landfills over a certain size as well as all expanded or new landfills supported by \$7.5 million investment and require net zero emissions from licensed landfills by a prescribed timeframe

The transitional funding received by the Waste Forum from the EPA requires that we work toward aligning our Regional Waste Strategy with the new State Strategy.

E-Waste Collections

REROC Member Councils and their residents and small businesses have been utilising the REROC subsidised e-waste collection service in their LGAs for over eight years. This service is provided free of charge to residents and small businesses located in REROC Waste Forum Member Council LGAs.

The e-Waste collections fall under the Federal Government's National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NCRS), which requires that importers and manufacturers of televisions and computers put arrangements in place for the collection and recycling of their end-of-life products. The waste is collected from the REROC LGAs by a local contractor and is then taken to Kurrajong Recycling Wagga Wagga to be processed. This scheme not only diverts e-waste from ending up in landfill but also supports local employment opportunities.

Computers, computer peripherals and televisions are eligible for collection through the REROC Collection program with free council e-waste collection points located in Coolamon, Cootamundra, Culcairn, Gundagai, Junee, Lockhart, Temora, West Wyalong and in Wagga Wagga at Kurrajong Recycling and the Gregadoo Landfill.

During the 2020/21 period we were forced to pause our collection service when the NCRS accredited company that was servicing Kurrajong advised that they were retiring from the NCRS and would no longer be involved. This left Kurrajong Recycling with no contractor to take the

waste once it had been processed at their facility. Once this was announced, we worked closely with Kurrajong Recycling to identify a solution. We also arranged for REROC and Kurrajong to meet with Hon Trevor Evans MP, Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management about the problems that were being encountered.

In addition, REROC released a Request for Quotation to ascertain whether any companies were in position to provide an e-waste collection and disposal service for the Region, if Kurrajong was unable to find a viable solution. Kurrajong was able to secure a contract with a provider to take their processed e-waste and therefore we were able to return to a Business-as-Usual arrangement.

During the 2020/21 period 201 tonnes of e-waste was collected and sent to Kurrajong Recycling for processing.

Regional Collection contracts

We have continued to provide regional collection opportunities for REROC Member Councils throughout the 2020/21 period with councils being invited to participate in two Metal Waste Collections.

During the 2020/21 period 2755 tonnes of waste metal was collected from the participating councils' landfills providing Member Councils with hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue that can be utilised to offset the costs of waste management and resource recovery activities.



Bus advertising is one of the ways that the REROC Waste Forum is getting the Recycle Night? Recycle Right message out.

Recycle Night? Recycle Right!

Our *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* campaign continues to be a highly effective campaign across the Region. We now have a suite of 6 ads (TV and Cinema), a dedicated website and social media as part of the campaign. The Campaign's first series of ads aimed to remind residents that what goes in the yellow lidded bin is sorted by hand at one of the local Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs). The second series of ads were designed to thank residents for their great work in changing their recycling habits and further encouraged that positive behaviour. The second series also incorporated a 'no lids on bottles' message in response to requests from the local MRFs, Kurrajong Recycling and Elouera Recycling for the issue to be addressed.

The Recycle Night television campaign was run throughout November and December on Prime 7, this was undertaken at the local MRFs request who advised that they found this time of year particularly challenging for contamination in the recycling bin. It was also accompanied by social media posts plus our regular cinema advertising.

In addition to our regular advertising, we were also able to take the Recycle Night? Recycle Right! campaign on the road, literally, by putting it on the side of a bus! This branded bus campaign will run for six months with the bus travelling different routes around Wagga Wagga. Recycle Night coasters were also created and distributed throughout the REROC Waste Forum Region at mainly pubs and clubs. We have utilised branded coasters for other Waste Forum programs, and these have proved highly successful. Complete with a QR code that takes the resident directly to the *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* website, they are a great form of advertising for the program.

This year we also branded one side of our Kindergarten Library bags with the *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* branding.

Your recycling is sorted by hand

THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL TAKE A LITTLE EXTRA CARE WITH WHAT WE PUT IN OUR RECYCLING BINS!



www.recyclenight.org.au



NOT FOR RECYCLING:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| X Food scraps | X Chemicals | X Plastic Bags |
| X Garden waste | X Shredded paper | X Styrofoam |
| X Nappies | X Clothing/Bed Linen | X Syringes |
| X Ceramics | X Household items | X Scrap metal |

IF IN DOUBT LEAVE IT OUT



recycle night?
recycle RIGHT!



The new Recycle Night coasters complete with QR codes take residents straight to the website

King and Queen of Green (Eaton Gorge Theatre Company)

The King and Queen of Green are a regular component of the REROC Waste Forum education program and were once again booked to tour the REROC region in May 2021. This year they performed in the REROC LGAs of Coolamon, Cootamundra and Junee. A central venue was organised in

each location with Kindergarten to Stage 3 students from each of the primary schools invited to attend.

The Eaton Gorge Theatre Company performed 8 shows in the Region, two in Junee Shire, three in Coolamon Shire and three in Cootamundra-Gundagai Shire. The Madam Mulch show was chosen this year as it ties in with the new REROC Waste Forum Composting campaign. The show focused on promoting awareness of the fun and value of

growing your own food in your garden and promoting involvement in the food cycle to return nutrients to the ground. There was a strong focus on how to create compost and mulch and how students can be involved in the process.

The shows were very well attended with 914 students and teachers in total attending the 8 shows performed. This has been our largest response from schools to date.

Schools who participated in the shows are as follows:

Junee Shire – two performances held at the Athenium Theatre

- Junee North Public School
- St Joseph's Junee
- Illabo Public School

Coolamon Shire – performances held at the Up-to-Date Store

- St Michaels Primary School
- Coolamon Central School

Ardlethan Hall

- Ardlethan Central School

Ganmain Hall

- St Brendan's Primary School
- Ganmain Public School

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council – two performances held at Cootamundra Town Hall

- Cootamundra Public School
- Sacred Heart Central School

Stockinbingal

- Stockinbingal Public School



Kindy Kits

The Kindy Kits program has been running continuously for 15 years, the Kindy Kits are designed to raise awareness of waste avoidance and resource recovery for primary school students, their parents and teachers.

At the end of 2020 after discussions with the Waste Forum it was agreed that we should determine whether the Program was still of value to the participating schools. A survey was circulated to all primary schools in the REROC region who had previously received the Kindergarten Library Bags (Kindy Kits) to obtain feedback on the Program. Based on those responses a decision was taken that in future the Program would require schools to pre-order their bags because this would demonstrate a commitment to utilise them.

The survey also allowed us to determine what the schools valued most about the project, we then adjusted the materials included in the bag to reflect that feedback. The change in how we delivered the Program ensured that the schools that use the Kindy Kits still received them, but we were not expending limited resources on schools who didn't utilise the Program.

One significant change that was made in response to feedback was a thicker, darker coloured bag that would last longer. We took the opportunity the new bags provided to also change in their design with *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* branding added to the 2021 bags. With the Kindy Kits going out to a large number of families each year they are an ideal way of promoting a number of the REROC Waste Forum's programs.

In 2021, 915 Kindy Kits were sent directly to 37 primary schools located in the REROC Member Council LGAs. Included in the bag were resources for the students from the REROC Waste Forum and partnering organisations. Items in the 2021 Kindy Kits included:

- REROC Waste Forum flyer – Help Reduce Waste at Home and School
- REROC Waste Forum Composting flyer
- Recycle Roo Material – bookmark and colouring sheet
- Compost Doctor colouring and activity sheets
- Letter from the REROC Waste Forum
- Healthy Eating for Children flyer
- Recycle Night information (printed on bags)
- CRC flyer with REROC Waste Forum Council locations

The materials contained in the Library Bags are aimed at promoting classroom discussions on waste management, resource recovery and promoting the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle message. Schools were encouraged to use the information to discuss ways to reduce waste and manage recycling at home and within the school environment.

EPA Litter Grant

REROC was successful in obtaining an EPA Litter Grant of \$115,800 to complete a two-phase program during the 2019/20 period however due to the impacts of COVID-19 there were some delays and it was finalised during the 2020/21 year. The Project aimed to reduce litter in council-owned parks and recreation areas and to increase council and community understanding of the cost of litter and the effectiveness of a regional response to litter reduction.

The Project involved two sites nominated by each REROC Waste Forum Member Council, one being a council owned park and one a sports ground. Initial litter audits were conducted at each of the sites using the EPA Online Litter Tool with a case study developed from the results from these audits.

The second stage of this project allowed for new bin infrastructure to be installed at the nominated sites. The new bin infrastructure was supported by clever pavement decals that directed people to the new facilities.

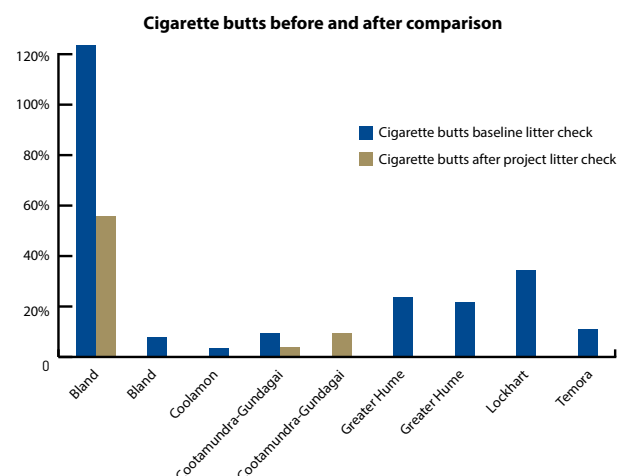
The bin infrastructure and pavement decals were installed by the end of 2020. This was followed by a further round of Litter Checks. The purpose of completing another Litter Check after the new bins had been installed was to see if the new signage, bins, and ad campaigns had made an impact on the amount of litter at the sites. A final report was prepared for the EPA with some very pleasing findings around the success of the program (graphs at right).

A refresher 'Don't be a Tosser' radio ad campaign was also run throughout October 2020, this was an important inclusion in the project as the last radio advertising had occurred in May/June. A refresher social media campaign for this project with posts on the REROC Waste Forum Facebook page was also run at this time.

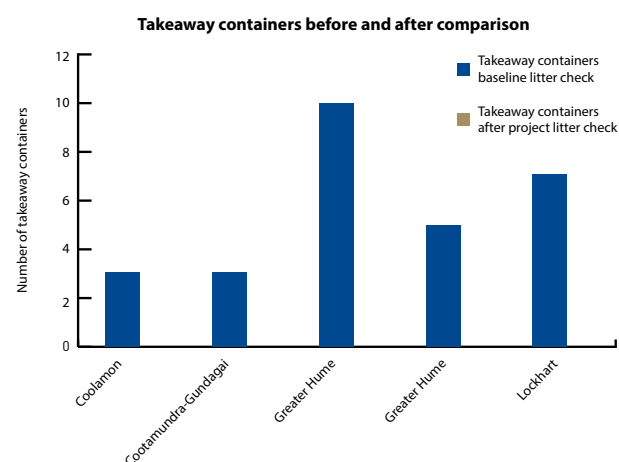
Also, as part of the Litter project, online training for up to 2 regulatory staff from each of the Participating Councils was organised. Twelve staff members from the REROC

Member Councils took up this offer and were registered to complete the online Litter Enforcement training.

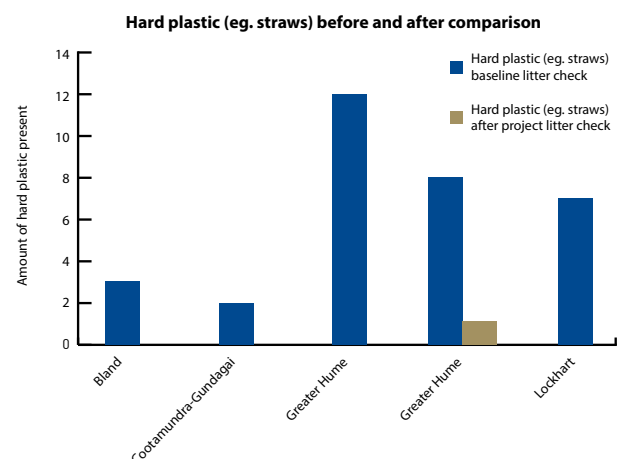
Graph 1: The REROC Waste Forum has seen a 70.9% reduction in cigarette butts across the region



Graph 2: The REROC Waste Forum has also seen an outstanding 100% decrease in take away container litter after the new bin infrastructure has been installed



Graph 3: The REROC Waste Forum has also seen an 98.9% decrease in hard plastic items like straws after the new bin infrastructure has been installed



FOGO Bin Education Campaign

The majority of our Member Councils currently offer or will soon offer a Food Organics and Greenwaste Organics (FOGO) waste service. The Waste Forum Members highlighted the issue of contamination in the FOGO bin as a problem that could be addressed regionally.

The Forum agreed that for the 2020/21 year, raising community awareness about contamination in the food organics and green lidded bins should be a focus. We met with the creative team behind the *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* campaign to discuss our new campaign *Food and Green. Keep it Clean!* The campaign will have TV and cinema ads as well as social media and a dedicated website which will also encompass our Compost Doctor program.

We reached out to all the REROC Waste Forum councils to collect their current organics messaging and to obtain the top 5 problem areas they are finding in the green lidded bin, some of the results were surprising with nappies, glass and plastic being common problems across the Region.

We have experienced some delays in the roll out of this project in 2020/21, mainly due to the inability to get out and film the new ads whilst under COVID restrictions. Consequently, we have been granted approval by the EPA to complete this project in the 2021/22 year.

Safe Sharps

First launched in 2011 with 350 sites, today Safe Sharps has approx. 3,500 locations listed on this site, mainly in NSW but also across Australia. Site analytics show that for 2020/2021 year there were 21,000 site users and 29,000 sessions on the site. These figures show that people are not only use the site once but are coming back again to look up locations.

The Safe Sharps website is designed as an interactive and dynamic site that allows sharps' users to identify locations where used sharps and sharps containers can be disposed of appropriately. Users can also search for the locations of single needle disposal points, sharps' container disposal points or sellers of sharps' containers.

We crowdsource updates to the data by providing opportunities on the website and the mobile device apps for users to inform us when information needs to change, or new sites added. We supplement this by writing to all councils in NSW and other States to ask for updated information.

The site and the supporting Apps (iPhone, iPad, and Android) provide users with information on opening

hours, the types of services provided such as if the chosen location takes single sharps or sharps containers. The apps also provide directions to the closest location for the user.

The Safe Sharps program is managed and currently funded through the REROC Waste Forum. The REROC Waste Forum oversees the day-to-day running of the site.

Diabetes NSW use the site as a core source of information for their clients and refer a large number of users to the site annually. Through our website analytics we can see large spikes in website usage when they have had a promotion of the site running.

During 2020/21 year we have written to all councils in South Australia and Western Australia requesting an update on their locations, we received a large response to this mailout with hundreds of entries to be updated or entered as new sites.

Throughout 2020/21 we have continued discussions with Diabetes NSW about potential upgrades they would like to see to the Safe Sharps website, these upgrades would further enhance user experience. We have also met with the Ministry of Health to discuss funding support for the site.

The maintenance and required upgrades to the Safe Sharps website are very costly. Therefore, we are continuing discussions with the EPA, Diabetes NSW and the Ministry of Health over the coming year for funding assistance as REROC is not in a position to continue funding the operation of the site on its own.

As part of our litter campaign new bins and pavement stickers were installed in council parks and recreation areas.



Community Recycling Centres (CRC)

The RERO CRC program continues to be very successful, providing a valued service to each of the RERO Waste Forum Member Councils.

CRCs are operating in Coolamon, Cootamundra, Culcairn, Gundagai, Junee, Lockhart, Temora, West Wyalong and most recently Wagga Wagga. We also have a CRC mobile trailer service which is hosted by Greater Hume Council and available for all Member Councils. The trailer is used to provide an outreach service to smaller communities. Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions throughout the 2020/21 year the mobile trailer has not been in use for most of the year.

The focus of the RERO Waste Forum CRC Campaign over the 2020/21 period was to continue reinforcing the locations of the CRCs with a strong focus on highlighting the materials that CRCs will accept. This was done by using several advertising platforms as well as through the completion of our annual Community and Landfill surveys for each of the CRC locations.

After not being able to complete as many community and landfill surveys as we would normally do throughout 2019/20 due to COVID restrictions it was very pleasing to be able to get out and about again in early 2021 to complete community and landfill surveys for each of our CRC locations. In response to COVID we did change the way we completed our community surveys this year and rather than attend large community events our interviewer was located in a main part of town - outside shops, supermarkets, bakeries etc. This decision was made with the aim of having a flow of people to speak with rather than a whole group at once. We also ensured that we followed COVID-safe practices with hand sanitiser, face mask for our interviewer, new pens for each person completing a survey and social distancing requirements in place. Our thanks to Christine Pinczuk, our interviewer for her great work.

Community surveys were completed in Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart and Temora. Landfill surveys were completed in Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Wagga Wagga.

Over the 2020/21 period, 243 community surveys were received in total which is a large increase in responses when compared to the 2019/20 respondents (115) which were down due to COVID restrictions impacting on the ability to complete surveys. We also saw a large increase in the number of landfill surveys with 196 completed over the 2020/21 year (35 in 2019/20 due to COVID).

The surveys continue to show that residents have a good knowledge of CRC locations and the services they provide. For the 2020/21 period 82% of residents who completed the landfill survey had previously used the CRC, 70% had heard about the CRC through word of mouth and 28% of respondents said they had heard about the CRCs through TV advertising, 21% through newspaper advertising and 53% through their local council website. 74% of respondents were also 'very likely' to recommend the CRC to family and friends.

32% of residents who responded to the Community Surveys stated that as a result of the CRC communications they had visited their local CRC, 33% stated they had started sorting their problem waste at home and 28% had told friends and family about the service.

The RERO Waste Forum CRC education campaign for 2020/21 communicated with residents through a variety of platforms. These included:

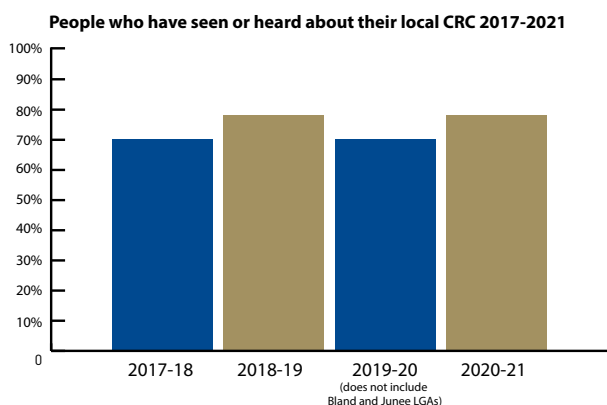
- Television
- Radio
- Cinema
- Press
- Council newsletters and websites
- RERO Waste Forum Facebook page
- CRC Riverina Murray Website
- CRC branded coasters with QR codes linking directly to CRC Riverina Murray website

For the first time we had CRC bar coasters designed which highlighted the locations of the CRCs in the RERO Region. The coasters included a QR code which took people straight to the CRC Riverina Murray website for further information. 26,000 coasters were delivered to a large number of venues across the region, and we saw a large spike in traffic on the CRC Riverina Murray website following the delivery of these coasters. There was also some chatter on social media with residents using the coasters to create pub games by posting images of the coasters on Facebook pages and then asking people to guess what the icons represented.

We shared this concept with the two RAMJO Waste groups to give the campaign a broader reach. The coasters will also be added as a question on the 2021/22 community and landfill surveys to capture recall of this method of advertising.

The CRC Riverina Murray website has seen a significant increase in users over the 2020/21 period with traffic to the site increasing from 426 in 2019/20 to 5,900 in 2020/21. We believe that this significant increase is due to the new CRC branded coasters and an increase in posts on the REROC Waste Forum Facebook page. In addition, RAMJO has increased its promotional activities for the CRC Riverina Murray website. Finally, REROC has been able to access better analytics for the website. The EPA CRC team also shared some of the REROC Waste Forum CRC posts which resulted in a large increase of activity on the Facebook page each time. We will monitor this significant increase in activity over the next 12 months to determine if the trend continues.

Graph 1: Even with the impact of COVID, REROC has seen an increase in awareness and knowledge about the CRCs over the 4-year period



Graph 2: We have seen an increase in 2020/21 of people who have started sorting their problem waste at home as a direct result of the CRC Communications

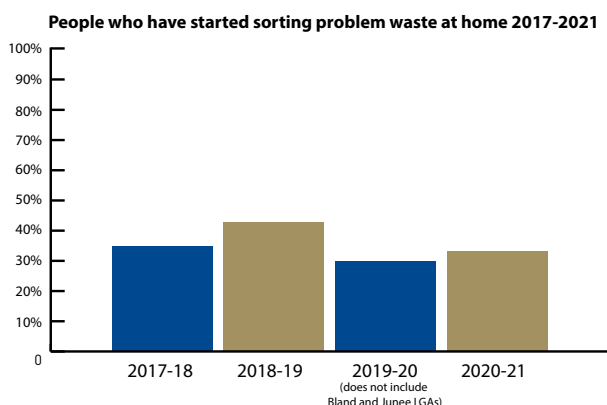
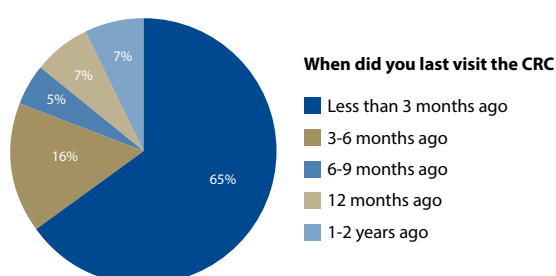


Chart 1: 2020/21 Community Survey Results



Graph 3: 2020/21 Community Survey Results

What did you do differently as a result of seeing the communications materials

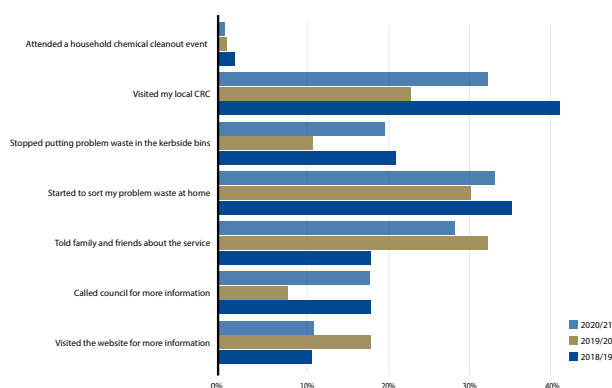
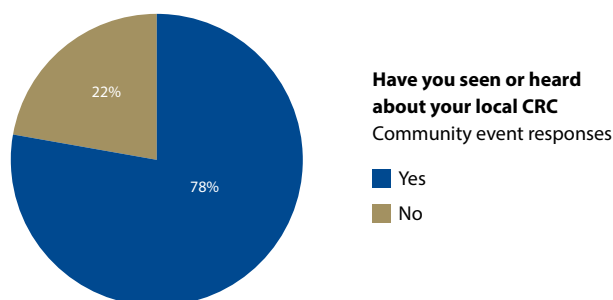


Chart 2: 2020/21 Community Survey Results



CRC Small Drop Off Stations

Due to the impacts of COVID-19 this project was rolled over from 2019/20 and completed in early 2021. In 2019/20 we were successful in obtaining funding to purchase additional CRC Small Drop Off Stations for councils to deploy at indoor sites. The new CRC stations were placed in highly visible areas such as council foyers, community libraries, local agribusiness stores as well as local supermarkets.

The provision of the CRC Small Drop Off Stations at central locations enables a greater number of residents to access and utilise the service, in particular, elderly residents who find it difficult to get to the local landfill. As a result of the project all councils in the REROC Waste Forum have at least one of these facilities in their LGA.

As part of this project, a new TV advertisement highlighting the use of the Small CRC Drop Off Stations was also created. The new ad aired on Prime 7 and the WIN Network until the end of the financial year. We partnered with NIRW Waste group and the two RAMJO Waste Groups to create the new advertisement. This is a similar arrangement to the one that is in place for the large CRC locations where the advertising was shared with the other Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs) to ensure consistent messaging across regional NSW.

Following on from the success of the CRC coasters, we also developed a CRC Small Drop Off Station coaster which

like the original coasters includes a QR Code that takes residents straight to the CRC Riverina Murray website. These have been distributed to a large number of venues around the region.

CRC Battery Boxes

Due to the impacts of COVID-19 the delivery of this program was also delayed from 2019/20 and completed in 2020/21. As part of the CRC Small Drop Off Station campaign, CRC Battery Boxes as well as signage promoting the battery boxes was delivered to all REROC Waste Forum Member Councils for distribution.

The battery boxes are small, cardboard boxes that not only act as a visual reminder that batteries can be recycled but also offer a short-term storage solution prior to taking them to the local CRC or CRC Small Drop Off Station. The battery boxes were also highlighted in the new CRC Small Drop off Station ad campaign. Councils have put the battery boxes in council reception areas and libraries for residents to access.

Circular Economy Innovation Network - Solar Panel Pilot program

With a large number of solar farms either already established or planned for the Riverina-Murray Region over the next 5 years we estimate that there will be approximately 4.75 million solar panels installed and in use in the region. If just 1% of those panels fail each year councils will have a large waste problem for which there is currently no solution other than landfilling.

This serious emerging waste problem raised concerns with the Waste Forum members and consequently we have taken up the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SMaRT) at the University of New South Wales to develop a pilot project that aims to find ways that these end-of-life solar panels can be reused and/or recycled, instead of ending up in municipal landfills.

In 2020/21 REROC provided a letter of support for New England Solar (a project partner in the Solar Panel Pilot program) for their EOI submission to the EPA Solar Trials funding program. We were advised they were successful in this EOI round and have advanced through to the next stage of this program.

RENEW

RENEW is the umbrella organisation for the Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs) that operate in regional NSW. It provides an effective and efficient platform for the VRWGs to meet and discuss common issues, problems and solutions.

RENEW is scheduled to meet every four months, and it offers the REROC Waste Forum the prospect of working collaboratively with the other VRWGs and the opportunity to hear directly from the EPA about the latest issues. These meetings allow the Waste Forum to provide feedback from a regional perspective on EPA initiatives.

To date we have worked collaboratively on several campaigns with the other VRWGs, our joint approach to advertising for the CRCs exemplifies the value of the VRWGs working together across the State to provide consistent messaging.

Throughout 2020/21, REROC has worked closely with RENEW and the other VRWGs to secure ongoing funding for the waste groups after 30 June 2021. As mentioned above we worked on a joint survey and the lobbying activities that eventually resulted in transitional funding being awarded to the VRWGs.

Once again COVID-19 impacted the number of face-to-face RENEW meetings that have been held throughout the 2020/21 financial year, we were able to meet face to face as part of the Coffs Harbour Waste Conference in May 2021 and have been able to meet as a group via online meeting platforms for the other meetings. This has proved to be a highly effective way to still hold our meetings and keep in contact with the EPA and the other VRWGs.

No Time to Waste 2020

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions we were forced to delay the 2020 Conference to February 2021, and then had to move it to an on-line platform. After considering the viability of the on-line format it was agreed that the Conference should be cancelled.

We are however looking forward to delivering a fantastic Conference program for *No Time to Waste 2021*.

WORKING WITH OTHERS



Eastern Riverina Arts

Eastern Riverina Arts and REROC share a similar footprint which facilitates collaboration between the two organisations. Tim Kurylowicz, 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. Eastern Riverina Arts actively supports the delivery of the Take Charge Youth Leadership Forum.

The Youth and Community Development Network meets at the Eastern Riverina Arts' Office and we are very grateful for their support, although for the later half of the year our meetings moved to video conferencing.



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 usually meet on a quarterly basis generally alternating between a Sydney location and a regional location, however this year most of the meetings have been via video conferencing. 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

Compact and REROC have worked collaboratively for over 15 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. It has also been a key collaborator in the Skills Shortage 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.

RDA delivers the Country Change project to which most of the REROC members support. 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 Executive Officer, Rachel Whiting regularly attends REROC meetings where she provides an update on RDA activities.

The RDA has been actively involved in the development of the Regional Housing strategy. We are looking to further our partnership in this area in the future.



Students at the 2021 Build A Bridge constructing their bridge on Day 3 of the Camp.

NSW Department of Regional NSW

We seek opportunities to partner with Department of Regional NSW to further projects such as The Freight Transport Strategy.

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



The Riverina JO is one of 13 Joint Organisations that were proclaimed in 2018.

The Riverina JO's Member Councils are: Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora, Wagga Wagga and Goldenfields Water and Riverina Water County Councils.

The principal functions of the Riverina JO are to:

- establish regional strategic priorities and develop strategies and plans to deliver those priorities;
- promote regional leadership and be an advocate for our regional strategic priorities; and
- identify and take up opportunities for intergovernmental co-operation on matters relating to the Joint Organisation are

The majority of the REROC Member Councils are also members of the Riverina JO. REROC works with the JO to develop regional strategic plans and to inform its advocacy and lobbying activities. These activities are facilitated by General Managers from the JO being members of the REROC Technical Groups.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2021

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

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Overview

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

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

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Executive.

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

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

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

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2021

Unaudited Budget 2021		Notes	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
Income from Continuing Operations				
Revenue:				
79,500	User Charges & Fees	2a	70,907	85,560
1,000	Interest & Investment Revenue	2b	5,865	11,730
103,939	Other Revenues	2c	126,229	169,142
403,960	Grants provided for Operating Purposes	2d	318,399	375,723
207,171	Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	2e	207,171	207,171
795,570	Total Income from Continuing Operations		728,571	849,326
Expenses from Continuing Operations				
721,460	Materials & Contracts	3a	889,808	710,691
-	Depreciation & Amortisation	3b	7,390	7,390
62,577	Other Expenses	3c	56,722	74,950
784,037	Total Expenses from Continuing Operations		953,920	793,031
11,532	Net Operating Profit/(Loss) for the Year		(225,349)	56,295

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2021

	Notes	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4a	628,107	907,520
Receivables	4b	88,907	106,988
Total Current Assets		717,014	1,014,508
Non-Current Assets			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	5	5,195	12,585
Total Non-Current Assets		5,195	12,585
TOTAL ASSETS		722,209	1,027,093
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	6	30,916	110,451
Total Current Liabilities		30,916	110,451
TOTAL LIABILITIES		30,916	110,451
NET ASSETS		691,293	916,642
Equity			
Retained Earnings	7	691,293	916,642
TOTAL EQUITY		691,293	916,642

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2021

Unaudited Budget 2020		Notes	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
Cash Flows from Operating Activities				
Receipts				
172,855	User Charges & Fees		92,371	72,788
2,248	Interest & Investment Revenue		5,388	14,947
611,131	Grants & Contributions		525,570	582,894
103,939	Other		126,228	169,142
Payments:				
(819,526)	Material & Contracts		(967,033)	(714,325)
(62,577)	Other		(56,722)	(74,950)
8,069	Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities		(274,198)	50,496
Cash Flows from Investing Activities				
	Purchase of Investment		(5,215)	(14,484)
-	Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities		(5,215)	(14,484)
8,069	Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents		(279,413)	36,012
	plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year		907,520	871,508
8,069	Cash & Cash Equivalents - end of the year		628,107	907,520

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

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Actual 2021		Actual 2020	
	Notes			
	Accumulated Surplus	Total Equity	Accumulated Surplus	Total Equity
Opening Balance	916,642	916,642	860,347	860,347
Restated Opening Balance	916,642	916,642	860,347	860,347
Net operating result for the year	(225,349)	(225,349)	56,295	56,295
Restated net operating result for the year	(225,349)	(225,349)	56,295	56,295
Total Comprehensive Income	(225,349)	(225,349)	56,295	56,295
Equity - balance at end of reporting period	691,293	691,293	916,642	916,642

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 2021

Contents of the notes accompanying the financial statements

Note	Details	Page
1	Summary of significant accounting policies	44
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6	Payables	50
7	Retained earnings	51

Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

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).

Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 1. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(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.

(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.

Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 1. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(i) Goods and services tax (GST)

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

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

(j) Going concern basis of preparation

REROC reported a net loss for the period of \$225,349 (30 June 2020: profit of \$56,295).

REROC reports net cash flow used by operating activities of \$274,198 (30 June 2020: provided by \$50,496). REROC has a surplus of working capital (being the amount the current assets exceed current liabilities) of \$686,098 as at 30 June 2021 (30 June 2020: \$904,057).

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.

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 2. Income from Continuing Operations

	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
(a) User Charges & Fees		
"Build a Bridge" Project	4,000	4,500
Energy & Innovation Conference	3,000	100
e-Waste Transport	-	20,594
Mapped Out Income	17,888	19,750
No Time to Waste Conference	-	4,000
Scrap Metal	46,019	36,616
TOTAL USER CHARGES & FEES	70,907	85,560
(b) Interest & Investment Revenue		
Interest on REROC Account	5,865	11,730
TOTAL INTEREST & INVESTMENT REVENUE	5,865	11,730
(c) Other Revenues		
Bitumen Emulsion Rebate	12,023	12,043
Joint Organisation Contribution	32,695	28,892
Meetings & Catering	800	-
Procurement	2,626	-
Strategic Collaboration	37,235	95,348
Sundry Income	1,735	10,550
Sustainability	-	18,809
Waste Management	32,982	-
Youth Network	6,133	3,500
TOTAL OTHER REVENUES	126,229	169,142
(d) Grants		
Community Recycling Centres Education	60,000	67,500
EPA Community Recycling Centres Small Drops Offs	-	78,000
EPA Waste	196,734	204,723
Contaminated Land Management Officer	38,150	-
Litter-Regional Implementation program	23,515	25,500
TOTAL GRANTS	318,399	375,723
(e) Contributions		
Council Contributions	207,171	207,171
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	207,171	207,171

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 3. Expenses from Continuing Operations

	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
(a) Materials & Contracts		
Executive Services	180,000	175,413
- "Build a Bridge" Project	9,399	1,648
- "No Time to Waste" Conference	1,556	3,049
- Biodiversity Officer Project	30,589	52,281
- CRC Education	66,699	60,833
- CRCB Contaminated Lands Project	-	2,886
- CRC Small Drop Offs	77,697	-
- Contaminated Land Management Project	185,005	-
- Energy & Innovation Conference	404	-
- EPA Waste	190,483	179,346
- e-Waste	5,500	6,016
- GIS	-	1,614
- L-RIP	59,932	70,328
- Mapped Out Expenditure	11,680	11,763
- Procurement Officer	8,238	5,838
- Strategic Collaboration	45,122	108,795
- Sustainability Project	-	18,000
- Waste Management	9,911	5,385
- Youth Project	7,593	7,496
TOTAL MATERIALS & CONTRACTS	889,808	710,691
(b) Depreciation		
- Plant & Equipment Depreciation	7,390	7,390
TOTAL DEPRECIATION COSTS EXPENSED	7,390	7,390

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 3. Expenses from Continuing Operations cont.

	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
(c) Other Expenses		
Consultancy - REROC/RivJO Review	-	15,000
Insurance	8,564	8,083
IT & Computer Expenses	3,334	2,774
Legal/Accounting/Audit	5,132	4,961
Meetings/Catering	4,851	7,362
Phone	3,076	3,818
Printing/Stationery/Postage	7,256	7,506
Rent	23,189	21,910
Representations	415	91
Subscriptions	326	540
Sundry	289	695
Travel	-	1,762
Web Site	290	448
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	56,722	74,950

Special Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 4 - Cash & Cash Equivalents & Receivables

	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
(a) Cash & Cash Equivalents		
Cash on Hand and at Bank		
- REROC Account	105,156	389,783
- CRC Account	1	1
- Beyond Bank	29	29
Investments		
- Beyond Bank	522,921	517,707
TOTAL CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	628,107	907,520

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 5 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

	as at 30/06/2020			as at 30/06/2021		
	At Cost	Acc Dep'n	Carrying Value	WDV of Disposals	Dep'n Expense	Carrying Value
Plant & Equipment	36,962	(24,377)	12,585	-	(7,390)	5,195
TOTAL						
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	36,962	(24,377)	12,585	-	(7,390)	5,195

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 6 - Payables

	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
(a) Payables		
Goods & Services Operating Expenditure		
- Materials & Contracts	30,916	110,451
TOTAL PAYABLES	30,916	110,451

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 7 - Retained earnings

	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
(a) Retained Earnings		
Movements in Retained Earning were as follows:		
Balance at beginning of Year	916,642	860,346
a. Net Operating Profit/(Loss) for the Year	(225,349)	56,296
Balance at End of the Reporting Period	691,293	916,642

REROC DELEGATES AS AT 30 JUNE 2020



Bland Shire Council

Cr. Brian Monaghan
Mr. Ray Smith PSM

Coolamon Shire Council

Cr. John Seymour OAM
Mr. Tony Donoghue PSM

Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council

Cr. Abb McAlister
Mr. Phil McMurray

Goldenfields Water County Council

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

Temora Shire Council

Cr. Rick Firman OAM
Mr. Gary Lavelle PSM

Regional Development Australia

Ms. Rachel Whiting

Department of Regional NSW

Mr Giles Butler

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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

Temora Shire Council

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Email temshire@temora.nsw.gov.au
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REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Strong regions
progressive local governments
vibrant communities