

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



## REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL  
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

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*The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC, President of the Legislative Council (pictured far right), hosted a visit to the NSW Legislative Council Chambers in May 2022*

## REROC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is my very real privilege to present my sixth Annual Report as Chairman of the REROC Board.

The REROC Board, our Chief Executive – Mrs Julie Briggs and our team have continued to be extremely busy and 'kick plenty of goals' over the past 12 months.

The Board continues to work collaboratively with our Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO), whenever it makes sense to do so, on projects such as the important Eastern Riverina Housing Strategy and our Skills Shortages project, just to name two.

While we have undertaken many projects, I would like to address just some of the activities the Board has immersed itself in over the past year:

- In late 2020, our REROC Member Councils, via our Planners' Technical Group, identified the housing shortage as an emerging problem for our Region. The concerns of the Group were followed up with REROC staff and the Planners undertaking an audit of available properties for sale and rent in each LGA, and also reviewing the AirBnB properties available. The review confirmed our concerns with some LGAs not having any rental properties available and virtually no housing stock for sale.

What followed, working with the Riverina JO, was a series of workshops throughout 2021 to identify the issues, barriers and possible solutions to the problem which progressively worsened. REROC together with



the JO made a submission to the Regional Housing Taskforce and spoke with the Taskforce about the issues during consultations in August 2021.

In December 2021 the Eastern Riverina Housing Strategy was completed. The document includes actions in 3 distinct areas: land availability, housing development and housing investment. It is a very comprehensive piece of work and we sincerely thank all our Member Council staff, State agency representatives, the Housing Industry Association, the community housing sector and of course Riverina Development Australia – Riverina (RDA-R) for their input.

We met with the Minister for Planning, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP to discuss issues identified in the Plan, including proposed changes to Infrastructure Contributions that would make it more expensive to build in country NSW, our proposal for a Revolving Infrastructure Fund and the Manufactured Homes Regulation. Manufactured Homes are expected to take a greater role in providing temporary accommodation, and the Regulation has been under review for a number of years.

This is a critical issue for our entire region and beyond, and one we will continue to work hard on, in collaboration with both State and Federal Government, as well as the private sector. I thank the Board, our CEO, our Planners' Technical Group, Member Councils, and the Riverina JO on their work done to date.

- In May, both our REROC and Riverina JO Boards visited NSW Parliament House to meet with Ministers to discuss a number of issues. We were fortunate that through the good work of our Deputy Chairman, Mayor Neil Smith, the trip included breakfast with President of the Legislative Council, The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC. We thank President Mason-Cox and Mayor Smith for making this an extra special visit.

The Ministers our Boards met with included: the Deputy Premier (The Hon Paul Toole MP), the Minister for Emergency Services & Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery (The Hon Steph Cooke MP), Minister for Planning & Housing (The Hon Anthony Roberts MP), Minister for Local Government (The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP), and the Minister for Arts, Regional Youth

and Aboriginal Affairs (The Hon Ben Franklin) just to name several. We thank the Ministers and their Staff for making time to spend with us, to discuss issues that are of the utmost importance to our REROC communities.

- In March, we held the delayed 2021 *No Time to Waste* Conference at The Range in Wagga Wagga. It was exciting to be able to bring attendees together after such a long time without access to these types of professional development activities. There were almost 100 people in attendance, with some travelling from as far away as the North Coast of NSW. Again, well done to our CEO and her team.
- Unfortunately, our Local Government Energy and Innovation Conference was postponed in November to be held in March, and then reluctantly cancelled. We are most grateful to our speakers and sponsors who were willing to travel with us to September 2022 when the Conference was finally held and went very well.

Conferences and Workshops are a very effective way for Councillors and Council staff to keep up with the latest policies, projects and innovations in our Council operational areas. The REROC Conferences are very reasonably priced to ensure they are accessible to all.

- We were very pleased to again deliver the 'Build a Bridge and get Over it!' initiative. REROC has been delivering this Camp together with the Wagga Compact for 15 years. With around 35% of over 300 high school student attendees choosing a career in engineering, we believe it is hitting the mark in addressing skill shortages in civil engineering. The 2022 Camp was amazing because, for the first time, the female students outnumbered the males, with 75% of attendees being female. Congratulations to our CEO, Mrs Briggs, the Wagga Compact Team and all involved in this very crucial and valued programme.
- The roll out of energy efficient LED streetlights, managed through our Southern Lights Project, has been completed. The project's work has resulted in 75,000 streetlights from Bega to Broken Hill being replaced with energy efficient lighting saving councils hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in energy bills. In our Region all seven Member Councils together with Wagga Wagga, have completed the deployment of the lights. The



*Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Regional Health addresses the Board at NSW Parliament House*

project is now working on ways that the lights can be connected to a control system that would allow councils to dim and trim the lights creating more savings.

- The Board's warm thanks are extended to our partners in the project Central NSW JO, CRJO, RAMJO and Broken Hill City Council, with a special thanks to our consultants Next Energy. I particularly acknowledge our CEO, Mrs Briggs, who was the Project Manager for this brilliant initiative that enhances community safety across our Region, as well as savings with our respective budget bottom lines.
- The Board has worked diligently with our Southern Lights partners on the review of the NSW Public Lighting Code. The Code is essentially the Service Level Agreement by which all street lighting providers in NSW (Essential Energy, Endeavour Energy and Ausgrid) are held to account for the monopoly services they provide. IPART oversees compliance and it is important that the Southern Lights group provide constructive input to the revision to ensure the interests of councils across NSW are properly accounted for. Our CEO, Mrs Briggs, provides the lead from a local government perspective, which has been invaluable.
- REROC was very fortunate last year to be offered an opportunity to join the NSW Government's Sustainable Councils & Communities project. This has

enabled our Member Councils to complete Energy Savings Action Plans which identify projects that can be implemented to increase energy efficiency and save money. Our Councils have been working on implementing initiatives from their ESAPS throughout the year. On a regional level we identified a group procurement of retail energy for large and small sites as an action to be undertaken. REROC has been making these types of procurements since 1997, however through the SCC program we were provided with funding for a consultant to assist with what is a very complex procurement. We were also able to join with Central NSW JO in the procurement of the Large Energy Sites for a project that became the largest Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) by Councils in NSW.

- We also partnered with the SCC team and the Riverina Regional Library Service to provide Save Power Kits for residents. The Kits are available to borrow, at no charge from each RRLS library, enabling residents to identify ways in which they can save energy at home.
- Our work with our Technical Groups has been ongoing. These Groups are integral to the success of the ROC, 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. The Board warmly thanks all involved with our respective Technical Groups.

- REROC is working collaboratively with RAMJO on the Contaminated Land Management Project. The project aims to improve the capacity of Council staff to manage contaminated land issues with the current project focusing on the management of Underground Petroleum
- Storage Systems (UPSS). The State Government passed responsibility for UPSS regulatory activities to Councils in 2020, and it has been a real challenge to build a skill base capable of meeting our statutory requirements. Thank you to our CLM Project Officer Mr Matthew Dudley and Mrs Jacqueline Vyne for their obvious commitment to our Member Councils and communities.
- Our REROC Waste Forum will continue its great work in the waste and resource recovery area. We have been advised by the EPA that funding will be available for the next 5 years for the Forum's work to continue. We are very grateful for the EPA's support for Voluntary Regional Waste Groups across the State that perform such an integral role in delivering programs and projects that improve waste, resource recovery and circular economy outcomes.
- REROC, working with the RivJO, having submitted a robust response to IPART's Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges. Our Member Councils did not want to see IPART's proposal to set a peg for the charges come to fruition. We provided sound reasoning as to why this should not happen and also met with IPART representatives to argue the case against a peg. Our submission was strongly informed by the REROC Waste Forum and the work it undertakes.
- REROC's *'Take Charge'* Riverina Youth Leadership Forum which was scheduled for late March 2022 had to be postponed until August due to COVID restrictions. The event went ahead in August and was another tremendous success. Again, held at the impressive 'The Range' Conference venue in Wagga, we attracted some 130 youth leaders from across our REROC footprint, as well as Wagga Wagga. The outstanding guest speakers, workshops and fellowship were all enjoyed by those of us who

attended. It was our pleasure to also host the NSW Minister for Regional Youth, the Arts, Aboriginal Affairs, and Tourism, the Hon Ben Franklin MLC, who spent considerable time with us. Well done to our CEO, Mrs Briggs and her team for hosting this extra special event. REROC is continuing to work with RivJO in this critical space. Many positive initiatives have come from this, as the exciting work continues.

This is only a brief summary of the countless activities REROC is involved in. I encourage you to read of our many other undertakings throughout the remainder of our Annual report.

In December 2021 the NSW Local Government Elections were held. This resulted in several of our cherished Board members retiring. We farewelled former Mayors John Seymour OAM (Coolamon Shire) and Rodger Schirmer (Lockhart Shire), both served as my Deputy Chairmen and Members of the Executive, over the last several years.

We also had long-standing Mayor Abb McAlister (Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council) leave us as a member of both the Board and Executive. These three 'gentlemen of local government' are special to us all and always will be. Their contributions to our Riverina region have been and continue to be enormous. Cr McAlister is not lost to local government, as he still serves as a councillor with CGRC.

Former Mayor, Cr Heather Wilton (Greater Hume Shire) is also no longer on our REROC Board. Cr Wilton continues to serve as a Councillor and her contributions will always remain in our collective hearts.

We also farewelled former Goldenfields Water County Council Chairman, Cr Dennis Palmer (Cootamundra-Gundagai Shire Council), Mr Ray Smith PSM (former General Manager of Bland Shire) and Mr Steven Pinnuck (former General Manager Greater Hume Shire). We know these gentlemen also had a tremendous focus on their councils, but also contributed strongly to our cherished REROC Family.

It was also sad to see REROC Staff Members in Mrs Kate Hardy, Mrs Claire Garrett and Mr Isaac Cornell depart REROC. Their contributions have been immense, and we wish them well.



Every one of these individuals, whether they be Mayors, General Managers or staff are deeply missed, but their contributions will always be remembered – and our friendships will always remain.

In saying 'goodbye' to some, we warmly welcomed new members of our REROC Board. They included; Mayor David McCann OAM (Coolamon Shire), Mayor Charlie Sheahan (CGRC), Mayor Greg Verdon (Lockhart Shire), Mayor Tony Quinn (Greater Hume Shire), Cr Matthew Stadtmiller (Goldenfields Water County Council), Mr Grant Baker (General Manager - Bland Shire) and Mrs Evelyn Arnold (General Manager – Greater Hume). The Board warmly welcomes them and we appreciate their valuable contributions and commitment to REROC.



At this time, our Board, Chief Executive and team would like to express our thanks to our respective State Members of Parliament, for their ongoing commitment to REROC and our communities we proudly represent. To the Hon Steph Cooke MP (Member for Cootamundra), Mr Justin Clancy MP (Member for Albury) and Dr Joe McGirr MP (Member for Wagga Wagga), and Hon Wes Fang MLC – we extend our deep appreciation for all they do for us.

It is also important to acknowledge our Federal Member for Riverina and former Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP. Mr McCormack continues as a strong supporter of REROC and we remain most grateful to him and his staff.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of our REROC Executive Committee who have served REROC in the last financial year. They include:

#### **CHAIRMAN**

- Mayor Rick Firman OAM (Temora Shire)

#### **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

- Mayor Neil Smith (Junee Shire)

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

- Mrs Julie Briggs

#### **TREASURER**

- Mr Tony Donoghue PSM (Coolamon Shire)

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

- Mayor David McCann OAM (Coolamon Shire)

- Mayor Charlie Sheahan (Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council)

- Mr Peter Veneris (Lockhart Shire)

- Mr Ray Smith PSM (Bland Shire)

- Mr Steven Pinnuck (Greater Hume Shire)

This added responsibility, as well as being a Board member of REROC is appreciated by us all.

I extend sincere thanks to our Treasurer, Mr Donoghue. The commitment he has to our Region is outstanding and we are most grateful to him, as well as his 'right hand' Mrs Courtney Armstrong together with the entire Coolamon Shire Council. They do a great deal for our REROC Family, and this is never taken for granted.

*Hon Michael McCormack addresses the REROC Board, November 2021.*



To our Chief Executive, Mrs Briggs – we cannot extend our thanks and praise more liberally for the commitment, dedication, heart and soul she puts into REROC and our Member Councils. I continue to be inspired by her work ethic and attention to detail. Mrs Briggs has countless contacts in all levels of Government and in the private sector, all which prove invaluable to us as a region. Mrs Briggs is also Principal of a Law Firm and carries out several roles on National, State and Regional Boards. On behalf of our entire REROC Board, our member Councils and our communities, our warm gratitude goes to our cherished Chief Executive, Mrs Julie Briggs.

The Board and I also share our thanks to our other REROC Team members in Andrew Trenaman, Jenny Pideski and Helen Mundy.

To every Board Member of REROC – I sincerely thank you. It is an overwhelming privilege for me to serve as your Chairman. I am honoured to work beside you all, to ensure our beautiful Riverina region thrives and prospers long into the future.

Finally, to our Member Councils, to each councillor, and staff member who make up our REROC Family, I extend my personal thanks to all. Your genuine support of REROC is deeply valued. This is an organisation owned by our members and I know all of us will want to ensure our tremendous work continues, long into the future.

Thank you very much.



Cr R B Firman OAM  
CHAIRMAN

*Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier of NSW, addresses the Board in May at Parliament House*



# SPEAKING OUT

Advocacy remains a key role for REROC, although much of it is now delivered through the Riverina JO as per arrangements put into place by the Members in 2018. However, REROC continues to respond to specific issues in waste management and resource recovery, planning, public lighting and energy as well as other areas which are primarily operational or where REROC has a long history of advocacy in the area.

REROC Member Council staff provide on-ground input to the advocacy work that is undertaken by both the JO and the ROC ensuring that our Member Councils have the best informed and most robust response to the issues of the day.

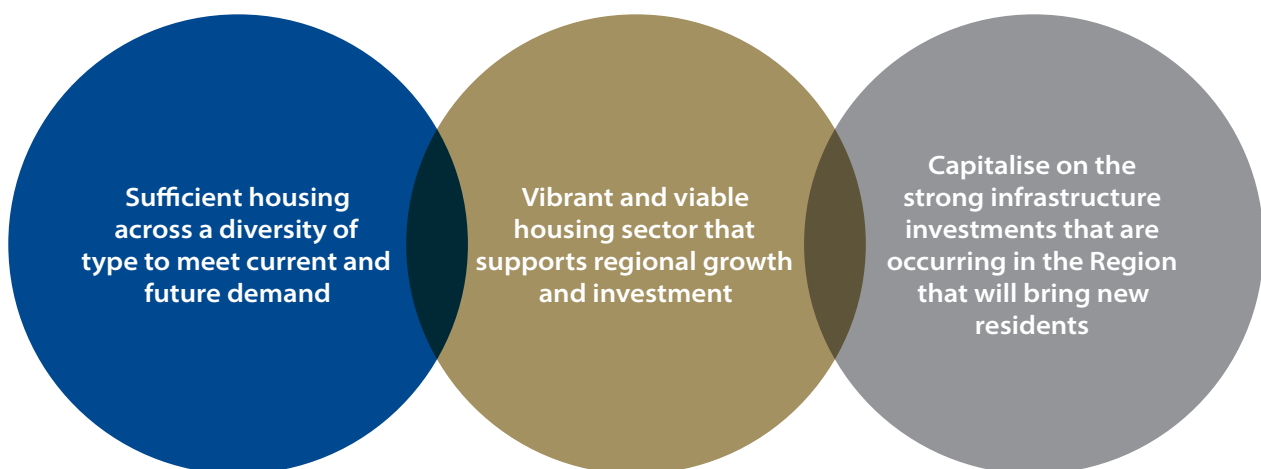
This is an important role that we play; by banding together in a single voice, we are much stronger than when we advocate alone. REROC is strongly committed to speaking out wherever and whenever needed, to ensure that the councils and the communities we represent are heard at the highest levels.

## Eastern Riverina Regional Housing Strategy

Working collaboratively with the Riverina JO, we were able to complete the Eastern Riverina Housing Strategy in December of 2021. The Strategy aims to identify the barriers and possible solutions to addressing what is now a chronic housing shortage across our Region. The problem was first identified by the REROC Planning Technical Working Group in late 2020, research was then undertaken to determine the extent of the problem.

This was followed by a series of workshops with Member Councils, State agencies and stakeholders including RDA-Riverina, the Housing Industry Association and community housing. In developing the Strategy, we agreed that it should address the following goals:

### Our Goals



Our Members agreed that to create a vibrant eco-system that delivers not just housing, but a diversity of housing, three key interdependent drivers are required for success. The three key drivers need to work together feeding each other for a robust and viable residential development ecosystem to operate.

## Key Drivers for Regional Housing



Our Strategy tackled each key driver identifying actions that could be taken to create an environment that supported housing growth. Below is a summary of Key Actions identified in the Strategy, some of which are to be implemented by our Members while others are clearly within the jurisdiction of State and Federal governments.

### Key Actions

Revolving Infrastructure Fund accessible to all councils	Identification of Crown Land available for permanent and temporary housing	Set land supply targets to create pipelines	Minimise release time by creating Development-Ready Land	Identification of under-utilised Council Land e.g. pocket parks for rezoning
Align utility expansion plans with residential development	Form partnerships with private enterprise and Community Housing Providers	Market the value of investing in rural areas to financial institutions	Allow Business Investment Visa Applicants to invest in regional residential development	Ensure planning processes are efficient and minimise paperwork
Tie infrastructure contributions and Biodiversity Offset payments to milestones	Ensure there are sufficient trained workers to meet construction demands	Promote benefits of "Granny flat" developments	Encourage "Build to Rent" arrangements – provide incentives e.g. reduced Stamp Duty, rates	Introduce land rental schemes to lower entry cost
Partner with Crown Land to develop temporary accommodation for contract workers.	Require DA approvals for large scale development to include provision for worker housing	Develop guidelines for shared equity arrangements	Introduce tax incentives to provide worker residences	Introduce rating based on lot yield to deter land banking

The above Key Actions are to be implemented from a strategic perspective by the Riverina Joint Organisation and from an operational perspective by the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils. Both organisations will be working collaboratively with State agencies and other stakeholders such as RDA-Riverina, social housing providers and the NSW HIA to address this significant regional issue.

One of the actions that REROC has agreed to pursue, is the development of a regional level partnership with community housing provider/s to deliver more of this type of housing into Member Council LGAs. We believe that this type of approach has the possibility of generating economies of scale and scope that may make developments in smaller communities more attractive.

## Regional Housing Taskforce Inquiry

We worked with the JO on a submission to the Regional Housing Taskforce which was led by Gary Fielding. We attended the Roundtable discussions held for the Riverina region in August. Our submission to the Taskforce, was based on our Regional Housing Strategy.

## NSW Public Lighting Code

Throughout 2021-22, REROC along with its partners in the Southern Lights Group have been working on a substantial revision of the NSW Public Lighting Code. The Code is the default Service Level Agreement between Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSPs) and road authorities who are responsible for lighting public roads. The DNSPs are Essential Energy, Endeavour Energy and Ausgrid, the road authorities are Local Government and Transport for NSW.

Compliance with the Code is mandated, with DNSPs required to report on their performance on public lighting directly to IPART as part of their licence obligations. REROC is very concerned to ensure that the Code reflects the possible usage of the lights for Smart Technologies. Street lighting is no longer an infrastructure asset but a piece of technology that can be leveraged to deliver Smart Cities/Communities benefits. Re-working the Code to reflect that new reality has been a focus for the Southern Lights Group particularly as Essential Energy has made the decision to leave the investment in a communications backbone that will connect the street lighting to a Lighting Control System to councils. Our goal has been to ensure that councils who choose to make that investment are properly protected.

## Stewardship for Consumer Electrical and Electronic Products Discussion Paper

The Federal government launched a review of this product stewardship scheme. Product stewardship refers to an approach whereby the sellers and importers of a consumer product are required to implement a scheme to dispose of end-of-life products. The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme is captured by the Consumer Electrical and Electronic Products stewardship arrangements.

REROC continues to advocate for industry to provide better services for rural and remote communities. The current legislative arrangements do not set rural and regional collection targets for end-of-life electronic products which effectively leaves our communities having to fend for themselves. REROC has addressed this issue by funding the collection and transport of ewaste to Kurrajong Recyclers from our Member Council LGAs, a cost that should be borne by the importers of the products.

## Review of the Manufactured Homes Regulation

REROC has lobbied throughout this year for the review of this Regulation to be finalised. Manufactured homes means manufactured homes estates, caravan parks and moveable dwellings which are becoming increasingly important for the housing mix in the current housing shortage environment. We have also asked that the review include tiny homes and foldable dwellings.

## Road Rail Interface Agreements

REROC has led negotiations with UGL the manager of the Country Rail Network (CRN) on the development of these agreements. The Agreements set out the terms by which councils are able to undertake road works on operational and non-operational rail interfaces such as rail crossings and how UGL is required to interact with public roads when they work on rail.

Our goal with these negotiations is to ensure that the terms are reasonable, do not generate unwarranted additional costs for councils and are workable. We are continuing to negotiate with UGL to finalise arrangements which meet the requirements of both parties.



## Population Projections Project

Our Members constantly express their frustration with the population projections generated by the State Government, believing that they do not accurately reflect the growth that councils are experiencing. This year we commissioned the RDA-Riverina to review projections for the last 20 years with the aim of determining how closely population projections align with actual population growth and utilise this information in other projects.

We are fortunate that RDA-Riverina has a dedicated researcher with the capability to review statistics that provide support for the advocacy work that we do.

## Infrastructure Contributions Charges

REROC worked with our Planners and the JO to provide a response to the State's proposal to change Infrastructure Contributions. We were particularly concerned about two issues, the proposal to impose a flat rate of \$2,000 per megawatt hour and a cap of \$450,000 for solar farms. This clearly would have led to inequitable outcomes whereby a \$900 million solar farm would pay the same development contribution as a farm half the size. REROC continues to maintain that State Significant Developments should be required to pay the 7.12 contribution of a flat 1% directly to councils.

The second issue that caused significant concern was a proposal to impose a flat rate development contribution of \$10,000 per home and \$8,000 per dwelling for dual occupancy residences. Again, we opposed this because of the inequities the proposal generated particularly for rural and regional councils, where the flat rate would have resulted in some households paying double the development application fees that they are currently required to pay. The flat rate on multi-unit dwellings would have acted as a disincentive to building medium density housing in rural areas.

## Draft Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline

REROC, with advice from our Planners and our Members, submitted a response to the draft Guideline which aimed to establish guidance for solar farm proponents on best practice. The Guidelines deal with some major issues

that were of concern to our Members, including the establishment of farms on prime agricultural land, the payment of developer contributions, and how waste is dealt with during the construction phase as well as when the farm is actually operating. REROC remains concerned that there are no viable recycling options for end-of-life solar panels and that the responsible disposal of the panels is not dealt with in development consents.

We were also able to meet with senior staff from the Department of Planning to talk through our concerns and provide suggestions in relation to the Guidelines. The final Guidelines were released in August 2022.

## EPA Local Government Advisory Group

This Group was formed by the EPA in 2020 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 of the EPA.

The Group meets every 2-3 months, 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 circular economy initiatives.

*Attendees at the first workshop held to develop the Regional Housing Strategy*



## Engagement with State and Federal Members of Parliament

We aim to meet regularly with our local State and Federal members and have been fortunate to have had personal meetings with most throughout the year.

We met with the Minister for Planning, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, in February to discuss a number of issues including the proposed changes to the Infrastructure Contributions Charges, the Manufactured Homes Regulation, the Regional Housing Strategy and the Kickstart program.

In May, with the assistance of the Member for Cootamundra's office, we visited Parliament House and met with a number of Ministers to discuss issues that were of common interest. The visit was held jointly with the Riverina JO, the Member Councils met with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, the Hon Paul Toole MP, Hon Steph Cook MP, Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Regional Health, Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Housing, Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government and the Hon Ben Franklin, Minister for Arts, Regional Youth and Aboriginal Affairs.

Members were also able to meet with Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC, President of the Legislative Council for breakfast in the President's Dining Room. Mr Mason-Cox

provided the Members with a tour of the Legislative Council chambers. The visit was organised through the work of our Deputy Chairman, Cr Neil Smith.

One of our goals is to ensure that we keep relevant Ministers, our local members and other stakeholders up to date with our stance on issues for which we are advocating. Therefore, we 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 relevant ministers, the Shadow Minister for Local Government, LGNSW and the Country Mayors Association.

We did try to arrange a meeting with Ministers in Canberra, in late 2021 however COVID interfered with our plans and the visit and to be cancelled.

## 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.

*Dr Joe McGuirk, Member for Wagga Wagga, addresses a Board meeting*



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Local Government in regional is are either the largest or one of the largest employers in an LGA, consequently the on-going development of council's workforce is of great significance.

Unfortunately, COVID again played havoc with the delivery of professional development activities forcing us to delay activities and, in some cases, as with Mapped Out and the Local Government Energy and Innovation Conference cancel them. Nevertheless, we have tried to deliver as many activities as we can during this time, utilising Zoom to bring guest speakers to the REROC Technical Group meetings to keep staff updated.

Our Workforce Development Group continues to support the Riverina JO's Skills Shortages project Unfortunately, the delivery of some of the Project's face-to-face activities were

delayed because of COVID, however our Members remain committed to a "grow your own" strategy and are very keen to support the work of the project.

Our *Build a Bridge...and Get Over It!* initiative continues to successfully promote careers in civil engineering. This year's Camp, for the first time, attracted more female students than male students. Since 2006 when the first Camp was held, over 300 students have participated in the program with around 35% going into a career in engineering.

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.

## ***No Time to Waste Conference***

The 2021 Conference that was scheduled for October was delayed until March 2022 due to COVID.

The Conference again covered a diverse range of topics. The first day opened with a bang when the team from Eaton Gorge Theatre gave attendees a first-hand taste of their environmental education theatre productions. Other topics addressed included processing organic waste, the problems associated with disposing of waste after a disaster, CRC education programs and microfactories that support the circular economy. Mr Tony Khoury the Executive Director of WCRA provided a keynote address on the challenges facing the industry.

The event was sponsored by the EPA, Immix, Cooee, Talis Consultants and Sims Metal. We appreciate the enormous support all those sponsors gave which ensured the Conference's success.

## ***Build a Bridge... and Get Over it!***

Run in partnership with the 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

participate in practical, hands-on activities that allows them to experience the work that a civil engineer does.

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 for the first time female students outnumbered the male students with 12 of the 18 participants being female.

While COVID did impact on the numbers, the Region was well represented with students attending from Mt Austin High School in Wagga, Sacred Heart Central School in Cootamundra, Wagga Wagga Christian College, Mater Dei Catholic College Wagga, The Riverina Anglican College in Wagga Wagga, Billabong High School in Culcairn and Koorlingal High School in Wagga Wagga.

Our sponsors for this year's Build a Bridge Camp were the IPWEA (NSW), Riverina Water County Council and Riverina Joint Organisation (RivJO). The 2022 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.





Attendees at the No Time to Waste Conference, March 2022

We are very grateful for the support that our senior engineers provide in mentoring the students during the Camp. The Camp is led by facilitator Mr Nigel Worne who has been with us since the very first Camp and who, every year, puts his heart and soul into convincing the students to take on a career in civil engineering.

## 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. Mr Paul Worsfold is the Project Manager. The project aims to encourage high school students, TAFE and university students to consider a career in Local Government through experiential learning activities.

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. Support materials have been developed to assist in the delivery of the Day that includes information on the activities that can be held and the resources required to make the day a success.
- *Come and Try Days* – target high school students providing them with a taste of what a career in their chosen field would be like through directed activities and events, like *Build A Bridge*. Again this year COVID provided challenges in delivering activities however we have managed to design and test a program in town planning. The new program divides students into teams to design a residential precinct using Lego blocks to build a model of their design.
- *Professional Placements Program* – we have directed our efforts at CSU and Wollongong University students and are continuing to look at ways to engage TAFE students. This year a Student Ambassador was appointed at the University of Wollongong to promote professional placements directly with students and lecturers. This paid off in late June when our Student Ambassador at UoW, Samantha Tout, assisted in organising Engineering for Communities events. Engineering students from UoW visited councils in our Region to spend time with engineering staff talking about the depth and breadth of work available in rural councils.



COVID forced some changes with Placements this year with universities asking us to consider on-line placements. Councils considered the opportunity to provide on-line experiences, however, this has proved to be difficult.

- *Graduate Placement Program* – we finalised this program this year and the first Graduate was employed at Junee Shire Council in corporate services.

## Technical Group Guest Speakers and Site Visits

REROC has 8 Technical Groups in waste, planning, engineering, youth and community, energy management, water and wastewater, spatial data and workforce development. Throughout the year we have sought

opportunities to engage guest speakers who can provide in-depth information on specific issues that the staff are dealing with, many of the guest speakers come from State agencies.

Guest speakers are invited to attend on the request for the members of the Technical Group or will often approach REROC looking for the opportunity to speak with a specific Technical Group.

We also arrange for site visits where new or innovative things are occurring. This year the Water and Wastewater Technical Group made a site visit to the new Sewerage Treatment Plant at Gundagai. We also looked at arranging a visit to the new microfactory at Cootamundra that is turning waste into tiles, however COVID restrictions put that visit on hold.

*Participants in Build a Bridge cross the Bridge to receive their certificates*



# BUILDING STRATEGIC CAPACITY

One of REROC's major activities is in assisting councils to build their strategic capacity through creating economies of scale and scope by working together. Since its inception 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. Over the years resource sharing activities, as they became known, have covered almost every facet of council operations from spatial data activities to housing and youth.

REROC and its Member Councils have a strong commitment to working collaboratively to achieve direct cost savings but also to ensure that we do not duplicate efforts. Where more than one council needs to undertake the same activity, it makes sense to work together. We have found consistently over the years that by working together we build the strategic capacity of our Member Councils, their staff and the communities they service.

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, JOs and non-member councils in their own operations.

Southern Lights NSW shows how we collaborate across the State. The project covers 41 LGAs and is an initiative of REROC, RAMJO, CNSWJO, CRJO and Broken Hill City Council. It has resulted in the deployment of over 75,000 energy efficient, smart-ready streetlights, with the participating councils saving hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on energy costs. In addition, because of

the work of Southern Lights, the deployment of the new lighting was extended to the entirety of Essential Energy's footprint resulting in 163,000 lights being replaced. This year REROC gratefully accepted an offer from CNSWJO to take over the day-to-day project management for Southern Lights. However, we continue to take a lead role in the project as its work extends to other areas.

REROC has also worked with the Riverina JO, CNSWJO, RAMJO and CRJO on the Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement project. The Best Practice project was completed in December 2021 and provided the participants with tools and guidance on procuring for groups of councils. We also worked with CNSWJO to update our Councillor Induction training materials.

An important facet of REROC's collaborative approach is the work we do with the State agencies that operate within our region. Strong ties have been forged through the delivery of common projects with the Department of Planning, and Environment, 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, to provide both strategic and operational outcomes. We work closely with Eastern Riverina Arts who are active participants in our Youth and Community Network meetings and provide support for the Take Charge Youth Leadership Forum. We have worked with the RDA Riverina on the Regional Housing project, which has included a project to identify land availability across the region and a project on population projections.

## Collaborating Strategically

### *Southern Lights NSW*

Southern Lights NSW, one of the largest deployments of smart-ready, energy efficient LED street lighting in Australia continued and was almost completed by June 2022. The Southern Lights project covers 41 LGAs from Bega to Broken Hill and has resulted in the replacement

of 75,000 street lights, saving the participating councils hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs while also contributing to the State's Net Zero aspirations.

In August 2021 it was decided that REROC should wind-back from the day-to-day management of Southern Lights, the role was passed to project partner Central NSW JO with Jenny Bennett the CNSWJO Executive Officer and Kate Barker their Operational Project Manager taking the reins.

This is not to say that REROC does not still have a very active role to play in the public lighting area where, working with our Southern Lights partners, we are monitoring matters that directly relate to council costs and Essential Energy's performance of the street lighting service. While still involved in the next phase of the street lighting project and the roll-out of supporting smart technology, our focus is now on the following three areas:

1. *IPART Review of Essential Energy Annual Performance Reports*

Essential Energy is required to submit Annual Street Lighting Performance Reports to councils and to IPART. This is required under the NSW Public Lighting Code with compliance being a mandatory licence condition. The Code is effectively the substitute for a service level agreement. Southern Lights aims to review these reports in consultation with councils, and direct engagement with IPART. We want to ensure that the performance delivered is the performance promised.

2. *Public Lighting Code Review*

While an updated NSW Public Lighting Code came into effect on 1 July 2021, a more major review by DPE commenced in late 2021 and continued throughout the year. Julie Briggs is the primary representative for Southern Lights on the review, having been involved in the review process for over a decade. Our focus in the process has been on:

- a) advocating for mechanisms that support the adoption of new lighting technologies where councils choose to deploy them;
- b) addressing issues with non-compliance identified in the Annual Performance Report; and
- c) designing operational parameters that allow councils to utilise smart technologies that support the adoption of Smart Communities.

3. *AER Pricing Determination*

The AER 2024-2029 pricing review is currently underway with engagement occurring throughout the year. Essential Energy has been consulting with customer groups including councils on their pricing submission. Southern Lights will have a major role in providing input and advice to the AER on the pricing that Essential Energy proposes for street lighting maintenance.

Our consultants Graham Mawer and Paul Gowans from Next Energy have been integral to the success of the Southern Lights project and to ensure that we have the technical information required to provide sound input into both the review of the Code and the AER Determination.

### ***Eastern Riverina Regional Housing Strategy***

As outlined in the Speaking Out section of this Report we have worked with the Riverina JO to develop the Eastern Riverina Housing Strategy.

The strength of the document lies in the level of collaboration that occurred in its development. The workshops that were held on the issue were attended by councillors, general managers and staff from the Member Councils as well as representatives from State agencies including Regional NSW, Planning, Primary Industries and Environment. RDA-Riverina was also an active participant and we sought advice from the local Housing Industry Association representative Mr. Tony Balding as well as from

*Board members at our visit to NSW Parliament House in May 2022*







*Cr Rick Firman OAM, Hon Ben Franklin MLC and Cr Niel Smith at Parliament House*

community housing provider Argyle Housing and public housing industry expert Mr. John Harding.

The resulting document is the outcome of the willingness of so many people to work together towards a common goal.

### ***Sustainable Councils and Communities***

We entered an MoU with the NSW DPIE's Sustainable Councils and Communities (SCC) project in September 2021. 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 has resulted in the participating councils being 'investment ready' for energy efficiency or upgrade works on their infrastructure or buildings, through the production of Energy Savings Action Plans (ESAP). Working with

consultants, the cost of which was met by the SCC, each council has an ESAP that identifies the projects that they could implement to improve the efficiency of their energy use.

A significant regional project identified in the ESAPs was the procurement of renewable energy through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for large council sites. This project was delivered by REROC working collaboratively with the Central NSW JO (CNSWJO) this year. The SCC met the cost of a specialist consultant in the field to guide the participating councils, REROC and CNSWJO with their decision-making in what is a very complex procurement.

The project brought together sixteen councils aggregating their electricity needs to deliver a scale of purchase that was attractive to providers. We were able secure great pricing for our large sites and by entering long term contractual arrangements, our Member Councils will now benefit from stability for their electricity pricing arrangements. The project was led by Kate Barker at CNSWJO and David Smith from Greater Hume Shire for REROC. We sincerely thank them both for all their work.



The Director of Sustainability and Circular Economy Partnerships at the NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change, Anne-Marie Poirrier described the procurement as "... an exciting demonstration of how regional councils can collaborate to drive down emissions and switch to renewable energy. The councils in Central NSW and the Riverina have made an inspiring start to their transition to Net Zero."

The SCC also offered us Save Power Kits for distribution to each of the Member LGAs. The Kits can be used by residents to estimate the power usage in their households and to identify ways that power can be reduced. We formed a partnership with the Riverina Regional Library Service to distribute the Kits through their libraries and the SCC provided librarians with training on how to use the Kits. We supplied each library with a pull-up banner and posters to promote the Kits and we also provided promotional posters to our Member Councils.

The next project that we will embark on is an EV charging project with councils identifying the best locations in their LGA to provide public charging.

We thank the SCC team for its hands-on involvement in this project that is producing great outcomes for all the Member Councils.

### ***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 DPE, 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 eighteen 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.

The main focus for the REROc Member Councils has been around managing the regulatory processes associated with Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS). The responsibility for managing these Storage Systems was held by the State but devolved to councils in 2019 meaning there has been a lot of work required to bring systems, procedures and the capacity of council staff to deal with the issue up to speed.

The project was due to conclude in June 2022, however a further grant extension has been provided by the State meaning that it will run until early 2023.

### ***REROc Regional Freight Transport Plan***

*Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC accepts a gift from REROc Chairman  
Cr Rick Firman OAM*



REROC first released its Regional Freight Transport Plan in 2014. REROC now works on the project with the Riverina JO.

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 use the information to advocate and lobby for road funding and to identify opportunities to expand freight-based opportunities in the Region.

An important addition to the Plan was work delivered by CSIRO TraNSIT that identified freight volumes and values by product carried from, to and through the Region. In addition, the CSIRO work mapped the path that freight took through this Region including its source and destination points. This work showed how far the products from this Region reached. The work was completed at the end of 2021.

We started work on updating the Plan this year and incorporating more of the CSIRO data within it, that work is on-going. The Plan can currently be downloaded from the

REROC website and has also been mapped at [www.reroc.giscloud.com](http://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 monitor mobile phone coverage through our mapping project, using the information for advocacy and where we can, to support submissions by Member Councils on the issue.

### ***Native Title Expert Panel***

The Native Title Expert Panel was created in late 2020 to address concerns Members had in relation to their capacity to deal with native title issues. The Panel can be accessed through the REROC Members Portal where all the details of panel members can be accessed.

### ***Code of Conduct Panel***

REROC manages a regional Code of Conduct Panel, which can be accessed through the REROC Members' Portal. The Panel saves Members time and resources as it is procured and managed on a regional basis.

*Matt Stubbs (Cootamundra-Gundagai), Rob Fisher (Temora) and Tony Kelly (Coolamon) speak to the Project Manager at site visit to the Gundagai STP*



## 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 (VRWG).

The Waste Forum's focus is on waste management, resource recovery and the circular economy. We have had our EPA funding confirmed for a further 5 years and with that the Forum has commenced work on its new Regional Strategy.

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

### **Riverina Spatial Information Group (RivSIG)**

RivSIG supports staff who work in the spatial data field. It draws its membership from local government and State agencies and currently has over 100 members. The Group is chaired by Narelle Johnson 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 decided to meet in different locations around the Riverina-Murray region this year to reflect its diverse membership.

### **Infrastructure/Engineers Sub-committee**

The Committee considers major infrastructure and engineering issues in the Region. It 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, 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 were accurate.

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 made up of staff involved in the planning area and meets every second month. The Group 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 and draft SEPPs and regional plans prepared by the State, which inform REROC's actions and responses.



The Group has permanent representation from the Department of Planning and from the Department of Primary Industries. We are very grateful for that participation as it considerably strengthens the information sharing that occurs and also provides a base from which to inform the planners about the implementation of State initiatives. We would like to particularly thank Lilian Parker from DPI and Meredith McIntyre and Haydon Murdoch from Planning for their regular attendance and contributions to the meetings which are really appreciated.

The Group was the catalyst for the Regional Housing Strategy, reviewing all the work that went into it and providing on-going advice in relation to the actions to be implemented.

### ***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. Tim Kurylowicz, the Executive Director of Eastern Riverina Arts, is also a regular participant in the Network and we are thankful for ERA's participation.

A key activity on the calendar for the Network is the Take Charge Riverina 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.

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.

This year we undertook a site visit to the new Gundagai Sewerage Treatment Plant. Members spent the morning talking with the contractors that built the plant about its operations, the technologies implemented and what could be learned and implemented elsewhere.

Jason Ip, from Riverina Water regularly attends the meetings to represent the NSW Water Directorate.

### ***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. Peter Veneris General Manager of Lockhart Shire chair the Committee.

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 is 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 DPE attend the meetings providing information on programs that the State is delivering.

The Group steers the implementation of the Sustainable Councils and Communities' project as well as the regional implementation of the Energy Savings Action Plans. This year the major focus was the retail energy tender. We are now looking at the adoption of Electric Vehicles and the deployment of EV Charging stations across the Member LGAs utilising funding from the NSW Government.

*Members of the Water & Waste Water Technical Group tour the new Gundagai STP*





## Collaborative Procurement

Collaborative procurement is an important way that REROC supports its Member Council activities. 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.

This year a major procurement was the retail energy PPA which was undertaken in collaboration with CNSWJO. We also continue to look for opportunities to work with other regional bodies in procurement.

### Retail Electricity Tender

This was our largest and most complex procurement activity in some time, covering sixteen councils' large and small retail sites. The major component was the

REROC/CNSWJO large site PPA tender where we worked in collaboration with the Sustainable Councils and Communities program and with advice from consultant Presync.

There was a delay in going to market for the large sites due an extreme spike in the futures market which no one anticipated. We were advised that there were a number of factors that impacted on the market, namely:

- Underlying high international gas/oil and coal prices driving up costs for NSW gas and coal power stations
- The war in Ukraine greatly exacerbating these prices and driving market fears of prolonged future instability
- Recent market announcements of early shutdowns of old coal power stations

*The Board met with multiple Ministers during a visit to NSW Parliament House in May 2022*





*Attendees at the No Time to Waste Conference, March 2022*

The delayed tender closed in May and then what followed was a series of negotiations to finalise issues. We were able to secure a very competitive price for the PPA and councils have been very pleased with the outcome.

The participating REROC Councils adopted the Shell Energy contract available under the NSW Government 3062 Contract for the REROC small sites, after the pricing was analysed by Presync for us. The Shell contract commenced on 1 July 2022 and is open-ended allowing the councils to move to another provider if they find better pricing.

### **REROC Code of Conduct Panel**

The Member Councils agreed to the continued use of a regional Panel for Code of Conduct activities.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) was released at the end of June inviting applications for the REROC Code of Conduct Reviewers' panel for Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Goldenfields Water. Riverina Water was also included after agreeing to pay the REROC Procurement Charge to be part of the EOI.

The EOI closed in July with seventeen submissions received. An evaluation committee made up of the General Managers from each of the participating councils was established to evaluate all the proposals with eight companies and firms being chosen for the Panel. Information on the Panel members is accessed through the REROC Members' Portal on the REROC website.

### **Waste Metal Collections**

REROC has arranged the collection of waste metal for its Member Councils for over 17 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 2021/2022 period REROC Waste Forum Member Councils were invited to participate in two rounds of Metal Waste Collections.



### **Liquid Alum Tender**

We finalised a tender for the bulk supply and delivery of Liquid Alum for the REROC Participating Councils of Cootamundra-Gundagai and Goldenfields Water as well as Riverina Water and Hay Shire Council. The non-REROC Member councils paid a fee to be part of the tender process.

### **RFQ Sodium Hypo Chlorite**

This was a new joint procurement for the Member Councils for a product that is used in water and wastewater management as well as public pools.

### **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.

The project was run in collaboration with CNSWJO, CRJO and RAMJO with the aim of delivering a suite of materials that would support aggregated procurement activities. REROC and CNSWJO took lead roles in the project as both organisations had a long history of aggregated procurement and were able to use this to inform the project's outcomes.

The project was completed in December 2021.

### **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 to have been the Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum. However, the Forum was postponed from March to August 2022 due to COVID.

*Minister for local Government, the Hon Wendy Tuckerman addresses the Board*





# REROC WASTE MANAGEMENT, RESOURCE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The REROC Waste Forum was the first of the Technical Groups established by REROC. It has operated successfully since 1998 and is partially funded as a Voluntary Regional Waste Group (VRWG) by the NSW EPA. The Waste Forum is one of eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs) operating in NSW.

Waste management and resource recovery are significant activities for councils, with services running into millions of dollars a year. The Waste Forum seeks ways to assist councils in the delivery of those services whether it is through education programs that raise awareness, group procurements to support resource recovery, trials to test new processes or advocacy that addresses issues that impact on council operations.

Our advocacy this year included providing input to IPART's proposal that it set a peg for domestic waste services. IPART released a Discussion Paper in August which was followed by a Draft Report in December 2021. We provided a robust response to the Draft Report expressing our serious concerns about the suitability of setting a single rate peg for services that have so many

variables across NSW's 128 councils that service NSW. We have subsequently met with IPART to discuss our concerns further and have found their representatives open to discussing the unique issues that are attached to delivering domestic waste services.

COVID-19 again impacted on our ability to deliver programs. Our annual *No Time to Waste* Conference was once again subject to postponement when we were forced to move it from October 2021 to March 2022. We were able to deliver the Conference in March and while numbers were down, it was still highly successful.

In June we received advice that the EPA had committed to a further 5 years of funding for the VRWGs. For REROC this will result in a grant of over \$950,000 for the funding period, the Member Councils are very grateful for this ongoing commitment to the work of the Waste Forum. The longevity of the Waste Forum highlights the importance that the ROC and its Member Councils place on managing waste and developing solutions for resource recovery at a regional level.

## IPART Review of Domestic Waste Charges

A Draft Report was released by IPART in December 2021 on the Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges unfortunately it did not come to REROC's attention until February 2022.

The Paper proposed the introduction of a Benchmark Rate Peg. IPART proposed that councils would not be bound by the benchmark but suggested councils that charged above the benchmark would be asked to explain why. IPART also proposed that they could consider regulating an individual council's charges or implementing a binding waste peg.

REROC together with the Riverina JO submitted a robust response to the Draft Report highlighting the reasons why a Benchmark Rate Peg would be almost impossible to achieve. This approach was supported by submissions from LGNSW and other members of the RENEW group.

## E-Waste Collections

In arrangements put into place by REROC and the Member Councils 10 years ago, every resident in our Region has access to a free e-waste collection at their local landfill. Our Region is unique in establishing its own regional response to e-waste collections with the goal of ensuring that there is equity of access for all. The delivery of the collections is funding through income raised from our waste metal collections, with the primary expense being the transport of the waste from the local collection site to Kurrajong Recyclers for processing.

The e-waste collections fall under the Federal Government's National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS), which requires that importers and manufacturers of televisions and computers put arrangements in place for the collection and recycling of their end-of-life products.

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

The collections are supported by television advertising that runs on television and at local cinemas.

During the 2021/22 period 137 tonnes of e-waste was collected across the REROc region and sent to Kurrajong Recycling for processing, which was slightly down from the previous year. All the e-waste is processed locally by Kurrajong Recycling which is an important outcome for REROc.

## Regional Collection contracts

We have continued to provide regional collection opportunities for REROc Member Councils throughout the 2021/22 period with councils invited to participate in two Metal Waste Collections.

During the 2021/22 period 1,446 tonnes of waste metal was collected from the participating councils' landfills providing councils across the Region with hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue that can be utilised to offset the costs of waste management and resource recovery activities.

## Recycle Night? Recycle Right!

We continue to educate residents on how to minimise contamination in their household recycling through our *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* Campaign. There is a suite of advertisements all of which were produced locally by local creatives. The advertisements run on television and cinema and are supported by a dedicated website and social media campaign. In Wagga Wagga there is also advertising on the side of a bus.

A second series of ads was produced in 2021. It was created to thank residents for their great work in changing their recycling habits, it aimed to encourage positive behaviours. 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.

We are now also branding one side of our Kindergarten Library bags with the *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* branding.

The campaign is a highly effective way of reminding residents that their recycling is sorted by hand and that care should be taken about what goes into their recycling bin.

*The King and Queen of Green have fun with attendees at the No Time to Waste Conference*



## King and Queen of Green (Eaton Gorge Theatre Company)

In March, the King and Queen of Green visited once again to bring their effective environmental messaging to primary school students across the Region. The shows are highly engaging, sending clear messaging to students about the right things to do with their waste.

We visited Lockhart Shire this year with a show designed to reduce contamination in the FOGO bin, because this has been an issue for the Council. The show reinforced messaging about what waste belonged in the FOGO bin with the goal of achieving behavioral change at home.

As Greater Hume is yet to roll out FOGO, we focused on recycling, with the show highlighting the importance of recycling and encouraging students and families to increase recycling both at home and at school.

The shows were well attended with 391 students and teachers in total attending. Eaton Gorge performed seven shows in the Region, four in Greater Hume and three in Lockhart at the following locations:

### GREATER HUME

- St John's Lutheran School
- Jindera Public School
- Holbrook Public School
- Henty Public School

### LOCKHART

- Pleasant Hills Public School
- Lockhart Central School
- St Joseph's Primary School

## Kindy Kits

The year began as it has every year for the last 16 years – with the distribution of Kindy Kit Library bags to primary schools across our Region. The materials contained in the Library Bags aim to promote classroom discussions on waste management, resource recovery asking students and parents to think about ways that they can reduce waste in their lunchbox. Schools are encouraged to use the information to discuss ways to reduce waste and manage recycling at home and within the school environment.

In 2022, 1,559 Kindy Kits were distributed to students, representing 56 schools from the following LGAs: Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Wagga Wagga.

## Food and Green. Keep it Clean!



Our FOGO Bin Education Campaign is continuing with the focus on a new landing page within our Waste Forum website, [waste.reroc.com.au/fogo](http://waste.reroc.com.au/fogo).

The State Government has mandated that by 2030 every council must have a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service. Due to work undertaken by the Waste Forum over 10 years ago, in running trials and then pilots for FOGO collections most of our Member Councils already have this type of collection in place.

The Forum agreed last year that raising community awareness about contamination in the green lidded bins should be a focus. Contamination in the FOGO collection damages the product and its ultimate usability, particularly as the EPA requires that the compost that councils produce must be tested prior to use.

We are continuing to work on the television and cinema advertising for the campaign to ensure that the messaging is going to effectively reach our audience. The website is full of useful information and we will be directing households to the site for information.



## Safe Sharps

After a decade of operation and with over 3,000 locations showing users where to dispose of their used sharps safely, we were forced to shut the site down at the end of September 2021, due to lack of funding. The site needed a major upgrade to cope with changes to Google maps and new Operating Systems for both the Apple and Android mobile device apps.

Multiple discussions with the EPA and the NSW Ministry of Health could not resolve the issue despite REROC indicating a willingness to contribute some of the funding required and to continue providing all the administration free of charge.

The Safe Sharps website was designed as an interactive and dynamic site that allowed sharps' users to identify locations where used sharps and sharps containers could be disposed of appropriately. Users could also search for the locations of single needle disposal points, sharps' container disposal points or sellers of sharps' containers. It was the only site of its type in Australia.

The program crowdsourced updates to the data by providing opportunities on the website and the mobile device apps for users to inform us when information needed to change, or new sites added.

The site and the supporting Apps (iPhone, iPad, and Android) provided 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 provided directions to the closest location for the user.

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 not only used the site once but were coming back again to look up locations.

REROC was extremely disappointed that the service had to fold but we were not able to continue funding a program that benefitted the entire State and not just our Region, the opportunity cost could no longer be justified.



The 2021 Conference scheduled for October was again postponed due to COVID. The Conference was held in March at The Range in Wagga Wagga and while numbers were down, the event itself was a great success.

We again drew attendees from across NSW, the Conference specifically focuses on issues that impact on rural and regional communities. This year the conference included presentations from:

- Eaton Gorge Theatre Company – who provided attendees with a first-hand experience of why their performances are so engaging.
- Susy Cenedese from Local Government NSW – who spoke about LGNSW's role in providing a voice for Local Government.
- Tony Khoury, Executive Director for the Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association (WCRA) – spoke about the challenges facing the industry
- Dominique De Leva from NSW EPA – updated attendees on the CRC program
- Jeanie McKillop and Linda Tohver from NE Waste – spoke about the North Eastern Waste Community Engagement program.
- Alex Upitis from Talis Consulting- spoke about waste management preparation for natural disasters.

*My Paul Michelin from GoTerra speaks at the No Time to Waste Conference*



## Community Recycling Centres (CRC)

The CRC program was introduced by the State Government in 2015 and resulted in REROC facilitating the construction of 11 CRC buildings and then kitting them out with all the necessary bins, signage, fork lifts and safety equipment. The facilities opened in 2016 and they have been and continue to be a very successful and valued service.

The NSW EPA meets the cost of correctly disposing of the waste that collected at the CRCs, where councils have been unable to find a market for it. The high level of support that the EPA provides for the service has underpinned its on-going success.

CRCs are operating in Coolamon, Cootamundra, Culcairn, Gundagai, Junee, Lockhart, Temora, West Wyalong and Wagga Wagga. We also have a CRC mobile trailer service which is hosted by Greater Hume Shire Council and available for all Member Councils. The trailer was moth-balled during COVID but is back on the road providing an additional service to people living in small communities.

The focus of the REROC Waste Forum CRC Campaign over the 2021/22 period was to continue reinforcing the locations of the CRCs with a strong focus on highlighting the materials that CRCs will accept. This was achieved by using several advertising platforms as well as through the completion of our annual Community and Landfill surveys for each of the CRC locations.

Following on from the success in 2020-21 we continued the use of drink coasters in 2021-22. The coasters include a QR code directing users to the website. Traffic to the CRC Riverina Murray website and REROC Waste Forum Facebook page significantly increased after distribution of the coasters.

Our popular REROC Kindy Kits were distributed to 56 primary schools across the REROC region. 1,559 families received the kits which included a CRC flyer detailing CRC locations, a battery recycling box, and other information on reducing waste and recycling.

With the easing of COVID restrictions at the beginning of 2022 we were able to complete community and landfill surveys for each of our CRC locations. However, the timing of the surveys was delayed due to COVID restrictions and community concerns.

Over the 2021-22 period, a total of 516 surveys were completed. A total of 303 community surveys were received which is a significant increase in responses when compared to 243 respondents in 2020-21. We also saw an increase in the number of landfill surveys with 213 completed over the 2021-22 year (196 in 2020-21).

In response to COVID we continued the methodology used for our community surveys in 2020-21. Rather than attend a large community event, our interviewer set up in a main area of each town where there was a large and consistent flow of pedestrians - outside shops, supermarkets, bakeries etc. This decision was made with the aim of having a flow of local people to speak with rather than a whole group at once. We ensured COVID safety practices were followed with hand sanitiser and a pen for each person completing a survey, social distancing requirements were also in place.

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

Of the community surveys completed, 77% of people said they had heard of the CRC in their town. Of these

respondents 38% had heard about the CRCs through TV advertising (an increase from 28% in 2020-21), 17% through newspaper advertising, articles and editorials (a decrease from 21% in 2020-21) and 28% through their local council website (another large decrease from 53% in 2020-21).

32% of residents who responded to the community surveys stated they had visited their local CRC as a result of the CRC communications, 36% stated they had started sorting their problem waste at home and 19% had told friends and family about the service.

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

The landfill surveys continue to show residents have a good knowledge relating to the locations and the services provided by the CRCs. For the 2021-22 period 88% of residents who completed the landfill survey had previously used the CRC, 73% had heard about the CRC through word of mouth and 28% had heard about the CRC through TV advertising. 80% of respondents were also 'very likely' to recommend the CRC to family and friends.

Mrs Chrissie Pinzcuk runs a CRC Community Survey at Turvey Tops Shopping Centre





The CRC education campaign communicated with residents through a variety of platforms, including:

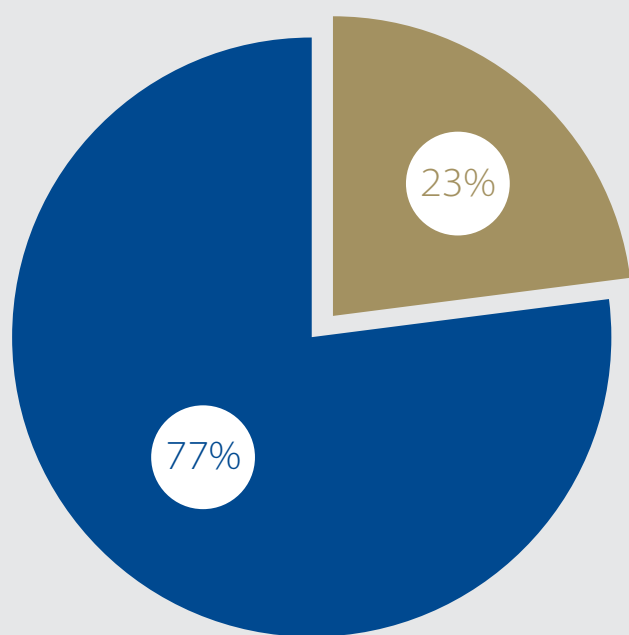
- Media: Television; Community Radio stations; Newspapers
- Cinema
- Council newsletters and websites
- REROC Waste Forum Facebook page
- CRC Riverina Murray Website
- CRC branded coasters with QR codes linking to the CRC Riverina Murray website

The CRC Riverina Murray website has seen another year of significant activity with 3,200 visitors to the site and 3,900 page views. We believe this continual high level of activity is due to the branded coasters circulated in both the REROC and the RAMJO regions and an increase in posts

on the REROC Waste Forum Facebook page. RAMJO also increased their promotional activities for the CRC Riverina Murray website throughout 2021-22. The website is shared between REROC and RAMJO as a promotional resource with REROC providing site administration.

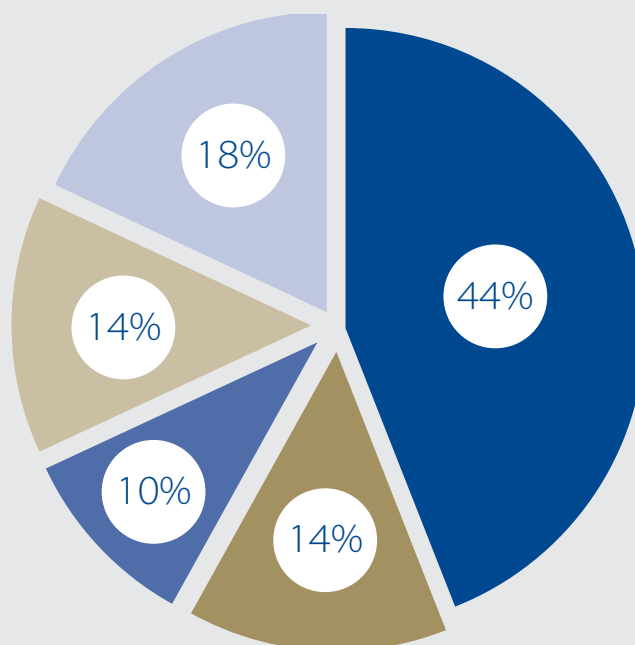
We again saw a large amount of waste coming into the by-catch across the CRCs with 4.9 tonnes of by-catch material collected. This was a decrease from 2020-21's collection of 5.6 tonnes. We will continue to monitor the volumes of material collected through the by-catch over the next year to determine if we need another mechanism for capturing some of the materials being received at the CRCs. From the 2021-22 figures the highest by-catch products received were general pesticides (1,443kg), hydrocarbons and fuels (1,030kg), automotive products (531kg), aerosols (441kg) and general household chemicals (238kg).

Some of the details the results from the survey are below:

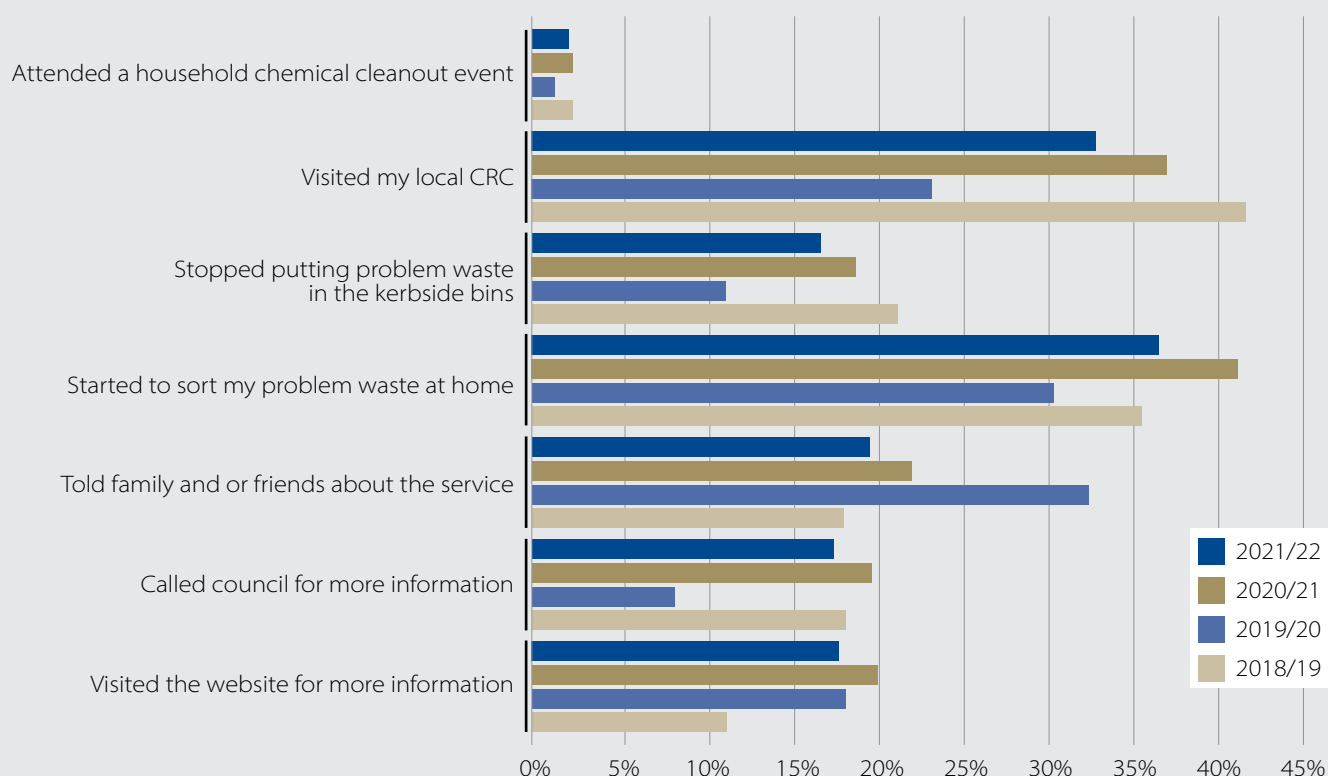


**When did you last visit the CRC?**

- Less than 3 months ago
- 3-6 months ago
- 6-9 months ago
- 12 months ago
- 1-2 years ago



## What did you do differently as a result of seeing the Communications Materials?



## RENEW NSW

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.

We regularly seek out opportunities to work collaboratively with 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.

## EPA Local Government Advisory Group

Tony Donoghue and Julie Briggs are part of this Group, which meets every 3 months. The membership includes the LGNSW CEO, the OLG CEO as well as senior staff from the EPA and representatives from the other VRWGs and RENEW NSW.

The purpose of the Group is to:

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

The Group provides REROC with a direct platform to influence EPA policy development and to provide input on issues that are occurring in regional areas.



Julie Briggs CEO, the Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier of NSW, Cr Rick Firman OAM, REROC Chairman and Cr Niel Smith, REROC Deputy Chair



# 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.

REROC is supporting ERA's project to redevelop the old Ambulance Station in Wagga into a regional arts hub.

## 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, this year saw a return to face-to-face meetings. RENEW is convened by NSW EPA, Kate Hardy was REROC's representative on RENEW and she was 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 almost 20 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, and is 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.



*Attendees at the No Time to Waste Conference in March 2022*

## NSW Department of Regional NSW

We seek opportunities to partner with Department of Regional NSW to further projects such as the Freight Transport Strategy and the Regional Housing 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 is also invited to attend 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 the JO's 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 2022

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## Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

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# Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

## Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

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#### 4. Independent Auditor's Reports:

– On the Financial Statements

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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 (REROC).

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

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Executive.

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

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## Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

### Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

### Statement by Executive

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

applicable Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements

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

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

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



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Rick Firman  
Chairman



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Tony Donoghue  
Treasurer

# Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

## Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Unaudited Budget 2022		Notes	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>Income from Continuing Operations</b>				
<b>Revenue:</b>				
40,000	User Charges & Fees	2a	96,977	70,908
2,000	Interest & Investment Revenue	2b	3,397	5,865
46,171	Other Revenues	2c	167,533	126,228
-	Grants provided for Operating Purposes	2d	463,491	318,399
195,271	Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	2e	195,271	207,171
<b>283,442</b>	<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>		<b>926,669</b>	<b>728,571</b>
<b>Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>				
208,600	Materials & Contracts	3a	678,409	889,808
-	Depreciation & Amortisation	3b	5,194	7,390
65,743	Other Expenses	3c	61,350	56,722
<b>274,343</b>	<b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>		<b>744,953</b>	<b>953,920</b>
<b>9,099</b>	<b>Net Operating Profit/(Loss) for the Year</b>		<b>181,716</b>	<b>(225,349)</b>

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

# Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2022

	Notes	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4a	843,067	628,107
Receivables	4b	97,064	88,907
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>940,131</b>	<b>717,014</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	5	1	5,195
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>5,195</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>940,132</b>	<b>722,209</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	6	67,123	30,916
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>67,123</b>	<b>30,916</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>67,123</b>	<b>30,916</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>873,009</b>	<b>691,293</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Earnings	7	873,009	691,293
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>873,009</b>	<b>691,293</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Unaudited Budget 2022	Notes	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
<i>Receipts</i>			
111,891	User Charges & Fees	57,871	92,371
3,725	Interest & Investment Revenue	2,677	5,388
195,271	Grants & Contributions	658,762	525,570
46,171	Other	167,533	126,228
<i>Payments:</i>			
(224,225)	Material & Contracts	(607,856)	(967,033)
(65,743)	Other	(61,349)	(56,722)
<b>67,090</b>	<b>Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>217,638</b>	<b>(274,198)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
<i>Payments:</i>			
-	Purchase of Investments	(2,678)	(5,215)
<b>-</b>	<b>Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities</b>	<b>(2,678)</b>	<b>(5,215)</b>
<b>67,090</b>	<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>214,960</b>	<b>(279,413)</b>
907,520	plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	628,107	907,520
<b>974,610</b>	<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents - end of the year</b>	<b>843,067</b>	<b>628,107</b>

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 2022

	Actual 2022		Actual 2021	
	Notes			
	Accumulated Surplus	Total Equity	Accumulated Surplus	Total Equity
Opening Balance	691,293	691,293	916,642	916,642
Net operating result for the year	181,716	181,716	(225,349)	(225,349)
Total Comprehensive Income	181,716	181,716	(225,349)	(225,349)
Equity - balance at end of reporting period	873,009	873,009	691,293	691,293

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 2022

#### Contents of the notes accompanying the financial statements

Note	Details	Page
1	Summary of significant accounting policies	44
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## Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

### Note 1. Significant accounting policies

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

The financial report was approved by the Executive.

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

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

#### (a) Basis of preparation

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

#### *Historical Cost Convention*

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

#### (b) Revenue

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

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

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

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

## Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

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

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#### (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 2022

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

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

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

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

##### **(j) Going concern basis of preparation**

REROC reported a net profit for the period of \$181,716 (30 June 2021: loss of \$225,349).

REROC reports net cash flow provided by operating activities of \$217,638 (30 June 2021: used by \$274,198). REROC has a surplus of working capital (being the amount the current assets exceed current liabilities) of \$873,008 as at 30 June 2022 (30 June 2021: \$686,098).

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 2022

#### Note 2. Income from Continuing Operations

	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>(a) User Charges &amp; Fees</b>		
"Build a Bridge" Project	7,500	4,000
Energy & Innovation Conference	-	3,000
Mapped Out Income	3,000	17,888
No Time to Waste Conference	24,180	-
Scrap Metal	62,297	46,020
<b>TOTAL USER CHARGES &amp; FEES</b>	<b>96,977</b>	<b>70,908</b>
<b>(b) Interest &amp; Investment Revenue</b>		
Interest on REROC Account	3,397	5,865
<b>TOTAL INTEREST &amp; INVESTMENT REVENUE</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>5,865</b>
<b>(c) Other Revenues</b>		
Bitumen Emulsion Rebate	8,255	12,023
Joint Organisation Contribution	20,372	32,695
Meetings & Catering	688	800
Procurement	-	2,626
Strategic Collaboration	81,579	37,235
Sundry Income	23,839	1,735
Waste Management	32,800	32,981
Youth Network	-	6,133
<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUES</b>	<b>167,533</b>	<b>126,228</b>
<b>(d) Grants</b>		
Community Recycling Centres Education	60,000	60,000
EPA Waste	191,733	196,734
Contaminated Land Management Officer	211,758	38,150
Litter-Regional Implementation program	-	23,515
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>463,491</b>	<b>318,399</b>
<b>(e) Contributions</b>		
Council Contributions	195,271	207,171
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>195,271</b>	<b>207,171</b>

## Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

### Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

#### Note 3. Expenses from Continuing Operations

	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>(a) Materials &amp; Contracts</b>		
Executive Services	183,600	180,000
- "Build a Bridge" Project	12,489	9,399
- "No Time to Waste" Conference	18,213	1,556
- "Mapped Out" Expenditure	2,184	11,680
- "Energy & Innovation" Conference	6,626	404
- Biodiversity Officer Project	-	30,589
- CRC Education	60,133	66,699
- CRC Small Drop Offs	-	77,697
- Contaminated Land Management Project	54,728	185,005
- EPA Waste	229,007	190,483
- e-Waste	34,930	5,500
- L-RIP	-	59,932
- Procurement Officer	6,730	8,238
- Strategic Collaboration	68,525	45,122
- Waste Management	-	9,911
- Youth Project	1,244	7,593
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS &amp; CONTRACTS</b>	<b>678,409</b>	<b>889,808</b>
<b>(b) Depreciation</b>		
- Plant & Equipment Depreciation	5,194	7,390
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION COSTS EXPENSED</b>	<b>5,194</b>	<b>7,390</b>

### Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

#### Note 3. Expenses from Continuing Operations cont.

	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>(c) Other Expenses</b>		
Advertising	340	-
Insurance	5,369	8,564
IT & Computer Expenses	4,494	3,334
Legal/Accounting/Audit	5,254	5,132
Meetings/Catering	7,022	4,851
Phone	3,144	3,076
Printing/Stationery/Postage	6,648	7,256
Rent	23,699	23,189
Representations	695	415
Subscriptions	-	326
Sundry	1,011	289
Training	1,500	-
Travel	1,363	-
Web Site	811	290
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>61,350</b>	<b>56,722</b>

Special Purpose Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

**Note 4 - Cash & Cash Equivalents & Receivables**

	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>(a) Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash on Hand and at Bank		
- REROC Account	317,438	105,156
- CRC Account	1	1
- Beyond Bank	29	29
Investments		
- Beyond Bank	525,599	522,921
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>843,067</b>	<b>628,107</b>
<b>(b) Receivables</b>		
User Charges & Fees	79,306	71,891
Accrued Interest	2,445	1,725
GST Receivable	15,313	15,291
<b>TOTAL RECEIVABLES</b>	<b>97,064</b>	<b>88,907</b>

## Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

### Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

#### Note 5 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

	as at 30/06/2021			WDV of		Dep'n		as at 30/06/2022		
	At Cost	Acc Dep'n	Carrying Value	Additions	Disposals	Expense		At Cost	Acc Dep'n	Carrying Value
Plant & Equipment	36,962	(31,767)	5,195	-	-	(5,194)		36,962	(36,961)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>										
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	36,962	(31,767)	5,195	-	-	(5,194)		36,962	(36,961)	1

## Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

### Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

#### Note 6 - Payables

	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>(a) Payables</b>		
Goods & Services Operating Expenditure		
- Materials & Contracts	67,123	30,916
<b>TOTAL PAYABLES</b>	<b>67,123</b>	<b>30,916</b>



Special Purpose Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

**Note 7 - Retained earnings**

	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>(a) Retained Earnings</b>		
Movements in Retained Earning were as follows:		
Balance at beginning of Year	691,293	916,642
Net Operating Profit/(Loss) for the Year	181,716	(225,349)
<b>Balance at End of the Reporting Period</b>	<b>873,009</b>	<b>691,293</b>

# REROC DELEGATES AS AT 30 JUNE 2022



*Board members visiting Parliament House were joined by member for Albury, Mr Justin Clancy MP (centre)*

## **Bland Shire Council**

Cr. Brian Monaghan  
Mr. Ray Smith PSM

## **Coolamon Shire Council**

Cr. David McCann OAM  
Mr. Tony Donoghue PSM

## **Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council**

Cr. Charlie Sheahan  
Mr. Les McMahon (Acting GM)

## **Goldenfields Water County Council**

Cr. Matthew Stadtmiller  
Mr. Aaron Drenovski

## **Greater Hume Shire Council**

Cr. Tony Quinn  
Mr. Steven Pinnuck

## **Junee Shire Council**

Cr. Neil Smith  
Mr. James Davis

## **Lockhart Shire Council**

Cr. Greg Verdon  
Mr. Peter Veneris

## **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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STRONG REGIONS  
PROGRESSIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
VIBRANT COMMUNITIES



REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL  
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS