

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 October 2026

RAMJO coordinating council response to Native Title claim

The Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) is assisting councils across the RAMJO and Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) regions to coordinate their consideration of a Native Title claim currently before the Federal Court of Australia.

The matter was discussed at a meeting of the RAMJO Board on Friday 16 October 2026, including the opportunities for affected councils to work collaboratively on issues of common interest.

RAMJO is not a party to the Federal Court proceedings and is not seeking to represent individual councils in those proceedings. Each affected council is responsible for determining whether to apply to become a party to the matter and for meeting any applicable Court deadlines.

RAMJO's role is to facilitate collaboration on matters of common concern, including coordinating access to legal advice, sharing relevant information with the consent of participating councils and identifying opportunities to avoid duplication of legal costs where practicable.

This work will also assist councils to consider the implications of the claim for land they own or manage, including Crown land under council management, while preserving each council's ability to obtain independent advice and make its own decisions.

RAMJO Chair Cr Cheryl Cook said the collaborative approach was intended to support councils in responding efficiently and appropriately to the legal process.

"Our focus is to help councils understand their responsibilities, obtain sound legal advice on common issues and minimise unnecessary duplication of costs, while respecting the independence of each council and the Federal Court process."

RAMJO will continue discussions with interested councils and REROC to determine an appropriate coordinated approach.

- ENDS -

Media contacts:

For further enquiries, please contact RAMJO Executive Officer:

Mr Brett Stonestreet PSM

Phone: 0408 498 534

Email: brett.stonestreet@ramjo.nsw.gov.au

About RAMJO:

RAMJO has been proclaimed by the NSW State Government as a Body Corporate under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 to provide a way for local councils, the NSW Government, the Commonwealth and Industry to work together to deliver projects and advocacy to regional communities and represent a long-term commitment to the development of a shared vision for a region.

RAMJO creates regional advantage for the twelve member councils by delivering outcomes that individual councils could not achieve alone — including collective advocacy, efficiencies, opportunities and cost savings.

The RAMJO region consists of the following member councils: Albury City Council, Balranald Shire Council, Berrigan Shire Council, Edward River Council, Federation Council, Griffith City Council, Hay Shire Council, Leeton Shire Council, Murray River Council, Murrumbidgee Council, Narrandera Shire Council and Wentworth Shire Council, and covers an area of over 94,000 square kilometres with a population of 165,600 people.