

Date: Tuesday 29th November 2022

Time: 9:00AM – 11:00AM

Location: Moura Tavern

Attendees:

Chair: Daryl Conway (Operations Manager Biloela)

Representing customers: Ian Becker, Greg Hutchinson, Simon Green, Andrew French (Online)

Council members: Brooke Leo (Online), Terri Boyce (Online)

Sunwater representatives: Daryl Conway (Operations Manager Biloela), Manesh Magan (Customer Engagement Team Lead), Emily Caleo (Customer Engagement Advisor), Marian Hart (Yield & Planning Manager) (Online), Sarah McComber (Study Manager) (Online), Keelie O’Sullivan (Stakeholder Relations Advisor) (Online), Lilia Criste (Senior Water Resources Engineer) (Online)

Guests: Kurt Wright (GHD) (Online), Murray Smith (GHD) (Online), Scott Stevens (DRDMW) (Online)

Apologies:

Ashlea Fitzpatrick, Scott Becker, Michael Murray, Mitch Anderson

Minutes:

Agenda items		
Item no.	item	Presenter
1	Meeting Open	Daryl Conway
2	Non-infrastructure Project	GHD
3	Improved Water Security Project	Sarah McComber
4	Sunwater Water Trading Board	Manesh Magan
5	Service and Performance Plans	Daryl Conway
6	General Business	Daryl Conway
7	Meeting Close	All

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1. Meeting Open

- Introductions in room and online
- Overview of agenda
- Apologies
- Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting
- Carryover update:
 - Carryover in the Dawson Valley WSS has been changed to cancel after two months. Previously, carryover cancelled after one month.
 - Carryover will also cancel for the Upper Dawson sub-scheme at the time Gylanda Weir spills and for the Lower Dawson sub-scheme at the time Neville Hewitt Weir spills.
 - Sunwater confirmed that for the 2022-23 water year, carryover cancelled due to Gylanda Weir and Neville Hewitt Weir spilling at the start of the water year.
 - The CAC queried if Sunwater will extend the months available, to more than two.
 - Sunwater advised that other options may still be considered as changes to the current carryover rules. Two months was an easily justified amendment to the rules and quick to have approved.
 - Sunwater advised that there will be an increase in losses, from 5% to 10%, with the extension. Until all of the components of the water balance are well understood, e.g. the limitations of quarterly metering, it is difficult to accurately calculate the losses, in consideration to a further time extension of carryover.
 - The CAC asked if customers submit their own meter reads, would this negate the meter monitoring issue.
 - Sunwater confirmed that this would be a good option moving forward, when the time comes to consider further changes.

2. Non-infrastructure Project

2.1. Project Update

GHD presented from [slide pack](#).

- GHD advised that the purpose of the project was to consider what could be done in the Dawson Valley WSS scheme to improve the efficiencies and service delivery, without changes to infrastructure.
- GHD advised that options were put through a filtering process to identify the business-as-usual options. These options dropped out of the longer list. Remaining options were put through a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA).
- Gauging stations are typically accurate for high flows, when flows fall below 500ML, they become less accurate

2.2. Questions and Feedback

- The CAC queried if dethridge wheels will need to change, in line with new metering standards across QLD and if any new meters installed will need to be patented approved.
 - Sunwater to follow up on metering standards across all QLD meters and confirm a response for the CAC. QLD have been the second last state to adopt the new Nation Metering standards.
 - For the purpose of billing internally, the cost becomes larger if all meters are required to be patented approved meters.
 - There is no current requirement for patented approved over 600 mm diameter.

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- Sunwater advised that there is a team who will be equipped to advise on the current requirements – feedback to be provided at the next meeting.
- The CAC queried if there is an option for the scheme to become locally managed.
 - The risk involved for a scheme to be locally managed is quite high. Having the assets (infrastructure) and scheme managed by Sunwater, makes service deliveries more reliable.
- The CAC asked if it was possible for the extra 2000 ML reserve, stored in Orange Creek weir, to be included in the AA?
 - Sunwater advised that there is flexibility to use the 2000 ML with the current set up, however, if included in the opening AA, then Sunwater need to incorporate losses into that initial 2000 ML. The current calculations allow for flexibility of the full volume of water to become available.
- The CAC noted that the system isn't accurately recording the volume of water in the system.
 - Storage capacity curve is based on data from 1974. There is potential that the capacity of the weir is significantly less storage now (2022). A new IQQM will be introduced with the new water plan, with recent dry and wet period included.
- GHD explained that a test run was done in the model, removing the need to pump to MOSS by testing a theoretical increase to Moura Weir pool by the volume of the MOSS.
 - When considering efficiencies, at full pumping, the changes were marginal.
- The CAC suggested an option to make MP and MPA allocation owners the same as per the water plan.
- The CAC asked what would the additional cost effects of this be of removing the referable status of the MOSS infrastructure be?
 - Sunwater advised that removing the referable status has been modelled considering a range of options. No option has been removed or confirmed yet. The study results are still under review and consideration.
- The CAC suggested another option to have irrigators with off stream storages to pump back into the system and trade their water to other irrigators.
 - Sunwater advised that the complexities around that in terms of legal agreements would be significant.
 - Dam safety requirements would need to be considered if extra water was being pumped into the system.
 - There would be other operational logistics to be considered.

3. Improved Water Security Project

3.1. Project update

Sunwater presented from [slide pack](#)

3.2. Questions and Feedback

- The CAC queried what price was used for the demand?
 - Sunwater advised that higher demand was put in at 2.5k per ML.
 - A range of prices were considered. After 24,000ML, demand for paying \$2-3k significantly dropped.
- The CAC opposed the figures delivered in the demand study. Within the CAC group alone, it was noted that there would have been 30,000ML demand alone.
- The CAC indicated that if Sunwater won't build a weir at Bindaree, then there will action taken for a private weir to be built.

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- Sunwater advised that 70% of the demand was between Theodore and Moura, 20% downstream of Moura Weir. The project is looking to service as much of the demand as possible.
- Sunwater will check if the demand study has missed some significant figures and will advise the CAC of the outcomes.
- Sunwater confirmed that building upstream storages allows for downstream customers to be serviced as well.
- The CAC queried how much extra storage need to be built to service and extra 24,000ML of demand?
 - Sunwater advised that yield translates to allocations, and that a combination of the options is being considered to meet the demands. None of the yield on the storages proposed meet the demand on their own.
 - If a combination solution is the chosen outcome, there are some options which could be completed faster.
- The CAC asked if Sunwater are looking to approach the DRDMW and release the reserve to the system?
 - Sunwater advised that DRDMW are looking to review the water plan. DRDMW will be given copies of the demand assessment and submissions of Sunwater reviews.
- Can Sunwater provide detail on the demand assessment?
 - Sunwater will need to come back to the group due to privacy concerns
- If Sunwater raised Neville Hewitt weir, would it raise back up to the hole at 107.8km AMTD?
 - Sunwater confirmed that the modelled yield from Neville Hewitt wasn't as significant as other locations and the position of this weir wouldn't satisfy the demand in the system. For these reasons, it will not be progressed further as part of the study.
- Is there any consideration to improving reliability for current licence holders?
 - The objective of the project is to create new allocations, reliability is written into the water plan.
- The CAC noted that if reliability increased across the system, customers would be more willing to pay more for added allocation and increases what a customer is prepared to pay for it.
- Consider the demand locations, for the proposed Nathan and Paranui Weirs, percentage of the demand would it service (geographical)?
 - Post meeting note: 80% of the demand was located in the Upper Dawson area, 20% in the Lower Dawson area. Further studies are planned, as the OA will identify the most efficient options to service the scheme.
- Have Sunwater considered the demand for Wandoan coal mine? The mine is predicted to operate past 2050. Would this impact the reliability of the scheme in the future?
 - Sunwater confirmed that the high priority customers were considered as well, as part of the demand assessment. The objective of the project is to build allocations for the Dawson Valley WSS. Where Sunwater can do that and service commercial customers, there would be financial and economic benefits from these options.
 - Sunwater confirmed that HP users were consulted during the demand study, however the MP demand is much more mature.
- The CAC queried if any customers can buy HP water? Was this an option in the demand assessment?
 - Sunwater confirmed that ay customers can buy HP water.
 - Sunwater advised that the survey went to existing MP irrigation customers. HP survey went to existing known contacts.
- Sunwater confirmed that the submission is due by May.

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3.3. Sunwater spoke to Social Impact Evaluation

- Sunwater advised that they will be in contact for a one-on-one and group discussions with CAC members to inform the development of the Social Impact Evaluation (SIE).
- The SIE seeks to understand the social and other benefits to stakeholders of each of the options being considered and in turn the negative impacts. Sunwater advised that they will deliver a pack detailing the shortlisted options, the longlist to shortlist process and a summary of the demand assessment – this will be shared with the members of the CAC, prior to the engagement activity (aiming for January 2023).

4. Sunwater Water Trading Board

4.1. Water Trading Board overview and demonstration

- Sunwater gave overview of the purpose and history of the WTB and provided a use demonstration.

4.2. Questions and feedback

- The CAC queried why can't customers post the cost? This would remove some unnecessary conversations for customers.
 - Sunwater isn't getting involved in the trading process, only facilitating people finding one another. Sunwater will take this on notice for consideration.
- Can Sunwater automate the transfer process so once it's agreed on, the trade completes?
 - Sunwater confirmed that this cannot be done and is not currently being considered.
- Can you select between Upper and Lower Dawson?
 - Sunwater advised this information would need to be put in special notes
- Why weren't zones included?
 - Sunwater advised that the building of the webpage becomes convoluted and expensive. The objective was to create a simple, easy to use platform.
- The CAC asked for Sunwater to put in brackets beside special conditions to include your zone/price in the section.
- The CAC would like a newsletter to attach to it to auto-send to the scheme, either as posted or at regular intervals.

5. Service and Performance Plans

5.1. Dawson Valley WSS Service and Performance plans

- Sunwater confirmed where these documents can be found on the Sunwater website.
- Sunwater talked through the final [21/22 S&PPs](#).

5.2. Questions and Feedback

- The CAC queried if the insurance being looked at specifically by basin, as opposed to all of QLD.
 - Sunwater will take this on notice and look for how insurance is purchased and charged.
- The CAC would like to see electricity costs broken down into usage locations, which pump stations service which parts of the scheme etc.
- The CAC queried why the forecast and budget are significantly different.
 - Sunwater advised that there are a few reasons, some of which is related to the number of years they build the forecast spend against. Replacement costs of large assets. MOSS. Dam safety requirements. Sunwater to take this on notice and find out more specifics.

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- Does Sunwater pro-rata/proportion costs for zones throughout the scheme?
 - Sunwater will need to take this on notice and come back to the group.
- As the MOSS pumpstations cannot both run at the same time, Sunwater could run both to fail, save money on the maintenance costs and replace once burnt out.
 - Sunwater advised that run to failure is a high-risk situation. Sunwater is continuing to look at how to run the pumpstations more efficiently.
- How much does a water meter cost to be replaced?
 - Sunwater advised that for an average sized offtake, approx. \$15,000 per install. Smaller more accessible offtakes, less than \$10,000 per meter.
- Why are we replacing the meters before they fail, if not required?
 - Sunwater confirmed that we are prioritizing those meters which fail, prior to the requirements being enforced.
- How is Sunwater approaching having to revalidate meters every 5 years?
 - Sunwater advised that this has not been decided on yet. For industrial customers, Sunwater have someone from the manufacturer come out and verify the parameters that were originally set.
 - Sunwater explained the staged rollout of the meter validations for the DRDMW.
 - Sunwater advised that metering is getting a lot of focus from within the business.

6. General Business

- If Rookwood stacked up at lower prices, can Sunwater look at demand at \$1,500 per ML in the Dawson.
- Next meeting date: Feb 28th, 10AM, Theodore

7. Approval and Review

Chair:	Daryl Conway (Operations Manager Biloela)
Minutes:	Emily Caleo (Customer Engagement Advisor)
Date:	Tuesday 29 th November 2022

8. Action items

Agenda item	Action	Responsible person/s
3.2	Sunwater will check if the demand study has missed some significant figures and will advise the CAC of the outcomes.	Sarah McComber/ Keelie O'Sullivan
3.2	Sunwater to provide more detail on the demand study, pending privacy policy requirements.	Sarah McComber/ Keelie O'Sullivan
4.2	Water Trading Board feedback: The CAC asked for Sunwater to put in brackets beside special conditions to include your zone/price in the section.	Emily Caleo
5.2	Sunwater to advise on how insurance is purchased, and costs allocated.	Emily Caleo
5.2	Sunwater to respond to the significant differences between the forecast and budget figures.	Daryl Conway
5.2	Sunwater to respond to on whether costs for specific zones are pro-rated/proportioned throughout the scheme.	Daryl Conway
6.	Sunwater to consider demand at \$1,500 per ML	Sarah McComber

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