

Date: Monday 23 October 2023

Time: 1:30pm – 2:40pm

Location: Hotel Theodore (27 The Boulevard, Theodore QLD), & Microsoft Teams meeting

Attendees

Chair: Daryl Conway

Representing customers: Ian Becker, Scott Becker, Greg Hutchinson, Mitch Anderson, Annette Weier (Anglo American proxy)

Council members: Terri Boyce

Department Representatives: Adriane Leyden

Sunwater representatives: Daryl Conway (Operations Manager Biloela), Ally Timms (Customer Engagement Coordinator), Sarah McComber (Study Manager, Growth & Asset Creation), Keelie O'Sullivan (Stakeholder Relations Advisor), Natalie Bain (General Manager Stakeholder Relations), Jason Smith (General Manager Central)

Guests: Peter Tweed

Apologies: Andrew French, Michael Murray, Caitlin Loader, Kirk Anderson, Kathy Batts, Simon Green, Scott Stevens

Minutes

Agenda items		
Item no.	item	Presenter
1	Meeting open	Daryl Conway
2	Outcomes of the improved water security for the Dawson Valley Water Supply Scheme options analysis project	Sarah McComber
3	Customer survey	Ally Timms
4	General business	Daryl Conway
5	Meeting close	Daryl Conway

1. Meeting open

- Sunwater gave an overview of the agenda.
- Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Outcomes of the improved water security for the Dawson Valley Water Supply Scheme options analysis project

2.1. Overview

- Sunwater presented a project summary, shortlisted options, combination options, best performing options, conclusions from the options analysis, and next steps.

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2.1.1. Questions and feedback

- Member asked if the business case considered the practicalities (operationally) of transferring water. Sunwater confirmed practicality was considered but these details are not typically explored in full during the options analysis phase. Sunwater confirmed a detailed business case (DBC) would address practicalities further.
- Member asked if Sunwater has objections to customers building their own weirs. Sunwater provided advice on the matter to the Department earlier this year following a query by this member. Sunwater confirmed the Department is best placed to respond to this query.
- Member asked if Sunwater is going to say they want 28,000 ML or try to keep the entire 90,000 ML of the current reserve during the regional water assessment process. Sunwater advised it is too early to say.
- Member asked if the demand for hydrogen production was studied in the options analysis. Sunwater confirmed that the demand analysis included consultation with irrigation, industrial and commercial customers, peak bodies, and Councils. The demand analysis will be re-visited in the DBC.
- Member asked if Sunwater regularly updates the Department. Sunwater confirmed there is regular engagement with the Department.
- Member asked if the solutions with multiple options could be developed together at once. Sunwater advised its recommendation is to proceed with the combined solution to DBC. The DBC would explore the benefit of constructing together or in succession. I.e., there could be benefits building one option first to increase supply earlier.
- Member asked how long it would take to complete a DBC. Sunwater advised it could take 12 – 18 months.
- Member stated that Lower Dawson customers would not benefit from the project. Member asked what Sunwater is preparing to communicate to those customers and if a reserve will be set aside for them. Sunwater responded that the options analysis is reflective of what the demand assessment produced, and the topic of a reserve is best discussed with the Department.
- Member asked why the demand assessment did not include usage at Moura. Sunwater confirmed that the modelling did include demand usage both at and downstream of Moura. The outcome of the modelling was discussed in detail in a previous project meeting with CAC members in February 2023.
- Member asked when Sunwater will receive feedback on the options analysis from the Department. Sunwater confirmed they don't have an expectation around the date however the options analysis will be a key input into the Regional Water Assessment and Water Plan Review.
- Member asked why the presentation states "Provided to Dawson Valley CAC members only. Please do not distribute". Sunwater confirmed this is because it is the State's role to announce the results of the options analysis to the public.
- Member asked how the weirs would be funded. Sunwater advised that the options analysis explored funding options from fully grant-funded, to customer funded. The DBC will further explore funding options.
- Member asked how the cost per ML compares with other projects. Sunwater confirmed the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) was anecdotally one of the best it had seen for water infrastructure in the region.

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3. Customer survey

- Touchpoint customer survey will be sent to all Sunwater customers on 1 November 2023. The survey closes on 30 November.

4. General business

- The next CAC meeting is scheduled for February 2024 and invitation will be sent shortly.

5. Approval and review

Chair:	Daryl Conway
Minutes:	Ally Timms
Date:	Wednesday 1 November 2023