

Date: Wednesday 17 August 2022

Time: 5pm

Location: Inglewood Bowls Club

Attendees:

Independent Chair: Anthony Doljanin

Representing customers: Andrew Hooker, Matthew Oxenford, Kieran Bosnjak, Troy Qualischefski

Council members: NA

Sunwater representatives: John Kelly, Chris Mann, John Whiting

Apologies: Dali Doljanin, Gino Destafini, Rick McDougall, Brad Qualischefski

Agenda items		
Item no.	item	Presenter
1	Welcome and Introductions	Chair
2	Apologies	Chair
3	Review of Previous Minutes	Chair
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes	Chair
5	Storage Update	John K
6	Variable Counterweight Condition Assessment and Replacement project update	John K
7	DRDMW Meter Standards Update	John K
8	21/22 Planned Corrective Maintenance Program	John K
9	22/23 Planned Corrective Maintenance Program	John K
10	Greenup weir study	John K
11	22/23 Service and Performance Plan (SPP)	John K
12	General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting frequency</li> <li>- Back to Base meters and Total Scheme Visibility</li> <li>- Toe drain seepage</li> </ul>	John K

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

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The chair opened the meeting at 5:10pm and thanked the committee members for their attendance. The committee welcomed Troy Qualischefski who was sitting in as a proxy for Brad.

**2. Apologies**

Rick McDougall, Gino Destafini, Dali Doljanin, Brad Qualischefski

**3. Review of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 3 March 2021 were reviewed and accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting (Moved: Anthony Doljanin, Seconded: Andrew Hooker)

**4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

**5. Storage Update**

Sunwater advised the IAC that the current storage volume of Coolmunda dam and downstream weirs was 100%. Sunwater advised the committee that after the dam filled on 22 March 2021, it has hardly dropped below 100% and there have been 16 spill events since that time.

**6. Variable Counterweight Condition (VCW) Assessment and Replacement Project update**

Sunwater provided the committee with an update on the Variable Counterweight Condition Assessment project as follows:

- Through the Comprehensive Risk Assessment process it was identified that potentially some of the variable counter weights have had water ingress in the past. Sunwater has no information on the internal condition of the counter weights and with potential water ingress there could be corrosion issues with the tie rods that hold the 14t counterweights together as well as potential water logging of the foam filled interior which could change the weight of the VCW's.
- The two variable counterweights on each of Gates 1 and 2 will be removed and dismantled for internal condition assessment as a representative sample of the remaining 10 counterweights.
- Bespoke crane is being developed to allow for the VCW's to be removed from the top of the spillway structure as it is too risky to locate a 500t crane in the spillway with the dam currently full, many spill events in the last 12 months and LaNina influence over the weather in the coming months. The crane will be dismantled and available for future use to remove other counterweights based on the condition of those removed for inspection and the subsequent replacement program developed.
- The current schedule has suffered delays due to material availability and as such the current program has the variable counterweights being removed in October/November. It is noted that this is in the wet season and while it should only take 4 days to remove a counterweight and replace it with a new one, there is still a risk of spill events. While the construction team

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will have access to 2 day and 6 day weather forecasts however a decision will be made in mid-September whether to proceed with the current program or delay the replacement works until April/May 2023.

- The estimated cost in FY23 for the VCW Condition Assessment and replacement project is \$4m.

#### 7. DRDMW Meter Standards

Sunwater advised the committee of the DRDMW's metering standard issued in July 2021. The standard requires meters to be validated and while it currently only applies to meters that take un-supplemented water (including dual purpose meters) Sunwater understands that its DRDMW's intent to have the same standard apply to meters that take supplemented water only. The standard requires meters to have a digital output such that a data logger or telemetry equipment can be used to access real time information from the meters.

#### 8. 21/22 Planned Corrective Maintenance Program

Sunwater provided details of the projects completed under the planned corrective maintenance program in FY22. See [Attachment](#) to the minutes.

#### 9. 22/23 Planned Corrective Maintenance Program

Sunwater provided details of the projects completed under the planned corrective maintenance program in FY22. See [Attachment](#) to the minutes.

#### 10. Greenup weir study

Sunwater advised the committee of the work completed in relation to Greenup weir and understanding the benefit the weir provides to local groundwater aquifer recharge. Through the engagement of groundwater consultants it has been determined that the weir provides some recharge benefit to at least 2 bores close by and to a lesser extent 2 other bores. This should be considered when reviewing the long term maintenance strategy. Sunwater noted that the weir is pretty solid given that the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest flood on record passed over the weir in Nov 2021 and didn't do any damage to the structure. Sunwater advised it had an expert in timber structures assess the weir and it was their view that the weir is not likely to fail in the next 20 years. Some recommendations were also provided about how to partially refurbish the weir by adding weight through the addition of gabion baskets, rock and concrete capping. The draft report from the consultant is provided as an [Attachment](#) to the minutes. Sunwater noted that one of the initial drivers for looking at the asset maintenance strategy for the weir was discussions with Council in 2020 that revealed council had potential long term plans to construct a pipeline from the weir to Inglewood. Sunwater now understands from council that this is no longer in the long term plan due to a reliable groundwater source being developed recently for Inglewood. It was also noted that if council did want to construct a pipeline in the future to Inglewood that could run it from Coolmunda dam. It was agreed by the committee that Sunwater should develop cost estimates for the partial refurbishment options identified in the report and for the short to medium term continue with the current strategy.

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## 11. 22/23 Service and Performance Plan (S&PP)

Sunwater [presented the FY23 S&PP](#) to the IAC. This plan is provided as an attachment to the minutes. Sunwater noted the salient points throughout the plan and in particular:

- Total water deliveries in the scheme was much lower in 20/21 due to prolonged drought conditions at the time and since March 22, favourable seasonal condition have meant water deliveries have been lower the usual (see Appendix 1).
- The scheme revenue in FY23 is less then FY22 predominantly due to the 15/50% discount currently being applied to irrigation charges.
- Annuity funded projects are significant in the short term due to the Comprehensive Risk Assessment (CRA), Variable counter weight (VCW) condition assessment and replacement, potential risk reduction projects (as recommendations from the CRA) and crane replacement. These projects are detailed in Appendix 3. The impact of this expenditure is to put the scheme into deficit in FY23 (-\$5,394k) as shown in table 6
- Operating costs are higher than budgeted in FY21 due to flood operations (24hr) in March, April and June 21 resulting in higher labour costs and associated increases in support costs.
- Costs are generally above QCA targets primarily driven by work in the annuity funded space not contemplated at the time the QCA review was undertaken.

## 12. General Business

### a. Meeting Frequency

It was agreed that the meeting frequency remain at 2 per year, April and October.

### b. Back to Base (B2B) meters and Total Scheme Visibility

Sunwater provided the committee with an update on the B2B meters and Total Scheme visibility project. Sunwater noted that the project will allow for real time reading of meters which will provide a better opportunity for Sunwater to manage compliance with water orders and improve the efficiency with which the scheme is operated. Other benefits for the business include less time on the roads reading meters every month (reduce safety risk) and reduced risk of biosecurity issues (transport of weed seed from one property to the next). Sunwater currently know water coming into the scheme through bulk meters however the missing information has always been real time meter readings providing information on water leaving the scheme. The project will allow a digital twin of the scheme to be developed and a real time water balance to be undertaken to allow operators to make more informed decisions about water releases. The IAC asked would customers have access to their own meters. Sunwater advised that yes it has always been the intention that customers could access their own meter reading data. Sunwater to discuss with ICT to determine how this can be best achieved.

### c. Toe Drainage Seepage

Sunwater advised of increased seepage that it had identified along the right bank earthen embankment in the last 3 months. Sunwater advised it was undertaking daily monitoring of the seepage and had its Geologists and Civil Engineers inspect the seepage. Sunwater advised that there had been no significant change in seepage rate over the last 3 months

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however on initial identification there was noticeable sand boils occurring. Sunwater advised it was currently reviewing design documentation and other data from previous investigations (including the recent CRA) to inform actions moving forward. Sunwater advised that at some point there may be a need to undertake further site investigations to understand more about the seepage and what controls may be required.

**d. Transition to Customer Advisory Committee**

Sunwater advised the IAC that it was looking to broaden the umbrella of consultation with customers by transitioning the IAC to a Customer Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC would include representation from other water users (Goondiwindi Regional Council) and the regulator (Dept Regional Development Manufacturing and Water). Sunwater advised it had started the transition with two of its other IAC's this year (Upper Condamine and Chinchilla) and would likely look to transition to a CAC in the next 12 months.

**e. Replacement for Gino Destafini**

Sunwater noted Gino Destafini, Manager, Yarranbrook feedlot has left his role there and is no longer on the IAC. It was agreed that Gino's replacement at the feedlot, Noel Barker, would be offered the opportunity to take his place on the IAC.

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