

**Meeting Date:** Friday, 10 December 2021

**Time:** 10:30am – 12:30am

**Location:** Royal Hotel, Leyburn

**Attendees:**

**Chair:** John Kelly (General Manager South Operations) / Lee Horsford (Senior Water Industry Advisor)

**Representing customers:** Lindsey Krieg (Chairman), Gary Cooper, Johannes Roellgen, Richard Jubb

**Sunwater representatives:** Lee Horsford, John Kelly, Daryl McKinlay, Casey Macfarlane, Emily Caleo

**Apologies:** Jan Lafrenz, Fraser Bligh

**Minutes:** Casey Macfarlane (Water Planning Officer), Emily Caleo (Customer Experience Support)

Agenda items		
Item no.	Item	Presenter
1	Meeting Open	Lee Horsford
2	Queensland Water Market Optimisation (QWMO) action plan	Lee Horsford
3	Water Sharing Rules update	Lee Horsford
4	Water Metering update	John Kelly
5	Meeting Close	John Kelly

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## 1. Meeting Open

[Agenda item 1]

## 2. Queensland Water Market Optimisation (QWMO) action plan

[Agenda item 2]

- Sunwater presented from slide pack (PDF attached)
  - Questions/comments raised but the Irrigator Advisory Committee (IAC):
    - In the past, the scheme has relied on a “word-of-mouth” system for temporary transfer trades. The IAC advised that it will be beneficial for this information to be available, to give customers visibility of the value of water.
    - Does it change the process of temporary transfers?
      - The process for temporary transfers will not change.
    - Can a customer record \$0 for a temporary trade?
      - Yes. The customer will be required to select the reason for the \$0 trade.
  - **Post meeting note:** “Reason if sale price is \$0” options on the temporary trade application
    1. The temporary transfer is between accounts of the same holder
    2. The seller and buyer are related or associated at the date of approval
    3. The temporary transfer is a gift
    4. Remaining water in an account is included in the sale price of an associated entitlement
    5. Water is temporarily transferred pursuant to some other arrangement.
      - The IAC noted that in a small scheme, or when trading a small volume of water, the costs involved with engaging a water broker are not feasible. The action plan will give customers an idea of the water available and what it is worth. The Upper Condamine scheme has trialled a marketplace trading platform before and noted that a “notice board”, showing available water for trade, would be welcomed.

## 3. Water Sharing Rules update

[Agenda item 3]

- Sunwater presented from slide pack ([PDF attached](#))
  - Demand pattern used is what was agreed upon in June meeting (updated to reflect actual water use)
  - Change to the losses associated with delivering the water
  - IAC noted the importance of coordinated releases being locally managed
  - New pumps in the dam (SDRC owned and operated) utilise the dead storage which can be activated in times of critical water restrictions/extremely low levels
  - [Southern Downs Drought Resilience Sub-plan](#)
  - Engagement with the Southern Downs Regional Council (SDRC) will occur January 2022
  - IAC expressed interest in attending
  - Questions raised around the impact of the proposed changes downstream of Cecil Plains and those that access their water at that point
  - Value of 34ML MP allocation to be recovered was \$3,000/ML. IAC agreed this was a fair price to be charged to annuity.
    - Sunwater to send draft factsheet to IAC for review

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#### 4. Water Metering update

[Agenda item 4]

- Sunwater provided update on metering discussions with DRDMW.
  - Key messages for the IAC included:
    - Sunwater is proposing to align its internal standard with the Department’s interim standard for non-urban metering, particularly in relation to the sizes for which pattern approval is a requirement; less than or equal to 600mm diameter must be pattern approved, greater than 600mm, body meter must be pattern approved, or modular meter as defined in the standard.
    - Alignment with the Departments metering standard also enable existing working meters, that meet the standard, to remain in service.
    - Sunwater standard to include the provision of back to base technology (IoT devices) to allow for real time data collection. Typically, an additional cost of \$2,000.
    - Part 11, Metering, of the Water Regulation 2016 provides requirements for the re-validation of meters that take un-supplemented water. Meters that do not pass validation will be required to be upgraded to meet the Departments interim standard.
    - Sunwater has customers that take both supplemented and un-supplemented water through the one meter. These meters are called 'dual purpose' meters and will be required to be re-validated in accordance with Part 11.
    - To ensure Sunwater customers who take supplemented water only through their meters are not subsidising customers to have dual purpose meters validated/upgraded to meet the standard, Sunwater is proposing a cost sharing arrangement between the relevant scheme’s annuity balance and the customer in proportion to the volume of supplemented vs un-supplemented water taken through the dual-purpose meter in the last 10 years.
    - Schedule 11 of the Water Regulation 2016 provides timeframes for the re-validation of meters that take un-supplemented water in water management areas (and subsequently 'dual purpose' meters in water supply schemes).
    - Not all water management areas are currently specified in Schedule 11, however Sunwater understands the Department will be revising the schedule to add other water management areas to which re-validation timeframes will apply.
    - The Departments interim standard currently does not apply to meters that take supplement water only, however Sunwater understands a policy on supplemented meters is likely to align with the DRDMW's current interim standard. The mechanism through which supplemented meters will need to be validated/upgraded and the timeframes required will potentially be through an amendment to Sunwaters Resource Operations Licences.
    - The IAC was pleased with the alignment between Sunwaters standard and the departments standard and noted this as a positive step. The IAC are supportive of back to base metering and the benefits it provides to both Sunwater and customers.

#### 5. Meeting Close

[Agenda item 5]

- Apologies for removal of electricity pass through discussion – to be added to next meeting agenda

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- Next IAC meeting proposed to be Tuesday, 25 January 2022
  - Electricity discussion
  - Consultation process for water sharing rules change

## 6. Action Items

Item no.	Item	Responsible person(s)
1.	Sunwater to send draft factsheet to IAC for review	Lee Horsford

## 7. Approval and Review

<b>Chair:</b>	John Kelly / Lee Horsford
<b>Minutes:</b>	Emily Caleo / Casey Macfarlane
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 10 December 2021

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