

Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions

John advised the committee of recent structural changes in SunWater and consequently the Barker Barambah Water Supply Scheme is now managed from SunWater's Chinchilla Office. John advised the committee that he is the Service Manager based in Chinchilla and has been with SunWater in various roles for 14 years and looks forward to working with the committee to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the scheme.

Agenda Item 2 – Apologies

Kevin Armstrong. The Chair advised the committee that he had invited a member of council to attend the meeting however no one from Council was in attendance. The Council's representation on the IAC has changed due to the local government elections. SunWater advised it would write to council formally seeking out a council representative to sit on the IAC.

Agenda Item 3 – Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous IAC meeting held on 17 May 2016 were reviewed. Stuart moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Peter.

Agenda Item 4 – Business arising from the previous minutes

- **Bjelke-Petersen Dam Recreational Area**

SunWater provided an update on the handover of the recreational area at the dam. There has been limited progress in the last 12 months. SunWater is currently developing a Recreational Use Strategy for its Recreation areas at dams across the state however it is still SunWater's preference to transfer ownership of Recreation areas to local councils or competent third parties. SunWater advised it had budgeted to progress the Recreation area handover in 2017-18. It was noted that progression of the Recreation area handover is a priority for the IAC.

- **Upper Redgate Pump Update**

SunWater advised the committee that the Upper Redgate Pump had been replaced to ensure delivery of 10ML/d to Francis Weir to meet customer requirements in that part of the scheme. The old pump was delivering less than originally designed. Contractors were engaged to design and install the new pump. There were a number of attempts to get the pump/impellor size correct to ensure the original design delivery requirement of 10ML/d was achieved with the contractor having to remove and re-install the pump on numerous occasions. SunWater advised that the pump is as big as it can be with the current motor and switchboard configuration and that a larger impellor/pump will draw too many Amps and would require an upgrade to the motor and switchboard.

- **Improving Water Delivery**

The IAC discussed the use of small rock bars in the creek to improve water delivery and efficiency in the lower part of the scheme. The IAC advised that several customers have installed rock bars, with approval from DNRM, to assist in the creation of pumping pools. SunWater advised that approvals from DNRM are required to remove or place fill in a watercourse (Riverine Protection Permits) and further approvals may be required from DPI Fisheries in relation to the movement of fish (Waterway Barrier Permits) and

that such approvals would not be without difficulty. SunWater advised the committee it would seek clarification from DNRM around permitting requirements to create rock bars in the watercourse.

The IAC discussed the benefits of a rock bar at the lower end of the scheme. SunWater advised that any structure placed in the watercourse could not impede SunWater's ability to ensure timely delivery of water to customers downstream.

Agenda Item 6 – Review of Operating and Water Sharing Rules

SunWater advised the committee of a number of changes to the Resource Operations Plan (ROP) since the scheme last went through periods of low storage volumes and subsequent critical water supply arrangements. SunWater provided the committee with a fact sheet detailing the current scheme operating and water sharing rules (see Attachment 1). The key changes which commenced on 22 August 2014 are as follows:

1. The high priority reserve was increased to improve performance of high priority water allocations. There is 2,236 ML of high priority water allocation in the scheme. The high priority reserve volume was amended by DNRM to provide a three year reserve for high priority (6,533 ML). The Department's hydrological modelling indicated that a lesser reserve volume eroded the performance of high priority water allocations.
2. The Critical Water Supply Arrangements (CWSA) were integrated into the water sharing rules. Critical water shortages in 2005-2006 led to the development of CWSA. The CWSA no longer apply as the Plan replaces the CWSA. There is no medium priority cut-off rule or stage 1 of CWSA. The announced allocation determines how much water you are entitled to take at all times. You are prevented from taking water once the announced allocation reaches 0%.
3. Streamflow period arrangements were removed. The arrangements under the CWSA also allowed water to be accessed during certain flow conditions when the CWSA were in place. The streamflow period arrangements were also removed by the Department due to impacts on water harvesters and environmental flows.

Agenda Item 7 – Current and Predicted Storage Level

SunWater advised the committee of the predicted storage volume in Bjelke-Petersen Dam on 1 July 2017 under an 'average' inflow scenario and 'minimum' inflow scenario as follows:

- The forecast volume of Bjelke-Petersen Dam on 1 July 2017 based on average inflows and average water demands (based on average water usage over the last 3 years) is 32,420ML or 24.03%
- The forecast volume of Bjelke-Petersen Dam on 1 July based on minimum inflows and average water demands (based on average water usage over the last 3 years) is 17,490ML or 12.97%

These forecast storage volumes were calculated using SunWater's Forecast Storage Model as at 22 February 2017 for Bjelke-Petersen Dam which is available for all customers to use and is on SunWater's website at:

http://www.sunwater.com.au/_data/storageforecast/Forecast_Portal.htm

Agenda Item 8 – Carryover and Predicted Announced Allocation

SunWater advised the committee of the ‘Start of the Water Year Announced Allocation Prediction Graph’ for the scheme and how this can be used by customers as a guide to predict what the announced allocation may be on 1 July 2017. The prediction graph is available for all customers to use and is on SunWater’s website at:

<http://www.sunwater.com.au/schemes/barker-barambah-water-supply-scheme/scheme-information/announced-allocations>

SunWater advised the prediction graph assumes maximum carryover i.e. 20% of the Medium Priority allocation in the scheme is carried over (6,416ML). SunWater advised the IAC that the announced allocation will change depending on the volume of carryover and as such SunWater provided the committee with a range of predicted announced allocations for various volumes of carry over as follows:

Percentage (%) of carry over cap*	CO Volume (ML)	Medium Priority predicted AA Range (%)	
		If Minimum Inflows Occur	If Average Inflows Occur
0	0	10	40
30	1925	5	35
60	3850	0	30
100	6416	0	25

Discussion was held around the availability of carryover, given the information provided, from the current water year to the next. The IAC requested that carryover be offered to customers. SunWater advised the IAC that the usual carryover rules would apply. SunWater confirmed the rules for carryover from the Burnett Basin Water Resource Plan 2014 as follows:

1. The total volume of water that may be carried over is the lesser of 20% of the total medium priority allocations (6,416ML) and the total volume of unused medium priority water allocations.
2. Carryover ends on the earliest of the following:
 - a. When Bjelke-Petersen Dam overflows;
 - b. When Bjelke-Petersen Dam is less than 295.7m AHD (approx. 10,000ML);
 - c. 9 months after the start of the water year.

Agenda Item 9 – Proposed Customer Newsletter

SunWater raised with the committee the idea of a scheme customer newsletter that would be issued maybe quarterly or more frequently as dictated by scheme issues at the time. The IAC agreed this would be a good idea. Discussion was held around what information would be provided in the newsletter. It was agreed that the newsletter should just be a one pager and provide information such as scheme water usage, scheme water available, storage volumes and projections such as predicted storage volumes and announced allocations.

Agenda Item 10 – 2016 Network Service Plan Performance Report

SunWater provided the IAC with a copy of the 2016 Network Service Plan Performance Report for review. No significant issues were raised by the IAC although the high insurance costs were noted compared to the QCA target. Revenue into the scheme from flood insurance proceeds was also noted. The 2016 Annual Performance Report for the scheme is available on SunWater’s website at:

<http://www.sunwater.com.au/schemes/nsp/annual-nsp-and-performance-reports>

Agenda Item 11 – General Business

- **Transmission Losses**

The IAC discussed scheme transmission losses which had recently been experienced, particularly to the groundwater system. SunWater advised the IAC that it had been releasing an additional 60ML/d on top of water orders to maintain storage levels downstream. It was agreed that the scheme transmission losses need to be raised when the Water Resource Plan/Resource Operations Plan is reviewed next.

- **Merlwood Water Board**

The Merlwood Water Board had raised the issue of increased water charges with one of the IAC members and this was tabled for discussion. SunWater advised the IAC that the Merlwood Water Board had two allocations, one which was supplied at commercial rates and had been for some time, while the second allocation was not. SunWater advised that the water supply contract with the water board was coming up for review and that SunWater has asked the board to provide a submission detailing their operations so that it can be considered when determining the applicable water charges during the contract review process.

- **Letter from Ms Helen Kidd**

The IAC tabled a letter that had been received from Ms Helen Kidd, 1524 Stonelands Rd, Stonelands 4612. Ms Kidd had raised several issues as follows:

1. The cessation of environmental flows from Silverleaf Weir and subsequent water quality issues experienced in the creek at Ms Kidd's place.

SunWater advised the committee that the Burnett Basin Water Resource Plan was reviewed by DNRM in 2014. After analysing the years of releases data and environmental data DNRM came to the conclusion that it was a better environmental outcome to restore some of the ephemeral (stop/start) characteristics of the river below the water supply scheme. This means that the river is deliberately meant to be allowed to dry out at certain times of the year.

SunWater advised the committee that it had been in contact with Ms Kidd regarding her concerns over the water quality and would be taking a water sample from the creek and sending it away for blue green algae testing.

2. The fulfilment of water allocation below Stonelands Weir.

SunWater advised the committee that it would look into Ms Kidd's location within the scheme, allocation and supply issues and would respond to this issue (and the one above) in writing.

Meeting Close: 7:30pm

Open Action Item Summary

Ref No.	Description	Assigned To	Due Date
2	SunWater to write to the South Burnett Regional Council inviting a formal representative from Council to sit on the IAC	John K	30 March
4	SunWater to seek clarification from DNRM regarding approvals required for the installation of rock bars to create pumping pools.	John K	30 March
11	SunWater to respond to the letter from Ms Helen Kidd	John K	30 March

Next Meeting:

Date: TBA
Time: TBA
Location: TBA

Attachment 1 – Barker Barambah Water Supply Scheme – Operating and Water Sharing Rules: What you need to know – March 2017 <http://bit.ly/2lFatEY>

Stuart Nicholson

IAC, Chair

8 March 2017

Date

John Kelly

SunWater Service Manager

8 March 2017

Date