

CALLIDE VALLEY IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MINUTES OF MEETING – 30 August 2016

Meeting opened by Milton Pukallus at 9:30am at DAFF Conference Room Biloela

Present

Attendees	Representation
Bruce Burrows	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Ivan Shepardson	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Trevor Goos	Irrigator Advisory Committee
James Fairley	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Duncan Downie	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Ken Bauer	Observer
Milton Pukallus	SunWater – Service Manager
Andrew Maughan	SunWater – Operations Supervisor
Ron Boal	SunWater – Storage Supervisor

1. Apologies

Apologies received from David Snell, Scott Fitzgerald and Paul Stringer.

2. Agenda

- IAC Nominations
- Callide Dam Update
- Water Sharing Rules Discussion
- General Business

3. Previous minutes

Not reviewed at this meeting – last scheduled meeting did not reach quorum.

4. Business arising from previous minutes

Nil

5. IAC Nominations

The IAC is due for re-nomination as per the charter and several members have also advised that they would not be continuing on the committee. Milton thanked them for their service and contribution to the committee over the many years of involvement. The current committee also acknowledged the contribution of those members.

The sections for representation were reviewed by the committee with all in attendance agreeing to seek representatives for the following;

Sections 3A, 3B, 5, 7, 10B, 8A & 8B (combined). The committee would also have representation from Council and Teys Bros.

Nomination forms will be sent out to all customers in the benefitted areas with a closing date of 26 September.

MINUTES OF MEETING – 30 August 2016

6. Callide Dam Update

SunWater will be conducting some tests on the radial gates at Callide Dam at the end of September. This is part of a maintenance program and designed to check the reliability of the gate control system. This test would be performed on regular basis (3 monthly) as part of routine maintenance. The test will involve opening each pair of gates to a small opening and releasing water. The opening is very small, approximately 0.1m, and would result in a release of about 10ML per gate pair. Ron will manage the water course and Callide Weir to ensure no water is wasted.

It is expected the release should not cause any disruptions other than having the first creek crossing closed for the test.

The committee was asked if they had any concerns with the test, in particular the release of 30ML of water. There was no objection raised.

There was general discussion from this point about the DEWS presentation and possible future changes to the dam operations. This was the Inspector General's first recommendation of the review regarding the investigation into Callide Dam operations. The final recommendations from DEWS have not yet been published but it is expected that they would be considering the feedback from the various consultation meetings held in July.

Several of the IAC attended a meeting with DEWS in July (Ivan, James, Bruce & John Sheppard as an observer) where the proposed recommendations were presented. The general observation from this meeting was that there may not be a significant impact on announced allocations from the proposed changes.

Ivan attended the community meeting that night and felt the presentation was quite technical and the community probably didn't understand the majority of what was presented.

Milton advised that SunWater's role in the investigation was to support provision of data when requested by DEWS. The recommendations will be independent and SunWater would be bound to implement them.

7. Water Sharing Rules Discussion

During the previous water year there have been instances where some surface water irrigators have lost supply. This is primarily towards the end of the regulated section of stream on Kariboe and Kroombit creeks.

The issue has been raised by the IAC and other irrigators for resolution. The intent of this discussion was to explore and agree on an appropriate means to share access to surface water equitably. This would be in the form of rules or

MINUTES OF MEETING – 30 August 2016

guidelines that should be applied to all three streams where surface water is supplied.

It is acknowledged that the scheme was designed as a groundwater recharge system due to the alluvial nature of the streams and surrounding areas. Surface water has been a relatively recent addition to some parts of the scheme and is utilising the original infrastructure to distribute. Irrigators have advised that surface water is preferred over groundwater due to quality and pumping costs.

Callide Ck is not subject to supply issues as the current surface water offtakes are within the ponded area of Callide Weir. Kroombit Ck has instances of supply loss at the end of the scheme which is a combination of increased surface water travel times and minimising loss of water to the system. Kroombit Dam outlet works has sufficient capacity to supply the current offtakes. Kariboe Ck surface water demand is bordering on capacity and has numerous supply restrictions at times.

The two suggested options for discussion were;

1. SunWater monitor water orders and contact irrigators where potential capacity issues are identified. This would be to coordinate locally agreed sharing arrangements to suit conditions at the time.
2. Impose restricted flow rates or access rosters to ensure irrigators operate within scheme capacity. This would be a proportional allocation of release capacity or time roster.

The committee discussed the merits and pitfalls of each. After lengthy discussion it was generally agreed that a roster system would be the fairest way to resolve the issue. It was recommended and endorsed that a shed meeting be organised with the irrigators affected to discuss and resolve the issue.

There was further discussion about water lost from the scheme to the non-benefitted areas. Ron advised that he is very conscious of this and tries to minimise loss past the end of the surface water section. It is also important that irrigators maintain the creek in the vicinity of their offtake. DNRM regulate the rules for working in a watercourse but there is a self assessable code which allows for extraction of up to 500m³ for instances such as this. Ron provided a copy of the code as supplied by DNRM for reference.

8. General Business

1. Trevor asked for the allocation rules and whether some feedback could be provided on increasing above 100% at times. The general feeling is that there is a lot more water in the underground sections now and during times of excess it should be available for use.
2. Trevor also raised a concern that the current process for determining announced allocations in each section is unfair. He believes, as does the IAC, that the bores selected for each section need reviewing and

CALLIDE VALLEY
IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MINUTES OF MEETING – 30 August 2016

potentially multiple bores used to provide a more representative assessment.

3. Ken Bauer asked whether “ring Tank” carryover could be revisited so that access to carryover can be improved.
4. Bruce asked if the boundaries between benefitted and unbenefitted can be clarified. The concern is whether irrigators in the unbenefitted section receive any benefit from releases within the benefitted section.

Next meeting – The next meeting has not been formally set but is expected to be after committee nominations.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12:00pm.

Chairperson

Milton Pukallus

Service Manager

21/5/15

Date

Date