

# Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING – 1 August 2017

Meeting opened at 10.02am

### Present:

Attendees	Representation
Joe Moro	Mareeba Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Bronwyn Dwyer	Secretary
Evan McGrath	
Eva Arena	Barron River/Tinaroo Falls Dam Area
Charlie Martens	Sunwater Service Manager, Mareeba
Jason Salvetti	Guest
Kylie Collins	Channels/ Pipelines – Western Area
Makse Srhoj	Barron River Catchment Supplemented Streams
Peter Cocuzza	Operations Supervisor – SunWater Mareeba
Karen Muccignat	Arrived: 10.09am
Nigel Kelly	Regional Manager Water Services – North DNRM (left: 12.01pm)
Peter Siemsen	Team Leader Mareeba – DNRM (left: 12.01pm)

1. **Apologies:** Shaun Fassio, Peter Howe, Gerard Kath, Maryann Salvetti

### 2. Previous Minutes & Action List:

- Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> June 17 Meeting were *Moved: Eva Arena, Seconded: Kylie Collins as a true and correct record. Carried*

- Action List:

- 6Jun17 5.3: See if there is a carryover model which we can use to run scenarios – Charlie will organise Petrina Douglas and Aaron Beale from SunWater to attend the Sept 17 meeting to provide further information.
- 6Jun17 5.4: Organise presentation on capacity sharing - Charlie will organise Petrina Douglas and Aaron Beale from SunWater to attend the Sept 17 meeting to provide further information.

### 3. Correspondence:

- Tabled outgoing and incoming letter Barnaby Joyce re North Johnstone Diversion

### 4. SunWater:

- Announced Allocation – 1 August 2017: Medium Priority Allocation increasing to 66%. Notices going out to irrigators today by text and e-mail
- 2016/17 Water Usage Distribution & Bulk & TT – Preliminary Figures: Irrigation usage: 72%. Overall distribution: 71%, 106,775ML. Bulk: 6,880ML. Temporary Transfer: 37,570ML. Loss allocation usage: 30,000ML
- Date for Meeting re Resource Operations Licence Changes – Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am. Charlie will ask Petrina Douglas and Aaron Beale to attend as they understand the new documents
- Modernisation Project Update – Have not heard whether the project has been successful.

**Action: Charlie to organise Petrina and Aaron for 6<sup>th</sup> Sept MDIACouncil Meeting**

### 5. DNRM:

- North Johnstone Diversion – Reports Tabled and discussed.
- Put on agenda for discussion at next meeting on whether the Committee wishes to pursue the request for a feasibility study

**Action: Bronwyn to put NJD on agenda for next meeting**

- Barron River Environmental Flow Release Modelling Report Further Discussion – As per current media attention releases moved back into medium zone at 1 August. The MDIACouncil representatives voiced their anger and frustration at the increased releases during a time when the area is drought declared and the dam level is below 50%. The river user representatives

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also highlighted the ongoing costs that they are forced to bare as a result of having to manage pump sites through fluctuating river heights.

- Nigel's position is that the modelling carried out showed there would be negligible improvement in the dam capacity if releases were dropped back to 50ML so therefore there is not enough evidence for him to recommend a review of the ROL to look at amending the environmental flow targets. He also reiterated that the departments role is to ensure the ROL meets the environmental objectives and is fair for all users, not just irrigators
- Nigel suggested that there may be other reasons for opening the ROL for review in the future e.g. if modernisation goes ahead and loss allocation needs to be converted
- Nigel will be briefing the Minister on the outcomes of today's meeting
- *The MDIACouncil resolved that they were not satisfied with the DNRM Modelling carried out or the explanation given by the Department through Nigel. A letter will be written to Minister Lynham requesting another meeting*

**Action: Joe and Bronwyn to write to Minister Lynham to request a meeting re Environmental Flow Releases**

### 6. LMA Update

- There will be a Reference Panel Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August at 6pm at the Mareeba Soccer Club to provide final financial modelling and consensus on whether reference panel are happy to go to transition. If the reference panel overwhelmingly don't support going to transition the LMA Board will make that recommendation to Government that we do not proceed. There will also be a public meeting held if reference panel recommends transition to gauge broader irrigator support.

### 7. Other Business:

- Query on Exit Fees for Permanent Water Trades – the Exit Fees are published on the website and were also sent to irrigators with the last bill

### 8. Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 10am in the Tableland CANEGROWERS Boardroom

Meeting closed: 12.26pm

# Mareeba Dimbulah IRRIGATION AREA COUNCIL

## ACTION LIST – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017

Agenda No.	Action	Who	By When	Status
17Apr15 2.7	Put Termination Fees on agenda for next price Path	Bronwyn	Next price path	
6Jun174.1.1	Review bulk cost sharing by hydro, industrial & urban at next bulk price path	Bronwyn	Next price path	
6Jun174.1.2	Review bulk costs associated with dam safety at next bulk price path	Bronwyn	Next price path	
6Jun17 5.5	Include water harvesting as item for next Resource Planning Review	Bronwyn	Next Resource Plan review	
1Aug17 4.3	Organise Petrina and Aaron to address Sept 17 MDIACouncil Meeting	Charlie	ASAP	
1Aug17 5.1	Put North Johnstone Diversion on agenda for Sept 17 Meeting	Bronwyn	Sept-17	
1Aug17 5.2	Write to Minister Lynham requesting meeting re Environmental flow releases	Joe / Bronwyn	11.8.17	