

# Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING – 4 May 2017

Meeting opened at 10.11am

### Present:

Attendees	Representation
Joe Moro	Mareeba Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Bronwyn Dwyer	Secretary
Evan McGrath	
Eva Arena	Barron River/Tinaroo Falls Dam Area (12.40pm)
Gerard Kath	Channels/Pipelines – Central Area (left 12.40pm)
Charlie Martens	Sunwater Service Manager, Mareeba
Shaun Fassio	NQ Co-op
Remo Terranova	Mitchell Catchment Supplemented Streams (left 12.47pm)
Maryann Salvetti	Tableland CANEGROWERS Ltd (12.45pm)
Kylie Collins	Channels/ Pipelines – Western Area (left 12.40pm)
Peter Howe	Channels/Pipelines – Eastern Area (left 12.40)
Makse Srhoj	Barron River Catchment Supplemented Streams
Travis Richards	Sunwater General Manager North Operations
Graham Jones	Sunwater Asset Renewals North Manager
Nigel Kelly	Regional Manager Water Services – North DNRM (left 12.34pm)
Peter Siemsen	Team Leader Mareeba – DNRM (left 12.34pm)

### 1. Apologies: Karen Muccignat

### 2. Previous Minutes & Action List:

- Minutes of the 5 Oct 2016 Meeting were *Moved: Shaun Fassio, Seconded: Remo Terranova as a true and correct record. Carried*

#### - Action List:

5Oct16 4.5.1 – Charlie has been liaising with customers in that area

5Oct16 4.6.1 - Accounts can be amalgamated if they are held in the same operational sections of the scheme. Across operation sections Exit Fees would be payable

5Oct16 4.6.2 – Temporary Transfers can be done online within the same ownership name but there is a slight time lag if the transfer is across operational zones.

5Oct16 4.9.1 - No releases made for rafting event in Kuranda last Oct and none will be made for the event on the Barron this weekend.

5Oct16 4.10.1 – Mareeba Shire Council hadn't been ordering water but they are in the process of getting the processes in place to start doing so

### 3. Correspondence:

- Nil

### 4. DNRM:

- Modelling on reducing environmental flow targets during drought conditions – Model averaged out over a period from 1913 – 1993. Model shows over that time period there would be very minimal increase in reliability by reducing the environmental flow targets to 50ML.

- The modelling took into account the requirements for the Hydro

#### **Action: Nigel to send modelling report to Bronwyn to forward to the Committee**

- The Committee will consider the modelling report and provide feedback to DNRM

#### **Action: Committee to provide feedback on modelling report to DNRM**

- Water Resource Planning around who would be responsible for implementing changes for –

1. Carryover – could be initiated through the MDIACouncil to SunWater and through to DNRM. As long as changes meet water allocation security objectives of the Water Plan and Water Protocol Rules.

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2. Changing the Water Year - could be initiated through the MDIA Council to SunWater and through to DNRM. As long as changes meet water allocation security objectives of the Water Plan and Water Protocol Rules.

3. Capacity / Continuous Sharing - could be initiated through the MDIA Council to SunWater and through to DNRM. As long as changes meet water allocation security objectives of the Water Plan and Water Protocol Rules.

4. Rules for Bores outside of the gazetted area – no licence required as no active management of groundwater in those areas. Just need to have the bore constructed to specification and the driller should be submitting the bore plan to the Department

- A lot of these issues come from irrigators not being educated on the water rules. SunWater will have a tent at the Field Days for irrigators to come in and learn about the scheme rules

- Johnson Diversion –DNRM asked to come to the next meeting to present on the old proposal

**Action: DNRM to come to the next meeting to present Johnson diversion**

- Request for Nigel to talk to DEHP around whether there are crocodiles in the Barron River and if there are appropriate signage should be erected

**Action: Nigel to talk to DEHP about crocodiles in the Barron River**

- Issued raised regarding the gauging station for releases being at Myola

### 5. SunWater:

- Network Services Plans – Distribution: \$6.00M revenue forecast for 2017. \$6.15M forecast for 2018. Routine expenditure \$5.3M, annuities \$710,000. 2017 forecast surplus \$90,000. CSO 2018- \$788K, 2017- \$54K

- 191,000ML in distribution system (irrigation, industrial and urban).

- Routine Operational expenditure: electricity came in under QCA budget, insurance over QCA budget but made up for by CSO. Preventative maintenance was significantly over QCA budget and corrective maintenance was also over QCA budget. Charlie tabled graph on joint repairs. Overall came in about \$500K over the QCA budget – most of it equates to the pipe repairs

- Non- routine expenditure for 2018: section of South Walsh Main Channel to be refurbished, recommissioning of Collins Weir to Walsh Bluff Channel, property flow rate entitlement calculations and letters project, planning on pipeline replacement strategy for Mareeba from airport down. It is becoming rural residential and pipelines in that area will require repair – looking at running pipelines away from the rural residential area – would like to see the Council take them on. Working with Council on this. West Barron Channel bench flume A section. An increase of \$100,000 budgeted in labour in corrective maintenance for 2017.

- Bulk: Non routine – 2017: \$249K. 2018: \$209K. 2018: Rectify cavitation issue in the offtake that releases the 10ML per day environmental flow. The ROP has changed and if the 10ML/day no longer needs to be measured this may not have to happen, refurbishment of radial gate, repair erosion areas on downstream face of saddle dam, repair damaged areas on guard valve in river outlet, others are minor projects.

- 5 yearly anchor inspections start today – were only going to test some but we have been strongly advised to test all of them. In 5 years' time if this test goes well, should only have to do some of them.

- There was a question as to irrigators should have to pay for dam safety costs?

- Is the hydro paying for expenses on bulk? – need understanding of how the revenue and expenses are shared between all users

**Action: Charlie to clarify if hydro is paying a portion of bulk expenses**

**Action: Charlie to circulate NSP's to Bronny to email Committee**

- Announced Allocation – Announced Allocation formula starts conservatively based on low inflows & water usage. As the water year goes on and actual data is known the formula uses this data. This process is what resulted in the Announced Allocation going to 100% in February 2017

- Based on SunWater Forecast Storage Models the AA for 1 July 2017 looks like being around 45% - 55% depending on inflows and usage between now and 1 July.

**Action: Charlie to find out whether the predictor graph takes into account the env flow zones?**

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- SunWater has submitted a Federally Funded Project on modernisation which would result in savings of 8,300ML of loss allocation which could be converted to entitlement water and sold. Project federally funded. They should know in June whether they have been successful in getting the funding.

**Action: Charlie to make Presentation on Modernisation Project at next meeting**

**6. Building QLD Water Supply Options Analysis Presentation:** Next Meeting

**7. Water Register Update:** Next meeting

**8. Other Business:**

- Customers on Barron River are allowed to manage their waterholes and Evan McGraths Weir has been constructed in accordance with SunWater's standards.

**9. Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items:** TBC at 10am

Meeting closed: 1.00pm

## Mareeba Dimbulah IRRIGATION AREA COUNCIL

### ACTION LIST – 4 May 2017

Agenda No.	Action	Who	By When	Status
17Apr15 2.7	Put Termination Fees on agenda for next price Path	Bronwyn	Next price path	
4May17 4.1.1	Send Env. Flow Release Modelling Report to Bronwyn to e-mail to Committee	Nigel / Bronwyn	26.5.17	
4May17 4.1.2	Provide Feedback to DNRM on Env Flow Release Modelling report	Committee	June-17	
4May17 4.2.1	Provide Presentation to Committee on Johnson Diversion at next meeting	Nigel / Peter	June-17	
4May17 4.3.1	Talk to DEHP re crocodiles in Barron River	Nigel	May-17	
4May17 5.1.1	Clarify if Hydro is paying portion of bulk expenses	Charlie	June-17	
4May17 5.1.2	Circulate NSP's to Bronwyn to email Committee	Charlie / Bronwyn	5.5.17	Done
4May17 5.2.1	Find out whether the Predictor Graph for AA takes into account the zones for Env. Flow releases	Charlie	26.5.17	
4May17 5.3	Provide Presentation to Committee on Modernisation Project at next meeting	Charlie	June-17	