

MINUTES OF MEETING – 15 MARCH 2017

Meeting opened at 9:15am, 15 March 2017.

Held: Anglican Church Hall, Ruby Street, Emerald

Present:

Attendees	Representation
Robert Ingram (RI) – Chairperson	Section 1
Neville Brownlie (NBr)	Section 1
Nigel Burnett (NBu)	Section 2
Neek Morawitz (NM)	Section 2
Les Fluerty (LF)	Section 4
Annette Smith	Fairbairn Irrigation Network (FIN) (for Items 1 to 3)
Hamish Miller	FIN
Ross Burnett	FIN
Emma McCullagh	Cotton Growers & Irrigators Assoc
Geoff Kavanagh	Invited guest
Colin Bendall (CB)	SunWater
Peter MacTaggart (PM)	SunWater (for Items 1 to 3)
Phillip Webber (PW)	SunWater (for Items 1 to 2)
Robert Lewis (RL)	SunWater
Jason Smith (JS)	SunWater
Neil Farrell (NF)	SunWater
Daryl Conway (DC)	SunWater
Milton Pukallus (MP)	SunWater
Donna Lewis (DL) – Secretary	SunWater

1. Apologies

Paul Wortley, Matthew Barnes

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes of meeting 11 May 2016 have been confirmed and uploaded to internet.

3. Correspondence

Nil

4. Submission & Update on Projects

4.1. National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF)

Peter MacTaggart gave a presentation outlining the application for funding for Emerald Distribution efficiency project.

- The Australian Government has committed \$440M under the NWIDF for capital works. \$247.5M already committed.
- Funding is on the basis of grants. Grants are allocated on the basis of up to 50% of total project costs.
- First round of capital applications close on 16 March. Second round of applications close 17 August.
- There is an option to submit the application on 16 March conditional on customer support which will be confirmed.

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- SunWater is proposing to line 34.4km of Selma Main channel, S3 and S4 to further reduce seepage losses from the system.
- SunWater is also proposing to install 4 new gauging stations and 92 back-to-base metering on river offtakes. The aim is to deliver positive impacts to announced allocation and loss reduction.
- Total estimated project cost is \$17.024M
- SunWater's desire is to work with LMA Board and IAC to ensure sufficient information is available to make an informed decision.

Actions

- *PM to email all information used to put together the grant application to DL.*
- *DL to distribute to all attendees at this meeting.*

4.2. Update Fairbairn Dam Spillway Project

Phil Webber gave a presentation. SunWater are managing the next stage of the Fairbairn Dam Spillway Improvements Project. The three major components of construction are:-

- Under Drainage Replacement
- Spillway Drilling, Anchoring & Grouting
- Concrete Overlay

4.3. Update Fairbairn Dam Lookout Project

DC reported tenders were invited for the completion of re-profiling of the slope at the lookout area. These works are to address issues with the risk presented from possible rock fall. Tenders received have been considerably more than expected and are outside of budget.

The project team are looking to reassess possible options to achieve reduced risk but at a reduced total project cost.

5. Business Arising From Minutes

5.1. St Helen's Siphon – water levels

NF reported that these water levels still need to be taken when on restrictions.

5.2. Peak Flow on River

MP reported that after investigating this it isn't 'Peak Flow on River' but is capacity sharing. There is nothing documented that the channel has preference over the river. The current practices are not in scheme rules. We need to sort out rules / guidelines before it is a problem.

SunWater need to develop a proposal based on previous experience and historical measures taken to ensure equitable sharing of the release capacity. This will need to include rostering of river capacity between customers.

Action

Capacity Sharing needs to be 'workshopped' at the next IAC Meeting. RI and DL to ensure this is included in agenda for next meeting.

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5.3. Bedford Weir

DC reported:-

- Tenders are being sought for contractors to remove fabric dams from remaining SunWater weirs.
- Site inspection to be held early April.
- Proposed to complete works during May.
- Weir level will need to be lower than crest level.
- Access issues to downstream side of the weir wall will need to be considered.

Weir Safety also discussed with reference to the St George incident where children were illegally swimming in front of the release gates downstream of Jack Taylor Weir despite fencing & signage in place.

Emails and letters have been sent to our local council, police, fire brigade and ambulance services. The letter asks them to share the message with their staff, residents, community groups and young people to raise awareness of the dangers of trespassing in no-go zones around SunWater infrastructure, such as Dams, Weirs and Channels. SunWater is committed to the safety of our staff and the public, especially on or around our infrastructure.

5.4. NSP 2016/2017

RL – Responses to feedback from 2016/17 NSP consultation:-

Service Contract	Question/Comment	Response
Emerald Distribution	SunWater should review forecast electricity cost for 2017 given the likely lower announced allocation. The forecast number was \$401K, compared to \$206K forecast for 2016.	The forecast has been adjusted.
Nogoa Mackenzie Bulk	Can SunWater provide breakdown of 32,093ML used in Table 2, Page 5, Item 5 of the NSP.	This is the volume of water allocations held by SunWater (35,183ML) minus any Allocation Authority Leases or Water Supply Agreements that are held by Customers, including leases.

The responses to consultation are on the SunWater website.

6. General Business

6.1. 2016 Annual Performance Reports (APR)

6.1.1. Emerald Distribution

RL took the meeting through the 2016 APR and discussed revenue, costs and annuity. Copies of the APR for 2016 Emerald Distribution are available on the SunWater website.

6.1.2. Nogoa Bulk Water

RL took the meeting through the 2016 APR and discussed revenue, costs and annuity. Copies of the APR for 2016 Nogoa Bulk Water are available on the SunWater website.

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7. New Business

7.1. Shutdown Requirements

DC spoke about requirement for dam works on the right bank tunnel. This will be major work to clear rock & gravel out of the tunnel. This shutdown will affect irrigators on Weemah Channel & River Regulated System Customers to Bedford Weir. Duration of shutdown required is 3 weeks.

Shed meetings are to be held:–

- Weemah & River customers – 9am Wednesday 29th March – Ross Burnett’s shed
- Selma customers – 2pm Wednesday 29th March – Robert Ingram’s shed

7.2. Water Meters

Seven meters are currently not operating on the river. DC and team are currently working on repairs/replacements. RL - Aim to be zero meters not operational.

Action

Follow up next meeting.

7.3. Estimated Forecast Water Allocations

Estimated forecast for 2017/18 cannot be worked out before meter readings are completed at EOM. There should be low carry over of current year allocations.

Action

DC to provide estimate – mid-April.

7.4. Engineering Due Diligence for FIN

RB requested information regarding the work carried out on LH Barrels of 1st & 2nd syphons in 2014/15. NF advised that rubber rings had perished and they were repaired with Mickey Clamps.

Action

Condition assessment during shutdown to be documented by JS and brought back through this meeting.

7.5. Thanks

RL thanked Colin Bendall (changed role), Milton Pukallus (handing over to Daryl Conway) and Neil Farrell (retiring) for their time and effort with IAC.

8. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Mid June meeting – to be dedicated to NSP’s for 2017/18 and to workshop Water Sharing on the river.

Meeting Closed: 1:00pm