

PROSERPINE IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MINUTES OF MEETING – 10 December 2009

Meeting opened at 10.00am

Present

Attendees		Representation
Glenn Clarke	GC	IAC Chairman
Mike Porter	MP	IAC Secretary - Canegrowers
Doug Lee	DL	Chairman - Kelsey Creek Water Board
Pete Muller	PM	Chairman - 6 Mile Creek Water Board
Mark Blair	MB	Committee Member
Andrew Pini	AP	Committee Member
Peter Sutherland	PS	BSES
John Mau	JM	Committee Member
Mark Orr	MO	Committee Member
Dave Pratt	DP	Committee Member
Peter Piotto	PP	Service Manager – SunWater
Fiona Christie	FC	IROL/ROP Compliance Officer - SunWater

1. Apologies

John Telford

Standing Acronyms

- IAC – Irrigators Advisory Committee
- PRWSS – Proserpine River Water Supply Scheme
- SW – SunWater
- AA - Announced Allocation
- CO – Carry Over
- TA – Terry Alderton, Peter Faust Dam Operator, SunWater
- Attendees initials as per above table

2. Previous Minutes

Doug Lee moved that the minutes be accepted as true and correct.
Seconded by Pete Muller. *Carried*

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

3.1 Continuous Sharing

Irrigators requested an update on what is happening with the Continuous Sharing implementation. FC advised that Continuous Sharing will be dependant upon Price Path outcomes and the release of the Whitsunday Resource Operations Plan.

3.2 Price Path



MINUTES OF MEETING – 10 December 2009

Irrigators are wondering why they haven't been consulted on the negotiations for the next Price Path. SW to respond to Secretary as to who is preparing Price Path and when irrigators will be consulted.

3.3 SunWater Restructure

Irrigators requested information on how the restructure will affect them. PP read SW's media release and advised that it would be business as usual for Peter Faust Dam customers. The only difference would be that customer account enquiries would be handled by Brisbane.

3.4 Mimosa Pigra

MP provided an update from the last Mimosa Pigra meeting. There have been no further outbreaks identified in the latest survey and DERM staff are now increasing their search radius. Funding is secure until June 2010.

MB requested assurance that the funding remain at the same level.

3.5 Metering

- PP advised that all metering has been delayed and he will provide an update on the Australian Metering Standard progress.
- DL advised that he'd heard that the funding had run out for metering all river meters.
- PP to provide information on latest specs – 10/5 or 5/2 or ?

4. General Business

4.1 Water Ordering

- Irrigators advised that they are waiting for water delivery 21 days from date of order (10 days over the order time). What is the cause and how can we overcome it?
 - PP enquired as to whether shutting down the system was an option - irrigators responded both positively and negatively
 - DL suggested the ordering time for the bottom end isn't long enough
 - GC advised that when river is dry, more release volumes are required due to the holes in the bedsands
 - Water also gets 'stuck in the grass' which worsens downstream
 - PP enquired as to whether the River Improvement Trust is of any assistance and irrigators responded in the negative
 - However MB later advised that he attended the last Landcare meeting where River Improvement Trust provided a report by Tim Smith on instream vegetation in the Proserpine River. MP will obtain a copy of this report and SW will investigate this avenue (contact is Jennifer Whitney from Proserpine Shire Council)
 - PM advised that the cattle in river near Spruce's Crossing are doing a good job of keeping weeds down
-



MINUTES OF MEETING – 10 December 2009

- PP enquired if hymenachne is a problem and irrigators responded in the negative
- There have been several attempts made to clear weed in the past – a dozer was used about 15 years ago, a bobcat with a shredder was used more recently however it wasn't effective in that the weed grew back too quickly
- Irrigators suggested that TA start policing the irrigators in times of high demand and in a startup situation eg if irrigator is advised that water ordered is 3 days away, Terry to physically check irrigator isn't taking water until then
- PM enquired as to whether the environmental flow release was enough. PP to check with TA. (FC requested that irrigators change the term 'environmental flow' to 'system flow' as an environmental flow is currently not required by the regulator in the Proserpine River)
- PP enquired if a 24hour shutdown would assist when necessary and GC confirmed in the positive
- MO suggested the problem is exacerbated by incorrect water ordering - some possible solutions to rectifying this problem:
 - SW to implement time delays on irrigators starting days/time when startups occur
 - SW to promote water ordering by: mailing information notices to customers, media release in newspapers and on radio, SW invoices to have leadtime message and water order phone number on bottom of page)
 - Increase policing at startup
 - TA to have a flow rate checklist on all customers

4.2 Elders – SunWater Water Trader

- DL advised that Elders are providing incorrect information with regards to Temporary Transfer water (also known as Seasonal Water Assignments)
- DL was advised by Robert Murolo, Elders Proserpine, that water is only available in 100 megalitre lots and that the price quoted includes SunWater Part B charges
- DL also ascertained that Elders have 5200ML of High Priority water for sale seasonally
- FC to investigate and provide correct information back to committee

4.3 Water Boards update

- MP has submitted a proposal on behalf of both Water Boards however they have been advised to wait
- Local Government Association are to decide if they want to take on the management of the boards and although they seem disinterested they aren't communicating
- Will know more in February 2009

**PROSERPINE
IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



MINUTES OF MEETING – 10 December 2009

5. Correspondence

NIL.

6. Next Meeting

Advice of the next meeting will be provided by IAC Chairperson and will occur before the commencement of the next water year. It is envisaged that another meeting will be held again at the beginning of December 2010.

Meeting closed at 11.25am

MINUTES CONFIRMED

Chairperson

SunWater Manager

Date