

MINUTES OF MEETING – 16 May 2017

Meeting opened by Mark Trott at 9:00am at the Mundubbera Community Development Centre.

Present

Attendees	Representation
Mark Trott	Chair
Alan Voss	Committee Member
David Wagner	Proxy
Gregory Green	Committee Member
Russell Zahnow	Observer
Darren Large	Operations Manager - SunWater Bundaberg
Bevan Steger	Senior Operator, North Burnett – SunWater
Milton Pukallus	Service Manager - SunWater Bundaberg

Agenda Items

- Apologies
- Committee renominations
- 2017 Scheme Performance Reports (NSP's) Bulk and Distribution
- Review Storage Positions/Forecast AA models
- General Business

Apologies

Chris Benham, Ashley Meyer, Faye Whelan

It was acknowledged that a number of those present were absent from their respective business operations at a very busy time. It was agreed that this meeting would be made as brief as possible to allow those to return to their duties.

Committee Renominations

The committee had not been renewed for quite some time and whilst it had been agreed to renominate at the last meeting, it was recommended from a committee member that one final meeting be held before proceeding. All those in attendance agreed that the renomination process will be undertaken following this meeting.

The makeup of the committee was discussed and it was felt that the current sections and numbers within were adequate. At present this calls for 2 representatives per section. After some further discussion it was suggested that the renomination process may not result in 2 nominees per section. It was agreed that the nomination process be undertaken as intended and if there are insufficient numbers this will be discussed and reviewed.

Milton advised that the nomination process will commence in the next week and will be open for at least two weeks to provide opportunity for customers to nominate. Once the process has closed it would be necessary for the new committee to meet and elect a chair. Mark suggested holding off

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on the first meeting until the season has ended, most likely in two months. This approach was endorsed by those present.

2017 Scheme Performance Reports (NSP's) Bulk and Distribution

Milton delivered the NSP for the Upper Burnett Scheme. In recognition of the time constraints for those present he acknowledged that some aspects of the report would be briefly discussed. Additional questions or feedback can be provided outside of the meeting.

The two main aspects to focus on were the increase in routine costs and the size of the non-routine program for 2018.

The issues raised for feedback during the discussion were;

1. Routine costs are increasing in 2018.
2. Clarification of the SunWater entitlements and where they are held in the scheme.
3. Do the unsold entitlements from Burnett Water (Kirar Weir) affect the scheme costs?
4. The non-routine program for 2018 is quite large compared to previous years.

Customer input to and feedback is greatly valued. To have your say, please contact via e-mail or post:

nspfeedback@sunwater.com.au

NSP Feedback
PO Box 15536 CITY EAST
BRISBANE QLD 4002

Review Storage Positions / Forecast AA

The storage position and AA for next year were briefly discussed. The storages are all full and AA for next year will be 100%.

General Business

- Alan raised an issue for discussion regarding Jones' Weir and the level it was operated during the recent dry spell. It was felt that the level was held too high which risked losing any inflow should it occur. The issue that saw the level held higher than normal has been resolved. Milton acknowledged that the higher level was not ideal but expects normal operating strategy to be in place now.
- There was discussion about the rate water was being released from Wuruma during the dry period earlier this year. All agreed that they hadn't seen that amount of water being released before. Bevan provided some detail on how much demand there was on the scheme and explained that the releases were higher than normal to keep up with irrigation. There had been instances where water took longer than expected to arrive and this is mostly due to the extremely dry conditions and high demand rate. There was some discussion about alluvial sections of river where water "disappears" in places. There are some groundwater bores in proximity to the river however these were not thought to have had significant impact.

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- Water harvesting was raised as an issue to explore further. There was feeling within the committee that there may be opportunity to increase water harvesting if the limits were increased. This would ultimately provide more water for irrigators and reduce some stress on allocation water. Milton advised that water harvesting was managed by DNRM but would pass on the comments to a contact in this department.
- Greg raised an issue with transferring allocation between zones and the impact of where Burnett Water allocation was held. There was discussion on what the impact of the Burnett Water allocations had on transferring normal allocation. Some examples were presented where irrigators had opportunity to purchase allocation but weren't able to transfer them to their zone. This is a constraint within the ROP but there is feeling that the unsold Burnett Water is hindering use of normal allocation water in some instances. The committee were of the opinion that the price for Burnett Water is impractical and believed SunWater should reconsider the longer term position on price. There was acknowledgement that SunWater does not want to influence the market price for trading water which should be considered with any future strategy for Burnett Water.
- The price of purchasing Burnett Water allocation was also discussed. The committee feels the current pricing is prohibitive and unlikely to be considered by most customers.

Meeting closed at 10:25am.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be determined after consultation with the committee and scheduled to follow the harvest period. This will be the first meeting of the new committee.

Mark Trott
Chairperson

Milton Pukallus
Service Manager – Bundaberg

Date 24/05/2017