



**MINUTES OF MEETING – 14 July 2009**

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**Meeting opened by Mark Mammino at 9.00am in the Bundaberg SunWater Office.**

**Present**

Attendees	Representation
Mark Mammino - Chairperson	Canegrowers Isis Ltd
Edwin Tesch	Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers Cooperative – Small Crops
Mike Smith	Bundaberg Sugar Ltd
Gavan McLennan	Burnett River
Ivan Philpott	Childers Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Inc
Selwyn Bengston	Gin Gin/Bingera Channel including Abbotsford
Jay Hubert	Gooburrum Channel
Selwyn Cronin	Kolan River
Joe Zunker	Woongarra Channel
Peter Petersen	Observer – Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers Cooperative – Small Crops
Wayne Stanley	Observer – Canegrowers Isis Ltd
Danny Green	Regional Manager SunWater
Mark Pearson	DERM
Amanda Casey	DERM

**1. Apologies**

Kelvin Griffin, Alan Bush, Mark Hochen, Dale Holliss, Peter Russo and George Green

**2. Presentation from DERM**

Mark Pearson introduced Amanda Casey (Senior Project officer who will be leading the team on the WRP review). Mark then spoke on the process to review the WRP/ROP.

He spoke with the IAC 18 February and again at Bundaberg Canegrowers 25 March on the review and how best to address the issues raised regarding the rules.

Mark advised how at the 23 March meeting he said that he would put options to the Minister on how best to proceed including changes to the water sharing rules and operational rules. One option was reverting to transitional arrangements. Other option was an amendment to the current ROP for these issues but this would delay the WRP review and would not be able to address some of the main issues raised without a WRP amendment. A 3rd option was to commence the WRP review and to address the issues raised regarding the current water sharing, operational and environmental rules by incorporating interim rules in the WRP review. This is the Department's preferred option.

The current WRP reaches the end of its statutory life in December 2010. A review is required to be completed not later than September 2011.



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All options were presented to the Minister but Department's position is a full review of the WRP with interim 'ROP' rules so best outcomes for all users not just irrigators. The option of combining WRP and ROP reviews also allows operation under new rules which would be in the WRP. This could mean revised rules can be in place for the 2011/2012 water year rather than another 1 to 2 years later. At this stage the Minister is still considering the options proposed.

The Department also looking at having just the one plan (rather than WRP and ROP) which should be a better product in shorter timeframes.

Also we are in the worst/longest extended period of below average rainfall and this environment has really tested the ROP rules. Rules are not adaptive enough as it takes 12 to 18 months to amend ROP. Hopefully through one plan process plans can be more effectively developed, can look at identifying statutory amendments that can allow plan to be changed in a more timely fashion. However there is always limits to what you can do short term but if set up well and doesn't impact on WASOs or EFOs then should be able to change.

Peter Petersen queried whether Paradise Dam allocations can be reduced. Mark replied no - these are allocations on the market and have been granted.

In reply to Mike Smith's query on resourcing, Mark advised that the department has done preparatory work for the review including preparing brief for the Minister, has collated all water use information, flow sequences and building up IQQM model.

The Chairman asked whether Mark is working on getting his preferred option approved by the Minister to which Mark said the brief has been submitted and that the Minister will make his decision. When a decision is made letters will go to Isis and Bundaberg Canegrowers, Fruit and Vegetable Growers, SunWater and other stakeholders.

When the Minister approves the commencement of the WRP an EOI will be called and the Minister will form a reference panel. All interest groups will be engaged so that all users and wishes are considered in this broad range and diverse catchment.

Mark stated that the introduction of new infrastructure in the Burnett presented some complexity for the ROP.

Moved Edwin Tesch, seconded Joe Zunker that each peak body write to the Minister and query when a decision will be made to commence the review.

### **3. Previous Minutes**

Amended minutes were distributed.

Wayne Stanley queried the inclusion in the minutes of additional dot points relating to the rules and targets.



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Regional Manager advised that this was possible and is due to merely copying and pasting the full text of the document that he brought for presentation to the last meeting that he had planned to address. It could be that perhaps not all dot points were presented.

The minutes of the meeting held 2 February 2009 as amended in red and distributed to the meeting, were accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved Edwin Tesch, seconded Gavan McLennan., CARRIED.

### **4. Business Arising from Minutes**

**3.1** Mike Smith raised issue of changes to scheme rules and targets. He felt that if there are certain segments of the scheme that have greater breakages and require greater service, then these should be differentially priced, we should only be concerned with the controllable incidents, power stoppages for example should not be a factor in the targets.

Peter Petersen stated that the targets should be there to aspire to. They also provide a measure of service.

Regional Manager said that SunWater does not aim to take the full time as per the target but always strives to complete the work and put the supply back on in the shortest time. The issue is one of setting realistic targets. In response to Mike Smith's query, this may involve overtime as required.

In response to the latest stoppage numbers, Gavan McLennan asked that more details of the actual reason for each event may assist the committee's understanding.

The Regional Manager then explained the circumstances surrounding the process to put through the amended targets. He stated that he should have made it more clear at the last meeting that he was seeking wider views and that he could have been more effective in gaining committee support after the meeting. He explained that he did endeavour to set a meeting but the 30 June deadline beat him, in fact 14 July was the first available date and as a fall back he sent an advisory email to IAC members on 11 June. He will in future arrange for adequate time to convene an additional meeting. However he stressed that the amended targets are reflective of actual circumstances the scheme operates under.

**3.2** A discussion on the annual shutdown ensued. Differing demand patterns have changed the dynamics. Regional Manager advised that the current shutdown is proceeding on target and no issues to date. The timing for the next annual shutdown will be discussed at the next meeting.

**3.3** Ivan Philpott queried the marketing of Paradise allocations. Regional Manager advised that sales are slow. He also referred committee to very low usage in the scheme as detailed in the scheme report.



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**5. Correspondence**

- Email notices of meetings to members.
- Draft of Modernisation Review and request for comment

**6. SunWater Report**

A scheme report was tabled that showed current storages and announced allocations. The report also detailed the calculations for the last announcement, a break down of deliveries throughout the scheme last year, planned and unplanned stoppages and carry over volumes.

The Modernisation Review is basically now complete and a copy sent to all stakeholders. The Regional Manager asked for all comments.

**7. General Business**

6.1 Mike Smith asked that temporary transfer limits be published. Regional Manager to check.

**8. Next Meeting**

To be advised.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED**

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**Chairperson**

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**SunWater Regional Manager**

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**Date**

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**Date**

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