



**MINUTES OF MEETING – 2 February 2009**

---

Meeting opened by Mark Mammino at 8.30am in the Bundaberg SunWater Office.

**Present:**

Attendees	Representation
Mark Mammino - Chairperson	Canegrowers Isis Ltd
Kelvin Griffin	Bundaberg Canegrowers Ltd
Edwin Tesch	Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers Cooperative – Small Crops
George Green	Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers Cooperative – Tree Crops
Alan Bush	Bundaberg Regional Council
Gavan McLennan	Burnett River
Ivan Philpott	Childers Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Inc
Selwyn Bengston	Gin Gin/Bingera Channel including Abbotsford
Jay Hubert	Gooburrum Channel
Mark Hochen	Isis Central Sugar Mill
Peter Russo	Isis Channel
John Adcock proxy for Selwyn Cronin	Kolan River
Joe Zunker	Woongarra Channel
Peter Petersen	Observer – Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers Cooperative – Small Crops
Wayne Stanley	Observer – Canegrowers Isis Ltd
Dale Holliss	Observer
Danny Green	Regional Manager SunWater
Milton Pukallus	Service Delivery Manager SunWater

**1. Apologies**

Mike Smith

**2. Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held 8 August 2008 were accepted as a true and correct record with the inclusion of: *“The committee had grave concerns about the introduction of Paradise Plus”*

*Moved George Green, Seconded Selwyn Bengston, CARRIED.*

**3. Business Arising from Minutes**

- Wayne Stanley had requested details on the allocation calculations. Scott was to advise on this and also the loss calculation. RM to follow up and respond by email. Also the safe yield of the scheme was requested.



## **MINUTES OF MEETING – 2 February 2009**

---

Water management to be asked to attend the next meeting.

- George Green also would like clarification as to why HP can not be parked in FHD as it can during a CWSA.

### **4. Correspondence**

- Notices of meeting to members.
- Draft of Modernisation Review

### **5. SunWater Report**

#### **Scheme Rules and Targets**

Danny Green explained the purpose of the scheme rules and targets. There are 2 areas where it is very difficult to achieve target: the number of planned and unplanned interruptions and the repair time for events.

To complete an unplanned event within 48 hours is proving to be a challenge for Bundaberg staff, with repairs not being straight forward or not having SunWater machinery available due to planned events in other systems.

The proposal is for the unplanned events duration period to be changed from 48 hours to 72 hours. Despite having a longer timeframe this does not mean we take longer to do the work, but it creates a more realistic maximum anticipated timeframe for most unplanned work requirements.

Other reason why it takes unplanned events more than 48 hours

- Diverting water to do the repairs
- Hiring of machinery
- Some repairs may require a concrete block to be poured and if so there is a 24 hour curing time after the repair is completed, before SunWater staff can pressurise the line again. After repairs are completed refilling of the line is always done gradually to purge all air from the line. Rapid refilling risks bursting the line again. So refills can take over night on long lines.
- Some repairs on the PVC pipes or air valve risers may need gluing. After application the glue requires 24 hours for a full curing.
- Since 2006 the Bundaberg office has experience 19 incidents where staff are committed to other work programs and/or disruptions to supplies.
- SunWater commitment to Workplace Health and Safety is ZERO Harm - staff only working in daylight hours (winter months can be issue)
- Partial Supply cannot be reinstated in the Bundaberg pipeline/channel systems
- Some pipelines cannot be dug up until SunWater staff have secure the services of a contractor to do an onsite 'location' search for buried cables, gas lines etc.

The meeting was of the view that as these are the targets they should be aspired to and that it should strengthen an argument for additional resources.



## **MINUTES OF MEETING – 2 February 2009**

---

*Moved* George Green, *Seconded* Mark Hochen and *CARRIED* that the 48 hour repair period remains.

With regard to the target for shutdowns, planned shutdowns alone can be 5 events per year. The age of the existing Bundaberg system and the condition of several pieces of infrastructure makes it difficult to predict a number of unplanned shutdowns.

It is felt that a combined level of 6 shutdowns for planned and unplanned is too restrictive and that 10 would be a more reasonable assessment.

The reasons for this are:

- The existing age of pipelines and delivery infrastructure
  - Current and previous years 4 planned shutdowns happen in each system for acrolein treatments plus each system has an annual shutdown (this brings the planned events to 5) this is only allowing for 1 unplanned event
- The condition of the rubber rings in jointed pipes
  - Example: FO6 pipeline has been examined and results have found that the PVC used to manufacture the line is "contaminated". The end result is that breaks are bound to occur into the future. Without reification of this Bundaberg staff are not able to prevent future breaks on this line.
- The current level of usage moving from low flow capacity use to high flow capacity use, with the move to crops other than the designed crop of Sugar Cane.
- The number of users who are on the end of the systems, which experience all planned shutdowns due to their location within the system.
  - Partial Supply cannot be reinstated in the Bundaberg pipeline/channel systems
- The lack of system storage (balancing storages within key channel distribution systems)
- The mixed cropping on each pipeline
- An increasing number of unplanned events have occurred where third parties have damaged the infrastructure (example: harvesters and private vehicles damaging air valves, backhoe damaging pipelines)

The meeting agreed to an increase in the number of interruptions to 8 per water year.  
*Moved* Peter Russo, *Seconded* Edwin Tesch, *CARRIED*.



## **MINUTES OF MEETING – 2 February 2009**

---

### **Annual Shutdown**

Milton Pukallus queried whether there were any specific issues impacting on the upcoming shutdown program. A draft will be forwarded to all members for feedback within 3 weeks.

### **Carry Over**

Danny Green reported on analysis of the past 2 carry-over processes showing that significantly more is applied for than actually used. It is considered that this is unfair on those irrigators who have their application reduced. One means of reinforcing fairer applications could be to impose a fee.

The meeting did not agree. Alternative approaches were offered such as permitting temporary transfers of carry over or to charge those who do not use the applied for volume.

### **Works Program**

Details of the current works program were circulated for comment.

## **6. General Business**

- George Green expressed dissatisfaction with yield from Paradise and that this needs reviewing urgently.

Danny Green suggested that this is not an operational issue for this committee and that it should be included in the forthcoming review of the WRP/ROP. Members felt that as it affects the operations of the scheme, then it should be discussed.

The announcement this morning of the local Minister's water plan including piping water from Paradise outside the region is also of concern.

Danny Green to arrange for a water management officer to attend a meeting of the committee.

The committee also asked whether the CEO could attend a meeting to discuss the Paradise Dam concerns.

- It was noted that not all members of the committee are duly listed on SunWater's website.
- Minutes of meetings to be sent out in draft version for comment within 10 days.



**MINUTES OF MEETING – 2 February 2009**

---

**7. Modernisation Review**

Danny Green advised that a draft of the Modernisation Report had been sent to all stakeholders with minimal feedback received. The report is now being reviewed with the other 7 from the rest of the state. A copy will then be sent to QFF for comment prior to forwarding to Commonwealth.

**8. Next Meeting**

To be advised.

**Meeting Closed at 10.30am.**

**MINUTES CONFIRMED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SunWater Regional Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**