



## MINUTES OF MEETING – 30 July 2009

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SunWater staff entered the meeting at 2.30pm.

### Present:

| Attendees             | Representation                              |
|-----------------------|---|
| Mario Barbagallo (MB) | Committee Member                            |
| Greg Barbagallo (GB)  | Committee Member                            |
| Mauro Garbuio (MG)    | Committee Member                            |
| Terry Williams (TW)   | Committee Member                            |
| Russell Jordan (RJ)   | Committee Member                            |
| Wayne Smith (WS)      | BRIA Secretary - Canegrowers                |
| Richard Papale (RP)   | A/Service Delivery Coordinator SunWater Ayr |
| Gary Everson (GE)     | Regional Manager – SunWater, Ayr            |

### 1. Apologies

Dean Sgroi (DS) - Chairperson

### Standing Acronyms:

- BFD – Burdekin Falls Dam
- BHWSS - Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme
- BOM – Bureau of Meteorology
- BRIA Committee - the above listed committee
- IROL – Interim Resource Operating Licence
- DERM – Dept of Environment & Resource Management
- QFF – Queensland Farmers Federation
- ROL – Resource Operating Licence
- ROP – Resource Operating Plan
- SMT – Senior Management Team
- SW – SunWater

### 2. SunWater Manager's Report

Provided to the committee for review and stored at SunWater on file.

### 3. Business Arising From Manager's Report

Query on the duration of the BFD spill event being a record (January to July).  
Management to confirm.

### 4. Business arising from previous minutes

NIL



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### 5. General Business

- WS commented on the positive feedback of having Jason Williams attending as SunWater's representative on the LBWF.
- MB raised an issue of plastic channel lining damage, possibly caused by backhoes that recently removed excess material from sections.
  - RP provided feedback on the process and related issues such a cattle entering the channel and causing some damage.
  - GE provided advice that these smaller holes could be readily patched and would be as opportunity maintenance.
  - The committee wished to note that such damage was not seen as efficient costs and stated that it should be better managed to prevent such damage
  - GE informed the committee of the Mareeba model that used free spinning hubs welded to the machine bucket, running smooth tyres that would prevent contact with the bed and banks. RP will revise this concept with current operators.
- MG raised an issue of an overflow adjacent to Mr Francescutti's property that he believed was wasting water. Mr Garbuio stated that he entered SunWater land and read the meter which was installed in recent months; with the reading being 275ML. Mr Garbuio wanted to know why so much water was going through this overflow.
  - GE stated the channel system is designed to overflow and must do when running at or above design flow height as this system does consistently.
  - RP stated that he had run that channel and explained the process of ordering water, setting pump flows and adjusting flows in response to starts and stops.
  - GE informed Mr Garbuio that the single largest contributor to excess water spilling at the overflow is a miss match of water orders to that being taken, which results in more water being put on, or excess water going to the overflow during the time it takes to change flows rates (hours each event).
- WS raised the modernisation report and discussions held between Canegrowers and SunWater on the topic.
  - GE informed the committee that as soon as the Federal Government had reviewed the final report and were satisfied, the committee would be issued copies for reference.
  - GE also informed the committee that was no federal funding for hotspot assessments and that SunWater would be doing pondage tests of its own over a longer period.



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- A recommendation to have Dan Coutts visit the next meeting and explain the process of pondage tests and seek inputs from the committee on high probability leakage areas was well received.
- The committee raised the issue of carryover cancellation due to the dam spilling on several occasions.
  - The primary concern being why carryover is cancelled when there is more water, not less.
  - GE stated that this was a known issue and water accounting systems such as Continuous Sharing would deal with this issue if implemented in the future
- GE informed the committee that Jason Williams was successful in reclassifying some of SunWater's land to a conservation reserve which had a variety of benefits. The committee replied favourably to having Jason explain the process and the benefits.
- GE informed the committee that this was his last meeting and the next meeting would be attended by the Acting Regional Manager.

### 6. Correspondence

Nil to report

### 7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 27 August 2009.

**GE and RP left the meeting at 4:00 pm.**

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**Chairperson**

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**Date**

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**SunWater Manager**

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**Date**