

# CALLIDE VALLEY IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



## MINUTES OF MEETING – 23 June 2015

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Meeting opened by Milton Pukallus at 3:00pm at Powers Accountants Meeting Room

### Present

Attendees	Representation
Bruce Burrows	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Ivan Shepardson	Irrigator Advisory Committee
David Snell	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Trevor Goos	Irrigator Advisory Committee
James Fairley	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Scott Fitzgerald	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Tom Vanderbyl	SunWater – General Manager BW&IS
Milton Pukallus	SunWater – Service Manager
Andrew Maughan	SunWater – Operations Supervisor
Ron Boal	SunWater – A/ Storage Supervisor

### 1. Apologies

Apologies received from Paul Stringer and Duncan Downie.

### 2. Agenda

- Callide Creek Review
- Previous minutes
- Chairman nominations
- Future meeting agenda items
- AA process and update
- Bore levels
- General business

### 3. Callide Creek Review

Tom Vanderbyl attended the meeting to provide an update to the committee on the Callide Creek Review. SunWater has supported the review process and is now working on the recommendations made in the IGEM report. SunWater met with Banana Shire Council today to begin working on these recommendations and has discussed forming a working group to ensure that they are progressed efficiently and outcomes are aligned.

The Department of Energy and Water Supply (DEWS) is leading the investigation into whether Callide Dam can be operated as a flood mitigation dam. There were several questions from the committee about the process and implications of this investigation. A majority felt that it was important not to reduce the security of the water supply whilst others felt there should be some flood mitigation benefit. There are a significant number of stakeholders in the outcome of this

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investigation and it is anticipated that there would be in depth consultation throughout the process.

**4. Previous minutes**

The previous minutes were accepted.

**5. Chairman nominations**

At the last meeting in June there was discussion around the importance of having a chair for the committee. It was resolved to discuss the issue at this meeting.

The Committee Charter was handed to all in attendance and Milton provided an overview of why the chairman was critical to the ongoing success of the committee. SunWater has chaired the meetings in the absence of a committee chairman for several years. Whilst this has allowed the committee to continue it doesn't provide effective leadership for the group from an irrigator's perspective. There was discussion and some agreement about needing a chairman, however there were no firm nominations put forward.

The discussion then centred on the functions of the committee itself and there was a strong feeling that there may not be much effectiveness in the committee at all. An example of the announced allocation process was given – the committee used to have some influence over the AAs but now this has been taken out of their hands by the ROP.

Whilst it was acknowledged that this specific scenario has changed there are still numerous benefits that the committee provides. There was general agreement that the committee should have greater input into several aspects of the scheme and represent the irrigators on a broad range of issues. One example given was the status of timber debris in several sections of the scheme which may cause an issue in future stream flows. This issue could be pursued by the committee with SunWater support.

It was then identified that it has been some time since the committee were re-nominated and resolved that nominations for the committee be sought in accordance with the charter. All were in agreement that once the nominations and membership were finalised a chairman would be elected. This will be progressed over the next few weeks.

**6. Future agenda items**

In light of the committee nominations above it was agreed that discussion on revised future agenda items be held over until the new committee is in place.

**7. AA process**

Milton handed out a copy of the AA table for medium priority group. This can be found on page 43 of the Fitzroy Basin ROP. The method for determining AA under the ROP is by means of an assessment bore for each zone. The bore

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level is then compared to the table and the AA set. There is still some strong concern that this method may not be accurately representing the levels for the entire zone.

**8. Bore levels**

Milton provided a handout with the measured bore levels of the assessment sites for each of the zones. These were then used as an example to show how the AA process would work. The latest level available at the time of the meeting was from 1 March 2015. There was some concern over the potential AAs for two zones when the levels were compared to the table. These were showing a zero AA which seemed in error given the groundwater is very high at present and had been since earlier in the year. It is assumed there was either an issue in the data or the table and that the actual AA should be similar to the other zones. Milton advised it would be followed up directly and feedback provided.

**9. General business**

- There was no other business arising.

**Next meeting** – The next meeting will be set following the committee nominations. It is anticipated that this will be before mid August.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4:30pm

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**Chairperson**

Milton Pukallus  
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**Service Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

23/6/15  
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Date