

# DAWSON VALLEY IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



## MINUTES OF MEETING – 18 NOVEMBER 2014

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Meeting opened by Nev Wogandt at 09:15

### Present

Attendees	Representation
Trevor Brownlie	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Robert Hoadley	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Peter Mahony	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Peter French	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Harrod Anderson	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Greg Hutchinson	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Nev Wogandt	SunWater – Service Manager (IS)
Peter Tweed	SunWater – Service Supervisor Theodore (IS)
Andrew Maughan	SunWater – Service Manager (BW)
Steve Keyworth	SunWater - Operator Dawson Valley (BW)
Rob Keogh	SunWater - Manager Service Delivery – (BW)

### 1. Apologies

Nil

### 2. Agenda

- Welcome IAC Members
- Previous Minutes
- Election of IAC Chairperson
- Current Water Storage Situation
- Announced Allocation Reviews
- NSP Feedback 2013- 2014 ( Irrigation Systems and Bulk Water )
- Orange Creek Weir – Update
- Distribution of Treated CSG water
- SunWater service to customers
- General Business

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---

### 3. Previous minutes

Reviewed with no business arising

Moved P.French and Seconded T Brownlie that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting of the 18 September 2014

### 4. Election of IAC Chairperson

Following the election of membership to the IAC from within the Irrigators of the Dawson Valley - N Wogandt asked for nominations to the position of Chairperson.

T. Brownlie nominated P. French, with no further nominations P. French was elected as Chairperson of the Dawson Valley IAC

### 5. Current Water Storage Situation

As at 18/11/2014	<u>Storage ML</u>	<u>%</u>
Glebe	1,900	9
Gyranda	2,325	14
Theodore	4,304	90
Moura	4,730	61
Neville Hewitt	6,503	58
Moss	120	2

Discussion centred on the condition of storages and the location of available water within the river system. River and distribution losses, it was expected that 800ML was still to be delivered for Medium A. For medium priority irrigators up stream of Theodore Weir need to take their entitlement as the water is released for Orange Creek Weir, to ensure that they can get access due to low river levels.

The recalculation of the AA would be revisited following meter readings which would be undertaken early in the week commencing the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014; estimated timeframe for the AA would be by the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

There were some issues with the AA review previously which took too long to announce to irrigators. It was understood that some issues contributing to the delay in getting the AA out were due to delays in customer meter reads being entered and to some miss calculations needing to be re visited. R Keogh will follow up on the announcement processes.

There needs to be a review of the understanding of the rules for water harvesting pumping into MOSS as it was believed that the full benefit was not realised last time a water harvesting event happened. A Maughan and local operators to follow up.

**MINUTES OF MEETING – 18 NOVEMBER 2014**

---

**6. Review of the Network Service Plans (NSP)**

The 2014 NSP's for Irrigation Systems and Bulk Water was reviewed. The committee were advised that the NSP's were on the SunWater internet so easily accessible to all customers. No significant issues were forthcoming, however members were asked to review the documents and to come back with any issues or points that required further clarification or discussion.

For Bulk Water it would be helpful to have Revenue budget highlighted for 2014 planned to easily see any variations to actuals.

**7. Orange Creek Weir**

Discussion centred on the some possibilities to access the volume of water in Orange Creek Weir below the drop boards. There would be a need for two pumps to gain the best benefit from the water supply. Total preliminary costs would be in the order of \$80k to \$100k which the scheme would be required to fund.

After consideration it was thought that to install a syphon to deliver in the order of 100ML/day should be considered. The syphon was a short term option and not the long term solution.

*Outcome of discussion:* SunWater to progress with the proposal to get the water out of Orange Creek Weir and made available to irrigators.

The long term strategy for Orange Creek Weir was discussed, the meeting was advised that Gylanda Weir was built as the overall replacement of Orange Creek Weir, as Orange Creek had effectively reached the end of its life and was to be de-commissioned.

Following further discussion and undertaking was given to conduct an investigation into the condition of Orange Creek Weir and to gain an understanding of the work that would be required to bring the weir back into an operable condition.

The IAC are not keen to see the weir decommissioned and would prefer to see that the study to determine the condition of the weir progress. Any works or studies would be funded by the scheme through the annuity.

**8. Distribution of Treated Coal Seam Gas Water (CSG)**

If the CSG water is to come on line in January or February 2015 we need to finalise the distribution arrangements to all irrigation customers .

A. Maughan provided an update supplied from the CSG project manager on the progress and proposed way forward.

*Main points were:*

- SunWater is anticipating first supply of treated CSG water from QGC in February 2015.

# DAWSON VALLEY IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



## MINUTES OF MEETING – 18 NOVEMBER 2014

---

- It is likely that initial supply will comprise smaller commissioning volumes from the water treatment plant and upstream processes, before volumes increase to normal production volumes.
- SunWater is seeking clarification of the anticipated commissioning period.
- Forecast production volumes remain uncertain (and as previously advised), dependant on the actual gas production and water released from each gas field, though noting SunWater has approvals and pipeline capacity to discharge up to 100 Megalitres per day to Glebe Weir.
- As has been mentioned before, the CSG water volumes will be variable in supply volume over the life of the project, and will have a limited life duration of availability.
- The Department of Environment and Heritage recently issued revised approval conditions, in relation to SunWater's Beneficial Use Approval (BUA), to simplify the approval conditions and to facilitate for supply of CSG water to customers.
- Similarly the Revised Resource Operations Plan (ROP) for the Fitzroy Basin was released by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (September 2014), providing for a streamlined process for accounting and supplying of CSG water as part of the Dawson Valley Water Supply Scheme.
- The CSG water will now be considered as another supply source to the overall scheme supply and allow for adjustment to announced allocation calculations (rather than a separate product).
- In accordance with the revised ROP rules, the water allocations in the Upper Dawson sub-scheme may now exceed 100% taking into consideration the additional CSG water supply volume.
- This will also provide for supply to both supplemented and un-supplemented water allocation holders within the DVWSS. SunWater is reviewing the process as to this split and methodology (meeting proposed for 8 December 2014 with irrigators).
- The revised and streamlined approval conditions no longer require specific customer agreements for supply of CSG water, and no longer require the "must-take" supply provisions as was previously required of customers.

A meeting is planned for the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to progress discussions and to find resolution on the equitable distribution of the treated CSG water. Irrigators are encouraged to read the Resource Operations Plan to have an understanding of the principals of the intent for the CSG water. The meeting date will be widely communicated so as to give all interested parties the opportunity to attend and have input.

**MINUTES OF MEETING – 18 NOVEMBER 2014**

---

**9. SunWater Service to Customers**

The slow response to the Announced Allocation process is an issue that needs to be improved, this stems to the communications with the distribution of water from the Orange Creek Weir additional water.

By allowing the additional water to be distributed through the Announced Allocation Process detracts for the 20% differential between Medium and Medium A allocations.

It was explained that the additional water announced for Orange Creek Weir was a “Special” Announcement and was not water attributable to the usual announced allocation per say .

**10. General Business**

G.Hutchinson said that it would be beneficial if Moss and Orange Creek Weir could have the storage levels and volumes put onto SunWater On line for customers to view. It explained that both Moss and Orange Creek Weir did not have automatic gauging stations and are manually read unlike the other weirs within the scheme.

T Brownlie advised that there were some time delays with meter readings with the carryover water. There was a mis understanding on the responsibility of who should put meter readings into the system. While irrigators put meter readings into the system it was thought that irrigators could do with some training on how to navigate the system and to submit meter readings.

R Hoadley advised of water quality issues below Neville Hewitt Weir Ana- branch due to a large amounts of water lettuce and Hymanacene. I was thought that some spraying by the local landcare group should assist with the problem.

Meeting Closed 13:05

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**Chairperson**

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**Service Manager**

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Date

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Date